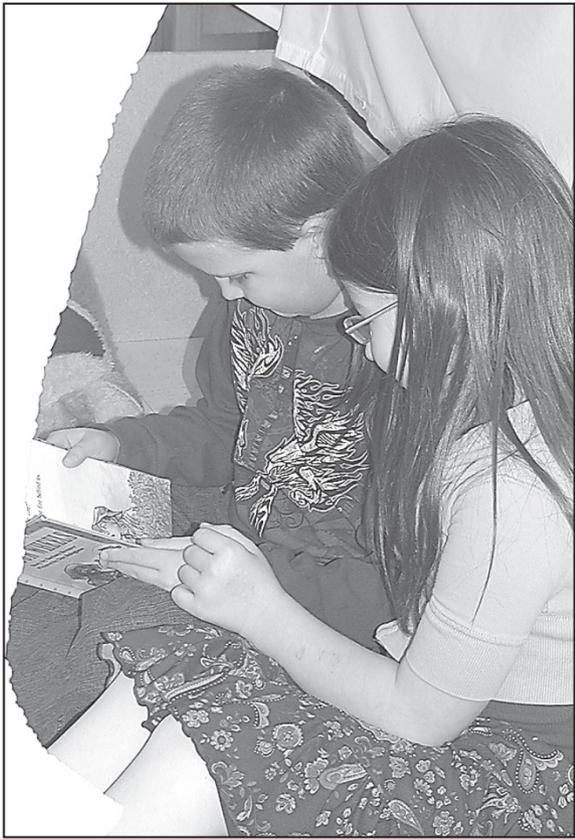


Kansas Day tradition

Brady Sumner, left, and Raelynn Slipke, right, read "Wagon Wheels," a book about those who settled Nicodemus, inside a covered wagon in Sally Clydesdale's second grade class at Eisenhower Elementary. Mrs. Clydesdale brings the covered wagon to school every year for Kansas Day.

- Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux



How to drive in a dust storm

By TOM BETZ

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

High winds have been common in recent weeks on the High Plains, and dust storms in previous years have caused accidents killing people between Oakley and Burlington, Colo.

Blowing dust Monday afternoon (Jan. 19) caused a 15-vehicle pile-up that killed two people east of Genoa, Colo., and closed I-70 for more than five hours.

The crash occurred about 12:56 p.m. 15 miles east of Limon, Colo. as 50 mph-plus winds created near zero-visibility.

It forced the Colorado State Patrol to close the highway in both directions between Limon and Burlington.

Five semitrailers and 10 passenger vehicles were involved in the crash, Trooper David Hall said.

"It's very surprising, in the middle of January. You expect blizzards out here but not this unexpected brownout condition where drivers can't see," Hall said.

What can you do to protect yourself?

Thomas County Sheriff Rod Taylor said drivers need to keep an eye out for weather conditions, including dust, smoke or fog.

"Be aware of the weather," said Taylor, "because these things come up so fast."

He said drivers should pull off the highway as far as they can as soon as they spot a storm.

"If you see blowing dirt," said

Taylor, "pull over and wait until the wind dies down."

He said the sheriff's department policy is for officers to pull all the way into the ditch, stay in the vehicle and to keep their seat belts buckled up to avoid injury.

Sheriff Taylor said people who find themselves in a storm where they have limited visibility whether it is dust, snow or fog should find a way to get off the highway.

"In those situations one of the worst places to stop is under an underpass," he said. "I know it appears to give some protection, but it is dangerous because other drivers may try to pull into the same area, causing accidents."

"The best thing to do is to pull off the highway and stay in your vehicle until the visibility improves or a trooper or deputy can get to you."

Pick up the phone and dial 911, he said. The sheriff's department will try to get in touch with the landowner, who can work the land and cut down on the dust.

"Sometimes they don't even know it's blowing," Taylor said.

"If dense dust is observed blowing across or approaching a roadway, pull your vehicle off the pavement as far as possible," said Dave Floyd, warning coordination meteorologist at the Goodland National Weather Service office.

"Stop, turn off lights, set the emergency brake and take your foot off the brake pedal to be sure the tail lights are not illuminated.

"Don't enter the dust storm area

if you can avoid it.

"If you can't pull off the roadway, proceed at a speed suitable for visibility, turn on lights and sound horn occasionally. Use the painted center line to help guide you. Look for a safe place to pull off the roadway.

"Never stop on the traveled portion of the roadway,"

Floyd said in the past, motorists driving in dust storms have pulled off the roadway, leaving lights on. Vehicles approaching from the rear and using the advance car's lights as a guide have inadvertently left the roadway and in some instances collided with the parked vehicle.

"Make sure all of your lights are off when you park off the roadway," Floyd said.

Many new cars have automatic lights, and the driver has to manually turn the lights off Floyd said.

Dust storms begin when the wind picks up small particles of dirt which then bounce off other particles, said Sunflower District Extension Agent Dana Belshe. The dirt gains momentum and begins to roll forward.

Belshe said farmers can use a chisel, roughing up the land, to make it harder for wind to pick up the dirt.

"It breaks up the wind at ground level," he said.

In the long term, blowing dirt begins when ground residue from growing crops or the aftermath of the crops begins to disappear or is removed.

Dick Boyd

(Continued from Page 1)

it, Dick's writing reflects it," the publisher said.

"I've often thought the schools should clip his writings out of the newspaper and make them required reading. His style is a ready made 'Writing 101' course," Dreiling said. "I even pick Dick's brain when I have something I'm not quite sure is properly phrased."

Dreiling said Mr. Boyd is a favorite of the staff. "We always await his 'quiet' arrival. I stress 'quiet' because you know Dick has arrived when the office door closes behind him much like a great crescendo bringing a classical favorite to its last note."

Another thing the newspaper's publisher said of Mr. Boyd was

his unique method of 'filing' things. "If you've never been in the office to see where he places stories of the past, clippings from other publications, photos, notes and whatever he needs or needed in the past, it is 'neatly' scattered over several desks, several feet high, but ask him for something and he will hesitate for a moment or two, reach into a stack of papers and pull out whatever it is you are looking for," Dreiling said. "I think I mentioned unique before."

Dreiling said Mr. Boyd has a real knack for remembering the past. "It's not unusual for some young man or woman, who Dick covered when that person was participating in sports for the Blue Jays maybe 20 or 30 years ago, to come into the newspaper office, and strike up a conversation with detailed information. The retention he has is enough to blow you away."

Dick sometimes takes a friendly ribbing for the length of his stories, and that's not about to change anytime soon. "He believes his

play-by-play report is important to those kids, as well as fans who can't make a game and are unable to listen to the radio. He feels he is bridging the gap."

Mr. Boyd is a real stickler for photographs, Dreiling said. "It isn't just a hit and miss thing with him. He stays focused, he knows his camera's capabilities and his instinct goes to work and generally results in some outstanding action shots. He's hard to beat."

Mr. Boyd has moved into the computer age. Gone is the Underwood typewriter that got him through all those years. "And even though he might complain when something he is typing into the computer isn't doing what he thinks it should, down deep we know he marvels at his computer's capabilities," said Dreiling.

"We people at The Telegram are extremely proud of Dick's selection for this honor. He is so deserving. Congratulations just doesn't seem to fit the bill, but for lack of any other word, we'll simply say: 'Well Done, Dick! Congratulations!'", Dreiling said.

Norton prison

(Continued from Page 1)

effective April 1, 2009; advance the suspension of operations at Stockton Correctional Facility (from June earlier reported) to April 1, 2009; abolish parole and post release supervision effective April 1, 2009; and terminate all offender treatment and intervention programs effective April 1, 2009"

He said these actions would obviously have a significant impact

on the Department of Corrections, the employees involved, the communities affected, as well as the overall citizenry of Kansas.

He said decisions would have to be made regarding what do do with the number of inmates who would then exceed the capacity of the remaining correctional facilities. The secretary also said that exceeding the capacity of remaining facilities and abolishing all treatment and intervention programs would significantly impair the department's ability to keep the inmate population productively occupied so inmate management actions to ease the strain of increased idleness would be necessary.

He then added, "With all treatment and intervention programs

closed and parole and post release supervision eliminated, how would offenders be reintroduced to the community in a way so that future victimization is kept as low as possible?"

Secretary Werholtz said these actions, should they have to be implemented, would have a negative impact on the safety of staff and the public.

The secretary did emphasize that decisions regarding budget reductions are not yet final. "A number of steps in the process have yet to be taken," he said.

As the lawmakers in Topeka debate, the communities involved, sit and wait. Jobs and security are at stake. To contact either Sen. Ostmeyer or Rep. John Faber, call (785) 296-0111.

Hospital approves purchase

The Norton County Hospital Board voted to purchase a new anesthesia machine for \$39,988.64 during their most recent meeting. A representative from GE Healthcare had told the operating room staff that parts for the anesthesia machine the hospital currently uses, which is over 15 years old, won't be available until December 2009.

The board reviewed statistical/financial reports. For year-to-date 2008, there were 1,827 inpatient days, 328 admissions, 18 births, 109 surgeries, 18,721 outpatient procedures, no observation hours, and 5,988 Doctor's Clinic visits.

The November unaudited

income statement reflected a \$43,748 net income.

Ryan Stover, Chief Financial Officer, proposed a purchase of a new copier for the mail room. The copier that was in the mail room would be moved to the lower level for use by those departments. A new copier was included in the 2009 fiscal year budget.

The deadline for adopting a 403(b) written plan was changed to Dec. 31, 2009 from Dec. 31, 2008.

In his report, Chief Executive Officer Richard Miller said there has been no communication from the Norton County Commissioners regarding board member ap-

pointments. Trustees Steve Berry and Warren White have informed the commissioners of their re-appointment interests.

The application for final payment from the Murray Company for the lower level renovation is for \$5,651.00 over the guaranteed maximum price. The request exceeds the guaranteed maximum price of \$496,580.00 plus the cost of change orders. A letter to the Murray Company was being prepared.

No action was taken after a 10-minute executive session.

There was no other business brought before the board, and the meeting adjourned.

Girl Scout peanut butter cookies safe

By BRANDY LEROUX
bleroux@nwkansas.com

The Girl Scouts are out in full force, selling cookies. Including Peanut Butter Patties and Peanut Butter Sandwiches.

"The peanut butter in our Girl Scout Cookies is not affected by the (nationwide) recall," said Lois Rostek, Girl Scout Troop 10197 Leader. "The peanut butter has been tested, and showed no contamination."

According to a press release



from the Girl Scouts of America, the peanut butter used in Girl Scout cookies is not sourced from

the manufacturer or distributor linked to the current peanut butter recall.

"The FDA oversaw the testing at Hampton Farms, our peanut butter manufacturer," said Mrs. Rostek.

The recall doesn't seem to be affecting cookies containing peanut butter, though, according to Mrs. Rostek.

"From what I've seen, so far, the orders are about the same as they were last year," Mrs. Rostek said.

Election line-ups

(Continued from Page 1)

filled by the person with the most write-in votes.

Incumbent Daniel L. Mannel
Incumbent Edwin Loyd Schoen

Edmond City Council:
Mayor — Incumbent Jim Akers

Incumbent Jeremy Hallam
Incumbent Donald Knigge
Incumbent Bob Anderson
Incumbent Norma J. Riley

Clayton City Council:
The mayor's seat and five city council seats are up for election. No one in Clayton has filed to run for any of these positions. The seats will be filled by the persons with the most write-in votes.

Sweetheart Couple Ballot

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