

New mode of transportation



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Snow cascaded from the roof of the United Methodist Church in Hoxie as Don Ammons plowed snow in front of the church while a heavy snow continued to fall Monday. Snowfall amounts in the area ranged from 8-14 inches, with more expected tonight. Temperatures are expected to warm up toward the end of the week, according to the National Weather Service.

Consultant's advises museum upgrade or close

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — The city's museum of Old West history needs a serious financial boost and more-streamlined oversight to avoid becoming history itself, consultants said after completing a study of the facility.

The report, released Monday, praised the Old Cowtown Museum for its "outstanding collection of historic buildings and artifacts" and "deep involvement with a large volunteer force and area public schools."

Still, the museum has struggled to draw visitors and to maintain its buildings. Sedgwick County approved \$190,000 in emergency funding last September, but the consultants — all with museum backgrounds — said much more is needed. "Old Cowtown is worthy of a financial investment to strengthen the organization, because Old Cowtown can become a significant historical attraction with a high level of educational and cultural tourism value," an executive summary of the report read.

Public Notices

ANNUAL REPORT OF Kinross TOWNSHIP
Thomas COUNTY, KANSAS

The undersigned treasurer and trustee of Kinross Township, submit the following report for the year ending December 31, 2005.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund*	Cash Balance Jan. 1 **	Total Receipts	Total Expenditures	Cash Balance Dec. 31	Unpaid Bills Dec. 31
General	30,451.98	52,214.86	58,632.58	24,034.26	0
Road Fund	0	0	0	0	0
Employment Benefit	2,061.75	8,587.26	4,581.35	8,935.66	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	32,513.73	60,802.12	59,090.93	33,369.92	0

* Detailed fund pages are available at the county clerk's office.
** Includes all money the township has including checking account, savings, and investments.

I certify that this financial report is a correct summary of all money received and expended as well as all unpaid bills for the township during the year ending December 31, 2005.

Date: 3/1/06
David Johnson
Township Treasurer

(Published in the Colby Free Press on March 22, 2005.)

ANNUAL REPORT OF Wendell TOWNSHIP
Thomas COUNTY, KANSAS

The undersigned treasurer and trustee of Wendell Township, submit the following report for the year ending December 31, 2005.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund*	Cash Balance Jan. 1 **	Total Receipts	Total Expenditures	Cash Balance Dec. 31	Unpaid Bills Dec. 31
General	0	29,578.30	28,518.16	10,601.14	0
Road Fund	15,682.19	94,021.20	2,331,418.94	1,852,155.00	0
Employment	0	6,432.22	5953.47	478.75	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0

* Detailed fund pages are available at the county clerk's office.
** Includes all money the township has including checking account, savings, and investments.

I certify that this financial report is a correct summary of all money received and expended as well as all unpaid bills for the township during the year ending December 31, 2005.

Date: 3/15/06
David Dill
Township Treasurer

(Published in the Colby Free Press on March 22, 2006.)

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to L. 1991, ch 279, 2.

Results of the Market Study Analysis for Thomas County for Assessment Year 2006.

A study of the residential real estate market indicates there is an upward trend in some areas, and stable market in other areas, based on price range of houses on the market. A study of residential and commercial vacant land indicates there is an upward trend. A study of the commercial real estate market indicated there is an upward trend downtown and an upward trend at the interstate area and industrial area.

Values on specific properties may change because of changes in the property, correction of descriptive information of calibration of values based on sales of similar properties in the area.

In accordance with the provisions in KSA 79-1476, the Division of Property Valuation is required to annually furnish each county the results of its study relating to changes, if any, of the Use Value of agricultural land. Changes that can and do occur as a result of several factors include cropping practices, commodity prices and production costs.

The Study relating to Use Value of agricultural land completed by the Division of Property Valuation indicated the following changes compared to the prior year:

- All Grassland: Decreased in value on certain soil types from the study relating to use value of agricultural land completed by the Division of Property Valuation.
- Dry Cropland: Decreased in value depending on certain soil types from the study relating to use value of agricultural land completed by the Division of Property Valuation.
- Irrigated Cropland:
 - Flood: Values will decrease or increase depending on the well depths and, Gallons per minute, and soil types. These values are from the study relating to use value of agricultural land completed by the Division of Property Valuation.
 - Sprinkler: Values will decrease or increase depending on the well depths and, Gallons per minute, and soil types. These values are from the study relating to use value of agricultural land completed by the Division of Property Valuation.

Beginning March 31, 2006, the Thomas County Appraiser's Office will begin notifying property owners of their property's current appraised value. Property owners of record will be receiving a Change of Value Notice in their mail.

THE CHANGE OF VALUE NOTICE IS NOT A TAX BILL. It serves only as the property owner's official notification of the county appraiser's estimate of value for their property.

Each Change of Value Notice will include the current appraised and assessed values of the land and improvements of each class of property on the parcel, a brief explanation of the notice, who to contact about questions, and a condensed outline of the appeal procedures that property owners must follow if they disagree with the values.

If property owners have questions or wish to appeal the classification or appraised value of their property, they must call the taxpayer service number listed on the Change of Value Notice within 30 days of the mailing of the notice.

Property owners must attend an informal meeting with the county appraiser as a prerequisite to formally appealing the change in their property's value.

In the Spring of 2006, farm properties and small towns will be physically reinspected by the appraiser's office to meet the requirement that one-sixth of the properties in the county be reinspected each year.

If anyone has questions relating to the Change of Value Notice, please call 460-4525 or visit the Thomas County Appraiser's Office between the hours of 8AM-5PM.
(Published in the Colby Free Press on March 22, 2005.)

People In the News

Clooney gets apology
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Commentator Arianna Huffington apologized to readers for a blog posted on her Web site on March 13 that was attributed to actor George Clooney but was actually a compilation of his views.

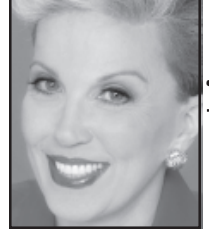
Huffington acknowledged on her Web site Saturday that she was "blinded" to the issue of assembling a blog in which the source of the material wasn't clear, as was the case with Clooney.
"I now realize that I made a big mistake in posting a blog without

clearly identifying that the material in it didn't originate as a blog post, but was pieced together from previous interviews," she wrote.
Last week, Clooney issued a statement denying he wrote the blog, saying he only gave Huffington permission to use a compila-

tion of his critiques of the Iraq war from interviews with Larry King and London's The Guardian.
On Monday, Huffington said she considered the misunderstanding a "major lesson learned" and would put future snippets from interviews or conversations into her own blog.

Testing may reveal son is not husband's child

DEAR ABBY: My heart is pounding and I'm at my wit's end. This situation is difficult to explain. I'm afraid that other readers may be facing the same horror that I'm dealing with, so please advise us on how to handle an extremely delicate situation.



Abigail Van Buren
• Dear Abby

My husband has it in his head to do genetic testing for "genealogy" purposes.

It isn't cheap. One of the places he wants testing from charges a couple of hundred dollars. He has asked me to have it done, too. I told him I was not interested and I thought it was too expensive.

Now he wants to have our 17-year-old son tested. I have argued that our son should not have his DNA on record anywhere, that he really needs both parents to give consent for testing, and it costs too much.

The horror I really have is that, 18 years ago, I made an awful mistake. I don't know if my husband is the father of our son. I'm having panic attacks about his finding out how awful I was 18 years ago.

Can you issue advice that these DNA tests should not be used on minor children, and that there are powerful reasons why not? Can you think of any other reasons I can give for not having him tested so I can convince my husband to drop the idea? Please don't reveal where we live. You can say it's Minnesota.

— IN A PANIC!
DEAR IN A PANIC!: Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive. (And no, I didn't coin the phrase.)

Although you have my sympathy, I think it takes a lot of gall to ask me to lie in my column. I cannot come up with a reason why your son should not be tested because there are reasons why everyone should be — particularly before having children. (Two of them are Tay-Sachs and sickle-cell anemia.) I have news for you. Your husband already has his suspicions about whether he fathered the boy. That's why he's determined to have him tested. If I were you, I'd take a few deep breaths and come clean before the guano hits the fan — and that's the best advice I can offer. Confession is good for the soul.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a committed relationship for five years with a woman who disagrees with me about something and won't let the subject drop. Several years ago, I put my family home on the market. I accepted an early offer.

My partner told me I was "naive" and selling the house for too little. I took her advice and pulled out of the deal.

A couple of months later, I sold the house for \$80,000 more than the previous offer. My partner says I owe her the \$80,000 because she "earned" it for me.

Although she says she would not have accepted such an offer from me, she feels I should've offered to give her that amount.

I believe if she had my best interests at heart, to say nothing of the interests of our relationship, she would never have even thought such a thing. What is your take on this?

— SECOND THOUGHTS IN FLORIDA

DEAR SECOND THOUGHTS: It appears you have partnered up with a greedy woman. Not only was it wrong of her to think of such a thing, it is wrong of her to keep harping on it. Of course she would have taken the money if you had offered it. From my perspective, all you "owe" her is a heartfelt thank-you.

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend, "Rita," and I have been together almost two years, and living together for about a year. We have decided to marry, but have not yet set a date.

Recently our marriage plans have run aground because I told her that I had made changes in my estate planning. I assigned Rita as my 100 percent beneficiary for my savings/retirement benefits. She will also get 75 percent of my state retirement benefits; my sister will get the other 25 percent. In addition, I also had my \$100,000 life insurance policy increased to \$300,000. I allocated one-third of that for her, the rest to my parents. (Until recently, she had not been assigned a percentage of anything.)

Rita is very upset that I did not make her my sole beneficiary. She says that "traditionally," a spouse leaves everything to the other spouse. She says that by assigning her less than 100 percent, I have not made her the No. 1 priority in my life. Based on your knowledge and experience, is her request reasonable, or am I headed for disaster?

— GETTING WORRIED IN RANCHO MURRIETA, CALIF.

DEAR GETTING WORRIED: Let me put it this way. You should not be faulted for wanting to make sure that your parents and your sister are taken care of

if anything should happen to you. It appears your girlfriend has a calculator where her heart ought to be. If I were you, I'd run for the hills.

DEAR ABBY: A close friend of mine — my college roommate — is being married in three months. Because we are close, he asked me to be one of his groomsmen.

The problem is, I do not approve of the woman he is marrying. She's controlling, talks down to him, and degrades him in front of family and friends. I think she is just plain cold-hearted. She is the same way with friends and family. He makes excuses for her behavior, so I know he

sees it as well.
Should I still stand up in his wedding, even though I don't think they should be married? If I don't, it is sure to put extreme stress on our friendship. I have tried to talk to him, but he doesn't seem to hear me. Help!

— RED FLAGS IN OHIO

DEAR RED FLAGS: It takes character to take a stand and do what is right. Being a member of the wedding party implies that you endorse the marriage. Because you cannot do that, you need to level with your friend, and explain that because you care so much for him and his future, you cannot be in his wedding. Do it soon, so you can be replaced without a hassle.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

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