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Crews from the Kansas Department of Transportation have installed nine new road signs in the last several weeks along the western portion of I-70. Two signs were installed in Thomas County, one at the Country Club Drive exit in Colby and one at the Levant exit. The signs remind drivers to keep in the right lane except to pass.

New signs remind drivers to keep right

By Kevin Bottrell

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Travelers on I-70 will notice several new road signs reminding them to stay in the right lane except to pass.

The Kansas Department of Transportation has installed dozens of new signs along I-70, reminding drivers of the right lane law, which was established by the state legislature earlier this year and became effective on July 1. It requires drivers on any two-or-more-lane state or U.S. highway to stay in the right lane unless they intend to pass, make a left turn or make room for emergency vehicles. The law applies to commercial trucks and law enforcement except in emergencies.

The new signs — which read “Keep Right Except to Pass” — in Thomas County will be on the westbound side at exit 45, the Levant exit, and on the east-

bound side at exit 54, Country Club Drive. The other signs in the department’s District 3 will be near exit 1 by the Colorado-Kansas border, exits 127 and 128 in Trego County, exits 157 and 163 in Ellis County and exit 184 in Russell County.

Department work crews started at the Colorado-Kansas border and worked their way east.

Public Affairs Manager Kristen Brands said these locations were chosen because they are high-traffic areas and because they are spread out across the district. She said there are no plans at this time to install any further signs in District 3. District 3 encompasses 18 counties in northwest Kansas and is headquartered in Norton. Brands said there are no other multi-lane highways in the district where the law would have an effect on traffic. Signs have been installed in other districts as well.

During the first year of the new law, law enforcement officers are



The locations for the new signs were chosen both for high traffic-volume and to space the signs out throughout the western stretch of I-70. No other signs are planned for northwest Kansas since I-70 is the only highway with more than one lane going either direction.

only allowed to give warning 30, 2010, violation can result in tickets for violations. After June a \$60 fine.

Attorney details unpaid tax procedures

By Vera Sloan

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When the time to pay taxes is either May or December, one might ask why a delinquent tax list is being published now, why it is published three times, what happens when the publishing date is over, and why Sept. 1 is the magic date for it all to come to an end.

County Attorney, Bruce Flipse said the Kansas Legislature sets the laws regarding Kansas property tax, and the publishing dates and the Sept. 1 deadline for taxes to be paid is what they chose.

Kansas law states that taxes must be delinquent for three years on residential property and two years on farm ground, vacant lots and mineral rights, before the county can take legal measures to foreclose.

The delinquent tax list being published in Kansas newspapers at this time of year is for unpaid 2008 taxes, and it is notice to all concerned that the county has followed state law of publishing the list each year. After that deadline has passed, property is subject to foreclosure.

A tax foreclosure and tax sale are two different events.

Flipse said he is currently working on a tax foreclosure. It is for unpaid taxes for the year 2006 and preceding years. When the foreclosure proceedings are complete, then he can proceed with plans for

a tax sale.

“This county hasn’t had a tax sale since 2001,” Flipse said. “It takes a lot of time to bring up that many years’ records and get all interest holders in the property notified.”

“A tax sale should be held every year, and then there would be only six to ten parcels to sell each time,” he added. “There are 80 parcels of real property in the foreclosure I’m working on, and over 120 owners.”

“The procedure starts when the county commissioners say its time to have a sale,” said Donita Applebury, county treasurer. “Then I make a list of all unpaid taxes on all taxable property.”

Applebury said that after she has the list complete she hands it over to the county attorney. He then contacts abstractors and gets a bid from them to do the abstract work to determine all interest holders in each property.

The abstractor runs a search, and sends a list of all individuals who might have an interest back to the county attorney. Besides owners, other interest holders could be mortgage holders, banks, holders of mineral rights on the property and many more.

The next step is for the county attorney to contact all interested parties by letter. If a letter is returned, that means the address is no good, and they have to try to

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Ted Kennedy dead at age 77

BOSTON (AP) — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the liberal lion of the Senate and haunted bearer of the Camelot torch after two of his brothers fell to assassins’ bullets, has died at his home in Hyannis Port after battling a brain tumor. He was 77.

Many of Kennedy’s fellow senators expressed their admiration for their colleague. Kansas Senator Sam Brownback released a statement Wednesday morning.

“He fought for what he believed in and did so with passion,” Brownback said. “I had the opportunity to work on several legislative issues with Senator Kennedy and despite our political differences, he was professional, courteous, and thoughtful and always looked for ways to find common ground. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.”

Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson also released a statement Monday.

“With the passing of Senator Kennedy we mourn together, while celebrating his legacy and life,” he said. “I last saw Senator Kennedy speak almost exactly one year ago in Denver; there, to a crowd of thousands, weak from illness but powered by optimism,

he delivered a message in which all Americans can find hope. It was a brief, yet incredible moment to see a man who had seen so much, share a vision for the future.”

For nearly a half-century in the Senate, Kennedy was a steadfast champion of the working class and the poor, a powerful voice on health care, civil rights, and war and peace. To the American public, though, he was best known as the last surviving son of America’s most glamorous political family, the eulogist of a clan shattered again and again by tragedy.

His family announced his death in a brief statement released early Wednesday.

“We’ve lost the irreplaceable center of our family and joyous light in our lives, but the inspiration of his faith, optimism, and perseverance will live on in our hearts forever,” the statement said. “We thank everyone who gave him care and support over this last year, and everyone who stood with him for so many years in his tireless march for progress toward justice, fairness and opportunity for all.”

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University urges residents to remember West Nile

When school starts again or Labor Day closes the swimming pool, most people stop worrying about mosquitoes. But late summer and early fall are when mosquitoes transmit most cases of West Nile virus, according to a Kansas State University entomologist.

“Culex mosquitoes have been building populations since spring. Along the way, some may have picked up diseases to carry. Besides, mosquitoes simply function best at about 80

degrees — the usual temperatures for this time of year,” said Ludek Zurek, public health entomologist with K-State Research and Extension.

The best way to avoid mosquito bites at any time may be to dress like a beekeeper, he said. Long, loose, light-colored garb are the most-recommended cover for visitors to mosquito-rich environments.

In most places, however, a mix of less ex-

treme defenses is more practical. Zurek listed the following as ways to help reduce or avoid exposure and/or to repel hungry mosquitoes:

- Avoid being outdoors during dawn, dusk or days when skies are overcast.
- “Mosquitoes can’t handle hot, direct sunlight for very long,” Zurek said.
- Head into the wind. Or, create wind with

See “WEST NILE,” Page 3

Briefly

Dance team to sell food at game

The Colby High School Dance Team will have a hot dog and nacho bar at Friday night’s football scrimmage at Dennen Field. All proceeds will be used to send the girls to perform during half time at the Liberty Bowl in Memphis, Tenn. on Jan. 2. For information, call coach Denita Rodgers at 460-5300.

Firefighters to hold charity drive

The Colby Fire Department will participate in the national Boot Drop charity fund raiser from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Firefighters will be accepting donations for muscular dystrophy at Dillons, Walmart and at the intersection of Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue. For information, call the department at 460-4454.

Library to hold book review lunch

The Pioneer Memorial Library program “Booked

for Lunch,” will begin at noon next Wednesday at the library. A free lunch will be served and donations will be accepted. At 12:15, Linda Goossen will review the book “Extreme Measures: A Thriller,” by Vince Flynn. For information, call 460-4470.

Back to school party Saturday

The fourth annual Back to School Bash for high school students will be from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday and for middle school students from 5-8 p.m. on Sunday at “The Rock,” in South Wind Plaza. There will be food, prizes, inflatables and lots of fun. For information, call Hans Krohn at 443-3587.

Charity riders to stop in Colby

The Honor Run, a charitable motorcycle ride across the United States, will stay overnight in Colby Monday. There will be free activities in Fike Park, with food, music and other entertainment beginning at 6 p.m. and the riders will arrive at 7 p.m. Dona-

tions will be accepted for the Fisher House Foundation charity. For information, call Jim Oliver at 462-0040.

Party for court officer Friday

A special reception will be held for retiring Chief Court Services Officer Jim Robison from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 4 at the Law Enforcement Training Center, 360 N. Franklin Ave. For information, call Anne Ogle at 460-4550.

Offices closed for Labor Day

The Thomas County courthouse and office complex will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, for Labor Day. The county transportation van will not run that day. The Thomas County landfill will close at noon on Sept. 5 and reopen Sept. 8. For information, call County Clerk Shelly Harms at 460-4500.

Gem Lions’ hog roast Wednesday

The Gem Lions Club will hold its annual hog roast

from 5 to 8 p.m. tonight at the Gem Community Building. Entertainment will feature the Jeff Waggoner Family, the Bugbee Sisters and other area entertainers. Donations will be accepted for the meal, with the proceeds used for community projects. For information, call Ken Poland at 462-7809.

School calendars offered for \$5

Colby Public Schools pocket calendars will be available at the Colby High School volleyball and football scrimmage on Friday. The calendars, which cost \$5, are a fund raiser for the Colby Music Boosters. For information, call Kris Lemman at 460-6586, Elaine Bremenkamp at 462-7860 or any Colby music teacher.



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