



COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Monday

October 12, 2009

Volume 120, Number 159
Serving Thomas County since 1888

8 pages



Thomas County Academy teacher Theresa Morgan and her students visited classrooms around Colby Middle School Thursday, serving a ceremonial "first cup of tea." The students had been reading "Three Cups of Tea," by Greg Mortenson, a book about understanding different cultures. The students will have two more tea parties in November and December.

Man found in rural search dies in Denver

A Colby man who was rescued from a rural Thomas County corn field after a search by emergency personnel and volunteers died Saturday at St. Joseph Hospital in Denver.

G. Tommy Dean, 69, was born March 12, 1940, in Pueblo, Colo., the son of William and Helen (Sailsbury) Dean, and had lived in western Kansas most of his life.

Dean was reported missing by his family on Thursday, Oct. 1, triggering a search by the Colby Police Department and the Thomas County Sheriff's Office. His truck was found the next day by Police Chief Randy Jones in the Sappa Creek valley about six miles northwest of Colby.

Police and sheriff's officers, state troopers, firemen, emergency responders and volunteers searched the surrounding area for about two hours before finding Dean in a cornfield about a half-mile from the truck. Dean was alive and seemingly unhurt. He was rushed to Citizens Medical Center and flown to the hospital in Denver. He reportedly died of complications due to dehydration.

Dean was a retired general laborer. He married Poppy Norton on April 9, 1961, in Colby.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; two daughters, Kelly Horinek, Colby, and Terry Wilson, Abilene; two brothers, John Dean, Boulder, Colo.; and Fred Dean, Denver; two sisters, Peggy Toner, Minneapolis, Kan., and Shannon Hall, Excelsior Springs, Mo.; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, 2009, at the Colby United Methodist Church, with Pastor James Mardock officiating. No visitation.

The family suggests memorials to the church or Alcoholics Anonymous in care of any Colby bank or the Harrison Chapel, Box 634, Colby, Kan., 67701.

Students use tea to celebrate culture

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press
vsloan@nwkansas.com

Reaching out to other classes at Colby Middle School, Teresa Morgan was able to help her students make a global connection, gain an appreciation of humanity and give them, and students in several other classes, a cultural opportunity.

Morgan, instructor for the Thomas County Academy, said it was all brought about when the class read "Three Cups of Tea," a New York Times bestselling book by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.

The book tells about Mortenson's transition from an unsuccessful try at mountain climbing to a humanitarian who was committed to reducing poverty and educating girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Morgan said she was able to combine the text of the book and the audio version onto the academy's new iPod devices so that the class could do their reading and listening digitally.

"My challenge to the students was to challenge what they are reading," Morgan said.

"I want them to think about the 'why' of what they are reading and learning."

Morgan said in the book is billed as a true account of Mortenson's experiences, and the students could see love, fear and beauty in the story.

The book tells about the author recovered from a failed attempt to climb the world's second-highest mountain, K2, in Pakistan, and moved on to success in establishing schools in some of the most remote regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The book takes the author through a time of being alone, without food and water, into a poverty-ravaged village where he was nursed back to health. During Mortenson's convalescence, he saw children sitting outdoors trying to scratch lessons in the dirt with sticks because the village was too poor to afford a teacher at the equivalent of only a dollar a day.

He made a promise to himself to return someday and build a school, but found the people to be like a brick wall until he could gain their friendship. The custom of the area was to have



Following the theme of global human rights efforts, the students held other activities at the tea party Thursday. Third Grader Caitlyn Comfort was one of many students drawing pictures with pennies for "Pennies for Peace," an international humanitarian group.

tea together three times before you were considered trustworthy, he said. He couldn't get them to work with him until he gained

their confidence, which took place through the three tea cer-

See "PARTY," Page 3

Ballots available for Extension Council

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press
vsloan@nwkansas.com

Ballots for an election for the Thomas County Extension Council are available at the county Extension office, in the Thomas County Office Complex at 350 S. Range.

"In the past, ballots have been mailed out to county residents, but due to budget restraints, the general public is asked to pick ballots up at the office and have them marked and returned by (Friday) Oct. 23," said Diann Gerstner, Family and Consumer Science agent.

Ballots also appear in this

month's Extension newsletter.

The people elected to the council serve on one of four program development committees, which give direction for the county's extension and 4-H programs for the coming year, she said. Program areas include Agriculture, Family and Consumer Science, Economic Development, and 4-H and Youth.

"There are six people on each committee, and they serve for a two-year term so that not every one is new at once," Gerstner said. "Each committee will have three new members to be voted

See "BALLOT," Page 3

Five long-time employees retire from post office

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press
vsloan@nwkansas.com

With 143 years of service among them, five Colby post office employees have joined the ranks of the retired.

Joan Denton, Vickie Engel, Ike Donn, John White and Ed Miller were honored this fall for their many years of service.

Kenton Krehbiel, Colby postmaster, said Denton commuted for 20 years from Monument to be a substitute carrier. She worked mostly on route one, but filled in



Colby Post Office retirees (from left) Joan Denton, Vickie Engel, Ike Donn, John White and Ed Miller.

for others as well.

Engle, of Oakley, drove to town for 21 years as a postal clerk.

Donn, who traded his mechanic's uniform at P&D Repair for a

city carrier uniform 24 years ago, said he worked for a couple of hours sorting mail before beginning his long walk of delivering the mail each day.

"It took me about six hours to walk the 11 to 12 miles each day," Donn said. "I don't actually miss the walk, but I really do miss seeing all those people I got to know over the years."

Donn said he spends his time now doing a little mowing for other people, officiating football, basketball and softball games and helping at harvest.

White began his 34-year postal career in Colby, transferred to Clay Center for a while, and returned to Colby, where he said he

See "RETIRES," Page 3

Chamber of Commerce to show off decorations

The Colby-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce will unveil the new "Shine in '09" Christmas decorations at a small ceremony at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Farmers and Merchants Bank parking lot.

Tina Harris, Chamber board president, said groups started meeting last year to plan the new decorations, which are replacing the city's current set. Included in the efforts were the Chamber, the Chamber Diplomats and the City of Colby.

Phase one, dubbed "Decorate in '08," provided new snowflake decorations for Range Av-

enue. The 2009 decorations will be for Fourth Street. The metal decorations were made by Lana Johnson and banners were made by Colby Canvas. The Colby Public Works Department will be hanging the decorations for the unveiling.

"I am so excited about the new decorations to celebrate the Holiday season in Colby," said Kathy Britton, president of the Chamber Diplomats. "Through the generosity of our residents, organizations and businesses, we are going to have a beautiful entrance to the community."

Briefly

City to drop clipping collection

Colby city sanitation crews have stopped picking up grass clipping as a separate route this season. Jo Strange at the city office said as of today, people can start putting their clippings out with the regular trash. Separate collections will resume in the spring.

College board calls meeting

The Colby Community College trustees will hold a special meeting at 5 p.m. Wednesday in the board room of Thomas Hall. The agenda says the board will be acting on an early retirement and will hold two closed-door sessions, one for attorney-client privilege and one for negotiations. For information, call spokeswoman Debbie Schwanke at 460-5411.

Flu vaccine supply spent

The Thomas County Health Department has run out of adult seasonal flu vaccine. There are still a few

doses available for children 6 months to age 18, said Finance Administrator Kasiah Rothchild, but none for adults. The department expects its next shipment in November. For information, call 460-4596.

Preschool screening coming up

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center and the Colby School District will be holding an early childhood screening from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the Colby United Methodist Church. For information, or to make an appointment, call Amy Hutfles at 460-5111.

Get car seats inspected Tuesday

Certified child passenger safety seat technicians from Smart Start Northwest Kansas will be giving free inspections in conjunction with Early Childhood screenings from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Colby United Methodist Church. For information,

call Smart Start at 465-9103.

Students to give free massages

The Therapeutic Massage Department at Colby Community College plans public clinics on Wednesdays this month in Thomas Hall, room 402. Cubicle massages are 30 minutes and chair massages 15, starting at 6:15 p.m., 7 p.m., 7:45 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Massages will focus neck, shoulders and chest on Wednesday, feet Oct. 21 and legs and feet Oct. 28. To make an appointment, contact Debra Waites at (785) 460-5427 or e-mail debra.waites@colbycc.edu.

Publisher will talk about debt

Dr. Larry Bates, an economist and publisher of the *Monetary and Economic Review*, will speak at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Brewster Community Church about the debt-based economy. For information, call Mike Pinkelman (785) 694-2720.

Student to talk about homeland

Exchange student Aylin Kozempel will speak about her home country, Germany, at 7 p.m. Thursday at Pioneer Memorial Library. The talk is part of the "Exploring Our World Through Local Eyes" program. Refreshments will be served. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

Legion plans pancake feed

The Colby American Legion Post will hold a pancake and sausage feed from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday at the Legion hall, 1850 W. Fourth St. The cost will be \$4 per person. For information, call Jim Griffin at 269-7074.



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 8 9 8 3