

Family

Friends invited to 50th

The children of Ralph and Betty Hansen invite friends and family to join them to mark their parents' 50th wedding anniversary at an open house from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 855 E. Fifth St. Cards will reach them at 215 N. Mission Ridge, Colby, Kan., 67701.



Betty and Ralph Hansen

Babies

Lillian Grace Beckman

Lillian Grace Beckman, daughter of Amy Knipp and Brent Beckman of Menlo, was born Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009, at Citizens Medical Center. She weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 20 inches.

Brother Caden Knipp welcomed the baby home. Grandparents are Frank and Donna Knipp of Damar and Stuart and Anita Beckman of Menlo.

Jesus Armando Beltran

Jesus Armando Beltran, son of Oscar Beltran and Eva Moncayo of Rexford, was born Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009, at Citizens Medical Center. He weighed 6 pounds, 11

ounces and measured 19 inches. Grandparents are Jesus and Antonia Moncayo and Luis and Mirna Beltran, all of Mexico.

Mackoy Matthew Hemmert

Mackoy Matthew Hemmert, son of Sage and Sheena Hemmert of Colby, was born Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009, at Citizens Medical Center. He weighed 7 pounds,

5 ounces. Grandparents are Fred and Trudi Kuntzsch of Scott City and Kirk and Debbie Hemmert of Oakley.

Ty David Fenner

Ty David Fenner, son of Brandon and Jennifer Fenner of Hoxie, was born Dec. 2, 2009, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He weighed 9 pounds, and measured 21 inches.

Sister Jayden and brother Trent welcomed the baby home. Grandparents are David and Di-

ane Carter of Jennings and Brian and Joey Fenner of Hoxie. Great-grandparents are Eleanor and the late Cleo Morel, Jennings; the late Willard and Naomi Carter of Jennings; Volia and the late Albert Fenner of Goodland; and Herb and Doris Wood, of Wray, Colo.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE Thursday

- 1:21 a.m. - Security check at Twisters.
 - 1:39 a.m. - Erratic driver east-bound on Fifth from Range.
 - 2:09 a.m. - Tire needed for a semi in the 600 block of U.S. 83. Provided phone number for Mittens.
 - 1:32 p.m. - Dog at large at Colby House turned over to owner.
 - 1:38 p.m. - Violation of protection from abuse order: ex-wife keeps texting him.
 - 3:36 p.m. - Hit and run on vehicle parked at the high school.
- ### THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Thursday
- 6:20 a.m. - Fingerprinted subject.
 - 9:46 a.m. - Transported juvenile from Trego County Juvenile Detention Facility to Colby.
 - 1 p.m. - Insufficient fund check report on Kari Anne Trail.
 - 2:20 p.m. - Insufficient fund

- check report on Justin Lynn Alexander.
- 2:34 p.m. - Clerk at J-J Oil reported possible drunk transient there that they want removed.
- 3:29 p.m. - Mel's Motor requested assistance with traffic control at U.S. 83 and County Rd. 36.
- 4:25 p.m. - Oakley police advised of a possibly intoxicated person walking in traffic north of I-70/U.S. 83 junction.

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Another Laugh,
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Rexford council has new appointee

The Rexford City Council held its last meeting of the year after a nice meal prepared at Montana Mike's. In old business, enforcement officer Jan Ackerman reported that eight abandoned and untagged vehicles had been moved. Terry Preston was appointed as a council member, replacing Gary Delzeit.

After a closed-door session, the council voted to give Bill Scott and Jolene Hansen each a \$200 bonus and a 5 percent pay increase.

The next council meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, at the Rexford City Building.

To honor Edna Colson's 90th birthday, her daughter, Grace Kauk, would like to have a birthday card shower. Cards can be sent



Vicki Allison

• Rexford Correspondent

to Edna Colson, in care of Roberta Colson, 223 W. Fifth, Goodland, Kan., 67735.

Red Barn weekly activities: Barnswallows, 2 to 5 p.m. Monday; ladies' Bible study, 10 a.m. Wednesday; Come on Down, 2 to 5 p.m. Thursday; Koffe Klatch, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Friday. Every second Saturday of the month is bingo.

Until next time, make your week memorable.

Auto insurance rates stay bargain in Kansas

TOPEKA - A new report shows Kansas ranks sixth lowest in the nation for average auto insurance costs, says Sandy Praeger, state commissioner of insurance. This is the fifth consecutive year the state has been ranked as a leader in lower rates.

Information from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners shows Kansans spent an average of \$568 per vehicle for insurance in 2007, the last available reporting period. That figure is down \$11 from the previous survey average a year ago.

"The ranking and the lower cost-per-vehicle figure show that Kansas has a healthy, competitive climate for vehicle insurance buyers," Praeger said. "With more than 160 auto insurance companies vying for customers statewide, the competitive rates are certainly advantageous to Kansas consumers."

Last year's report had Kansans spending an average of \$579. All figures are rounded to the nearest

dollar.

The ranking assumes all insured vehicles carry liability coverage but not necessarily collision or comprehensive coverage. Consumers in Kansas aren't required to carry collision and comprehensive, but coverage may be required by the lender making a vehicle loan.

In the latest report, North Dakota is lowest with an average auto insurance expenditure of \$512, followed by Iowa, \$518; South Dakota, \$534; Nebraska, \$554; and Idaho, \$564.

Behind Kansas in this area are Oklahoma, \$646; Missouri, \$658; and Colorado, \$738. The national average is \$795.

The average cost of a policy that contains all three types of coverage (liability, collision, comprehensive) is \$713 in Kansas, according to the report. The state ranks as the 10th-least expensive in the nation in that category.

The commissioner's 2006/2007 Auto Database Report, which contains the figures listed above, is designed to provide information and analysis for insurance regulators, consumers and policy makers.

We want your local news: e-mail to colby.editor@nwkansas.com

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

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Deaths

Mildred Chaffin Goke

Mildred Chaffin Goke, 94, Colby, died Sunday, Dec. 20, 2009, at the Morton County Care Center in Elkhart. Services are pending with the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby, (785) 462-7979.

Road and weather info easy to find on website

How are the roads east of Topeka on I-70? Where are work zones on Kansas highways? These are questions that drivers can find answers to, thanks to KanDrive (www.KanDrive.org).

KanDrive, operated by the Kansas Department of Transportation, connects travelers to information to plan safe, enjoyable journeys across the state. Features include:

- An interactive map of Kansas roads, work zones, traffic incidents and weather conditions at 511.ksdot.org
- Snapshots from more than 30 cameras along I-70 between Topeka and Colorado and other highways in the state, as well as camera views from the KC Scout system.
- Messages displayed on roadside dynamic message signs that advise travelers of key driving issues, including weather, accidents, work zones and Amber Alerts.
- Links to related transportation resources, including KC Scout; the future Wichita Traffic Management Center; state, county and city travel maps; links to neighboring states' travel information, Kansas Turnpike information and resources on preparing for winter travel, rest area locations, Scenic

Byways and more.

"KDOT created KanDrive to increase awareness among travelers, commuters and truck drivers of our intelligent transportation services, especially the roadside cameras, message signs and 511 system," said Barb Blue, department spokeswoman. "KanDrive reflects KDOT's commitment to using technology to benefit the safety, convenience and awareness of motorists in the state of Kansas."

The KanDrive portal displays information from the department of transportation's traveler information technology, including highway cameras, dynamic message signs, traffic management centers and 511 phone, online and mobile information (511mm.ksdot.org). It will also include Wi-Fi connections and kiosks planned for some rest areas and state parks.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$4.12
Corn (bushel)	\$3.37
Milo (hundredweight)	\$5.39
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.02

MOVIE PASSES

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Sunday - Thursday 7:00

PLANET 51
5 Days Only
Genre(s): Adventure/Comedy/ Animation
PG 1 Hour, 31 Minutes
Friday & Saturday 7:00 & 9:00
Sunday - Tuesday 7:00

ALVIN AND CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUAKQUEL
2 Days Only
Genre(s): Comedy/Sequel
PG 1 Hour, 29 Minutes
Wednesday & Thursday 7:00

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155 W. 5th Street - 785-462-3963

Christmas Services

First Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve - Thursday Dec. 24:
Christmas Eve Worship - 11 p.m.
Lessons, Carols & Candlelight Service
Rev. Carol Flahn
515 W. 4th • 462-6342

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Christmas Eve Thursday, Dec. 24
Services: 4 p.m.
7 p.m. (Children's Mass)
Christmas Day Friday, Dec. 25
Service: 9 a.m.
Father Dana Clark
1065 W. 5th • 462-2179