

# Family

## New year brings exhibit to museum from Smithsonian

Another year is upon us, and we anticipate days filled with activity, visitors and events.

Due to the 125th birthday of Thomas County, we are looking forward to several very special events, including the opening of the traveling Smithsonian exhibit, "Journey Stories," on Friday, Jan. 8, at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. The show will be here until Sunday, Feb. 21.

You will not only see the Smithsonian exhibit, but a companion exhibit developed by the Prairie Museum which tells the story of Thomas County for the past 125 years. The "Food for Thought" speaker at the museum at noon on Thursday, Jan. 21, will be Dr. Isaia McCaffery, who will talk about, "People in Motion: Migration and Transportation in Kansas History."

Other special birthday events include the final season of Kansas Chautauqua, "Bright Dreams, Hard Times," here June 2 to 6 in the big tent at the museum. A youth camp will be held as part of the series. Watch for related events prior to the big show in June.

Don't forget that the all-school reunion will be held June 17 to 19. The final major event will be held Oct. 8 and 9, culminating the birthday year with a big celebration.

I will be in Denver for the International Sports and Travel Show on Thursday to Sunday, Jan. 7 through 10. This is the first travel show of the season. I also will be working the Wichita Travel Show Friday through Sunday, Feb. 19 to 21 at the Coliseum. If you're in Wichita or Denver during one of these events, stop by and say hello.

One of the big events in Colby during January is the Tom Bowen/Paul Wintz Orange and Black Basketball Classic on Thursday through Saturday, Jan. 21 to 23. Tournament play will be both at the Community Building and high school. This popular event is a chance to see some great high school basketball action.

The Northwest Kansas Liberty League Tournament will be held Friday and Saturday, Jan. 15 and 16 at the Community Building, with games at 3 p.m. each day. High school and college basketball and wrestling will fill up the month.

If you've made a resolution to improve your body and health, then "Wise Up, Count Down" is for you. Call the Extension office and pre-register before Sunday, Jan. 10. The kick off for the eight-week program will be at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, at the Community Building. Blood tests will be given at Citizen's Medical Center from 6 to 9 a.m. on Wednesday



### Leilani Thomas

#### • On the Road Again!

through Saturday, Jan. 13 to 16.

We hope to see you at the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce luncheon at noon Thursday, Jan. 28, at the Prairie Museum. Ladies, don't forget the Diplomat Ladies Luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at the Colby Methodist Church. Celebrate the Spirit of Fashion through the decades. This promises once again to be great fun, good food and great fellowship.

Finally, it is our pleasure to announce the 2010 Youth Leadership Class selected from Thomas County high schools:

- Jessica Klemm and Whitney Schultz represent Brewster High School.

- Jaydon Bixenman, Madison Gawith, Rachel Juenemann, Brenna McKee, Christina Ostmeyer, Paul Schiferl and Jennifer Schwanke are from Colby High School.

- Golden Plains High School students are Cole Christensen, Hannah Antholz, Vindiana (Viri) Beltran and Trey Schwarz.

The first session will be held Wednesday at the Colby Fire Station. Other sessions will be Wednesdays as well - Jan. 13 at the Holiday Inn Express, Jan. 27 at Sunflower Bank and Feb. 3 at Colby Community College. The students will be learning leadership skills and performing a class project for the youth of Thomas County. As leaders, Cindy Black and I look forward to another class with the high school students of Thomas County. They are our future, and we treasure them.

We want to take this opportunity to extend our very best wishes to each and every one of you for a healthy and prosperous 2010 from those of us at the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, Colby Visitor Center and the Convention and Tourism Committee. Hope to see you, your family and friends, and visitors at many of our planned activities in the new year.

*Leilani Thomas is director of the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, a long-time civic volunteer and a passionate observer of the tourism industry.*

## Deaths

Kenneth L. Cooksey, 59, a Quinter businessman, died Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2009, at the Gove County Medical Center Long Term Care Unit in Quinter.

He was born in Quinter on Feb. 6, 1950, to Robert and Edna (Kraft) Cooksey and graduated from Park High School in 1968. On April 29, 1972, he married Lela Schmidtberger in Park. He operated Cooksey Appliance and TV in Quinter.

His father and a brother, James Cooksey, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; his mother, of Park; four sons, Greg (Catherine) Cooksey, Gaithersburg, Md.; Ryan (Laura) Cooksey, Quinter; Kyle Cooksey and fiancée Jamie Appel, Manhattan; and Todd Cooksey, Lawrence; a daughter, Gina (Jeremy) Platt, Manhattan; three brothers, Randy (Peggy) Cooksey,

Oakley; John (Sharon) Cooksey, Grandview, Texas; and Richard (Stephanie) Cooksey, Wichita; four sisters, Karen (Tom) Scott, Park; Cheri (Daryl) Remington and Leann (Brent) Evans, Gove; and Mary (Jim) Gormley, Grainfield; and four grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, 2010, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Park, with burial in the church cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at the Schmitt Funeral Home in Quinter, with a vigil service at 7 p.m.

The family suggests memorials to the Kenny Cooksey Memorial Fund, in care of the funeral home, 901 S. Main, Quinter, Kan., 67752.

Condolences to the family may be sent to Schmittfuneral.com.

## Donkeys left scene

VAIL, Colo. (AP) — A living nativity scene in near the Colorado ski resort of Vail almost had to go without two crucial actors when two donkeys escaped.

The nativity is an annual tradition for Eagle River Presbyterian Church in the Vail Valley. Pastor Rob Wilson says two borrowed donkeys were being held in a fenced-in pen for the event

Wednesday night, but the animals pushed their way out.

A member who stopped by the church last Wednesday morning noticed the donkeys were gone. He and a sheriff's deputy followed footprints in the snow and eventually caught up with them.

The donkeys had wandered near some little-used railroad tracks but were OK.

## Rotary Club

Rotary exchange student Mei Hayasaka from Osaka, Japan, was introduced by Nick Wells at the Colby Rotary meeting Dec. 22 at Colby Community College. She spoke about her family, school and home country.

Hayasaka told Rotary members she enjoys attending school and living in Sharon Springs.

Guests were Eric Griggs, Amanda Zimmerman and visiting Rotarian Etta Walker, Sharon Springs.

Janice McCart reported the "Coats for Kids" project was successful and thanked Rotary members for their support of the annual project. She reported that the Thomas County Community Foundation had awarded the club \$400 for the project.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day  
**Hi-Plains Co-op**

Wheat (bushel)	\$4.26
Corn (bushel)	\$3.60
Milo (hundredweight)	\$5.78
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.28

## 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.

## Parenting program coming in January

Smart Start Northwest Kansas plans to offer the Nurturing Families program for parents and children in Colby beginning on Tuesday, Jan. 12.

The program focuses on skills corresponding to the developmental age of children. The lessons emphasize the importance of parents learning new parenting skills and all family members learning new and healthier ways to live together. The goals and objectives are based on the five constructs of thought on child rearing.

This free 12-week program in-

cludes lunch each week, training sessions and family interaction time. Families completing all 12 weeks will receive a financial sti-

pend. Space is limited. Contact the Smart Start office at 465-9103 for information or to register.

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**MOVIES**

**NOW SHOWING**  
December 28th - January 7th  
New Year's Day

**THE BLIND SIDE**  
Starring: Sandra Bullock & Tim McGraw  
Genre(s): Comedy/Drama/Sports  
PG-13 2 Hours, 10 Minutes  
Saturday 7:00 & 9:15  
Sunday - Thursday 7:00

**ALVIN AND CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUAKQUEL**  
Genre(s): Comedy/Sequel  
PG 1 Hour, 29 Minutes  
Saturday 7:00 & 9:00  
Sunday - Thursday 7:00

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**RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

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					Honoring A Hero MARTIN LUTHER KING JR 1929-1968	
3	4 Dr. Rubowitz Oncology	5	6 Mammograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	7 Lighter Side Weight Loss Program	8 MRI's Cardiac Rehab	9
10	11 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	12	13 Dr. Frankum Surgery	14 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	15 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	16 MRI's Cardiac Rehab
17	18 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	19	20 Dr. Curtis Cardiology	21 Dr. Saba Orthopedics	22	23 MRI's Cardiac Rehab
24	25 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	26 Dr. Miller Cardiology	27 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	28	29	30 MRI's Cardiac Rehab
31						

**NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION**

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Cheryl Banister, RN  
Specialty Clinic Director