



Second man pleads guilty to farm thefts

The second of two men accused of stealing more than \$1.3 million worth of farm equipment has pled guilty to three counts of transporting stolen equipment across state lines.

At a Tuesday hearing in Wichita, Ryan Hanzlick, 32, of Gem, admitted that in 2006, he and co-defendant Matthew Jones, Colby, went to Oklahoma to find a combine to steal. They found a Gleaner combine, loaded it on a trailer and drove it to Jones' farm north of Colby. In 2008, Hanzlick said, the two men stole a John Deere tractor and planter from Elsie, Neb., also taking it back to the farm.

Both men were charged with 12 counts of transporting stolen property after the equipment was discovered on Jones' property in September. Jones also pled guilty to the same three counts in May. Hanzlick had initially pled not guilty to all charges at his arraignment in March.

The charges carry penalties up to 30 years in prison, nine years probation and a fine of up to \$750,000, however prosecutors have said they intend to recommend a sentence of 36 months in federal prison. Jones' sentencing is set for July 22 while Hanzlick will be sentenced on Sept. 17.

A jury trial had been set for Tuesday, but the trial was cancelled after Hanzlick changed his plea.

The government made a plea agreement with Jones. The U.S. attorney will drop the remaining charges at sentencing if he provides details on the other charges. The government also agreed not to file further charges against Jones in connection with the indictment and to recommend a sentence at the low end of what the judge can impose. Details of Hanzlick's plea have not yet been released.



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Colby celebrates Independence Day

The Colby Lions Club held their annual hotdog and watermelon feed Sunday at the 4-H building. Ron and Sharon Stramel (above) enjoyed their meal and conversation before the Kiwanis Club's fireworks display (right). Larry Koon (bottom right) cut hundreds of slices of watermelon - donated by Walmart - for the guests at the feed while other Lions Club members cooked hotdogs and passed out food. The winner of the Colby Free Press Cointest was John Crandall (bottom left). Crandall credited his daughter Destiny with helping him make the winning pick. Crandall said he is from Missouri and was in town to visit family.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Colby author releases new book

By Vera Sloan
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Nancy Larsen Sanders, wife, mother, student, teacher, author, is launching a new book that is already in the college bookstore and is fully released to outlets for ordering, which can be placed through area bookstores.

Sanders, who says she had a love for writing even before she knew how, remembers vividly that one of the highlights of her life was the day she learned to read.

She was getting close last fall to the finishing touches on "All Stubborned Up," her new novel, she said. She was thinking, "I'm nearly finished," but before that day

- Nov. 8 - was over, she wasn't feeling well. She soon realized she was having a stroke.

Sanders said she's come a long way since that day. With the help of her husband John, good doctors, good therapy, and a strong faith in God, she can manage to walk with a walker and signs her name. She smiles as though she had never had a bump in her life, and looks forward to proofreading five other books she has written so she can send them off to the publisher.

"John has an English background," Sanders said, "and was there to help edit, and to offer a stubborn streak when it came to meeting the publisher's stan-

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Senate hopefuls spar over immigration

By John Hanna
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA - U.S. Rep. Todd Tiahrt acknowledged Tuesday evening that he's changed his views on immigration over time but said during the first televised debate in the U.S. Senate race in Kansas that his stance now boils down to "build the fence" along the U.S.-Mexican border.

Tiahrt's main rival for the Republican nomination, fellow Rep. Jerry Moran, criticized Tiahrt during the debate for past support of proposals to allow some illegal

immigrants to obtain driver's licenses and to make it easier for some to pay lower college tuition. Tiahrt said his views shifted as he consulted with Kansans and studied the issue.

The two leading GOP candi-

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KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Briefly

State office to close for lunch

The Social and Rehabilitation Services office, 1135 S. County Club Dr., will close for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on weekdays until further notice. The office has previously been open during the lunch hour. For information, call the office at 462-6760.

Red Cross to take blood Thursday

The Northwest Kansas Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday at the Colby Community Building. To make an appointment, call (800) 733-2767. Walk-ins are welcome.

Street sealing postponed

The City of Colby Street Department street sealing project on Lue Drive, Brookside Drive, Eighth Street and Lynn Drive, all east of Thompson Avenue, has been delayed by rain until Tuesday. Have your

vehicles off the streets by 8 a.m. that day. For information, call Public Works Director Chris Bieker at 460-4420.

Museum plans family show

The Prairie Museum of Art and History has a special exhibit through Saturday featuring brief histories and photos of the Carpenter and Owens families of Thomas County. Paintings and porcelain dolls made by Pearl Carpenter will be on display, as well as a family friendship quilt. For information, call 460-4590.

Sign up for food by Monday

Prairie Land Food sign up is open until Monday at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. Fourth St. Delivery will be Saturday, July 24, at the Sacred Heart School gym, 1150 W. Sixth St. For information, call 460-3579.

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Merle Wolfe's home, 880 E. Eighth St. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call the First Presbyterian Church at 462-6342 or Wolf at 460-3879.

Sign up for soccer this month

The American Youth Soccer Organization fall season will start in September. The organization will have early registration from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 15, and Thursday, July 22, at Pioneer Memorial Library. Registration is \$45 until Saturday, July 31, and \$50 after that. For information or to set up an alternate time to register, call Emily Griffin at 460-0647.

Volunteers needed for carnival

The Thomas County Amusement Association is looking for volunteers for the carnival at the Thomas County Free Fair from Tuesday, July 27 to Saturday, July 31. Shifts will be from 6:45 to 9 p.m. and from 9 to 11 p.m. Volunteers are needed for the prize booth, ring toss, baseball throw and ball of chance. For information or to volunteer, call Holly Whitaker at the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401 or Angie Gaede at 443-3853.

