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Civil rights pioneer to speak in Oakley

Carlotta Walls LaNier, one of the Little Rock Nine, will speak at a civil rights conference in Oakley on Monday, Sept. 26.

The event is part of a series of seminars held each year by the gifted department of the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center. The events are put on for gifted students in northwest Kansas; however, LaNier's keynote address, at 8:45 a.m. Sept. 26 in the Oakley High School auditorium, will be open to the public.

Crowe, award winning author of young adult works about civil rights; Joan Wilson, a national historic site expert on Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education; and Angela Bates, Nicodemus historian.

Following the opening address, pre-registered students will go to the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center to attend breakout sessions from the other three presenters. History teachers, principals, and junior high and high school students may attend these sessions, but they must be pre-registered.

LaNier is one of a group of high school students that integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Amidst the racial tensions of the era, she walked alongside her eight black classmates into the halls of the segregated Arkansas high school. The students had to be escorted by U.S. Federal Marshals because the Arkansas governor had called out the Arkansas state guard to keep them out.

LaNier has written a book about her experiences called "A Mighty Long Way." She has remained an active part of the

civil rights movement and has been granted a U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor and numerous other awards.

Chris Crowe, has written numerous award-winning books for young adults about civil rights. "Getting Away with Murder," which explores the killing of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old boy who was murdered because he whistled at a pretty white woman on a dare from his young cousins, will be featured at the event.

Joan Wilson will talk about the impact that the landmark Brown vs. Board of

Education case has had on civil rights in the United States. One of the 13 plaintiffs in the case, Zelma Hurst Henderson, was born and raised in Oakley. She went to elementary, middle, and high school in Oakley before moving to Topeka. Schools in Oakley were not segregated because there were too few black students to have a separate school.

When she moved to Topeka, married and had children, she was angered that

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Starting the next phase



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Workers from McCormick Paving began a resurfacing job on Range Avenue this week. The company is milling and repav-

ing Range from Villa High Park to Fourth Street. A continuation of two recent repaving projects on the south end of Range

Avenue to I-70, the Kansas Department of Transportation will be paying 80 percent of the project cost.

Many options for Labor Day fun

If backyard barbecues aren't enough to fill up your Labor Day, there will be some entertainment and meal options in Colby.

Colby Bowl will be open. Twisters will be closed, but the B-Hive will be open. The Prairie Museum of Art and History will be open.

Chine Buffet, McDonalds, Subway, Arby's, Wendy's, Pizza Hut, Sonic, Taco John's, Village Inn, El Dos De Oros and Starbucks will be open. City Limits, Montana

Mike's and Bamboo Garden will be closed. All the of the convenience stores will be open.

All banks will be closed. Most church offices will be closed.

Palace Drug will be closed. Walmart and Dillon's will be open, but the Dillon's pharmacy will close early at 2 p.m. Monday.

City offices, such as city hall or the Public Works Department shop, will be closed. There will be no Monday trash pickup. Mon-

day's routes will be picked up on Tuesday.

County offices will also be closed. The landfill will close at noon Saturday and reopen Tuesday. The transportation van will not be operating.

Pioneer Memorial Library will close Sunday and Monday.

On Tuesday it will begin winter hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 1 to

4 p.m. Sunday.

State offices like the K-State Experiment Station will be closed. Federal offices such as the Farm Service Agency will also be closed. The Post Office will not have window service, but the mail will go out.

All area schools are off for the holiday. Brewster schools will still go the full four days, with classes on Friday instead of Monday.

Legion planning Sept. 10 events

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press
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Saturday, Sept. 10, will be a full day for the Colby American Legion.

In the morning, the Legion Riders will be escorting the Special Olympics' World's Largest Convoy from both starting locations in Oakley and Goodland to its destination in Colby. In the evening, the Legion is planning a 9/11 Remembrance Drag Main and Poker Run from 6 to 11 p.m.

The evening event will begin with the poker run. Registration will begin at 6 p.m. at the American Legion Post, 1850 W. Fourth St. Cost is \$10 for the first card and \$5 for each additional card. Payouts go to high and low hands. All vehicles are welcome, including motorcycles, cars and trucks. Legion Commander Monty Lewis said the money raised will go to lo-

cal charities.

Stops on the poker run include the National Guard Armory, the Colby Fire Station, the Thomas County Courthouse and Fike Park.

Poker run participants will be done by 8 p.m., after which the drag main will begin at the Legion Post. The Legion will be serving burgers, fries and nachos from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Lewis said the Legion Post has had some recent changes in leadership. Trina Schmidt is now the events coordinator, L.J. O'Neal is now the club manager, and Jim Griffin is now the service officer. The service officer has a variety of responsibilities, including helping veterans obtain services from the government and keeping up with elderly, home-bound members.

Schmidt and O'Neal are handling planning for the drag main and poker run. They can be reached at 462-0450 or 443-1356 for more information.

Getting ready for the big game



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Colby High School Booster Club volunteers hung sponsor banners at Dennen Field on Wednesday. The Colby Eagles face

St. Francis High School in the first football game of the season at 7 p.m. tonight.

President withdraws EPA smog regulation

By Dina Cappiello and Julie Pace

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Barack Obama on Friday scrapped his administration's controversial plans to tighten smog rules, bowing to the demands of congressional Republicans and

some business leaders.

Obama overruled the Environmental Protection Agency and directed administrator Lisa Jackson to withdraw the proposed regulation to reduce concentrations of smog's main ingredient, in part because of the importance of re-

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As Kansas economy improves, national recovery faces setback

By Christopher S. Rugaber
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Employers stopped adding jobs in August, an alarming setback for an economy that has struggled to grow and might be at risk of another recession.

It was the weakest jobs report since September 2010. The unemployment rate remained at 9.1 percent.

Stock futures plunged on the news. Dow futures fell nearly 100 points shortly before the market opened.

A strike by 45,000 Verizon

workers lowered the job totals. Those workers are now back on the job.

These reports stand in contrast to the Kansas economy, which has seen lower unemployment and higher-than-expected tax revenue for five straight months.

The weakness in national em-

ployment was underscored by revisions to the jobs data for June and July. Collectively, those figures were lowered to show 58,000 fewer jobs added. The downward revisions were all in government jobs.

The average work week also declined and hourly earnings fell by

3 cents to \$23.09.

Weak growth, Standard & Poor's downgrade of long-term U.S. debt in early August and a sell-off on Wall Street likely kept some businesses from hiring.

With job creation stalled and wages declining, consumers won't see much gain in incomes. That

will limit their ability to spend, which undercuts growth. Consumer spending accounts for about 70

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