



Segregation figure to talk in Oakley

Cheryl Brown Henderson, daughter of Oliver Brown, lead plaintiff in landmark desegregation case Brown v. Topeka Board of Education, will speak during a presentation at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 29, in the Oakley High School Auditorium.

The event, honoring the birthday anniversary of the late Zelma Hurst Henderson (no relation), one of the plaintiffs in

the case, is open to the public.

Zelma Hurst, a 1938 graduate of Oakley High School, was one of only a few black students at the school. She received an integrated education, including school activities. Due to small populations, towns having fewer than 15,000 residents often did not have segregated schools.

When she married and had children of her own, Zelma Henderson lived in To-

peka. She was upset that her own children had to be bused to a substandard school across town when there was a perfectly fine whites-only near her family's home.

Because of her experiences in an integrated school, Henderson joined the Brown v. Topeka Board of Education case as one of the 13 plaintiffs. Her testimony about integration contributed to this landmark civil rights decision.

Mrs. Henderson died in 2008. As the last living plaintiff from the case, her death received national attention, including a feature obituary in The New York Times.

Alexa Keller, a current student at Oakley High School, will begin the presentation with a slide show about Henderson's early life in the Oakley area and her subsequent involvement in the Brown case.

The slide show will be followed by a message from Cheryl Henderson, president of the Brown Foundation of Topeka.

Student volunteers in the shop class of teacher Glen Good are preparing a plaque to display at the school detailing Zelma Hurst Henderson's achievements.

For information, contact Valerie Brown-Kuchera, event coordinator, at (785) 754-8125.

Fun with pizza dough, toppings



MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Thomas County 4-H Club members made pizzas Saturday morning at the 4-H Building. The members sold pizzas a few months ago as a fund raiser and filled the orders after the piz-

za-making Saturday. It gave everyone a chance to play with dough and pepperoni.

County gets report on need for a new jail

By Christina Beringer
Colby Free Press
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After hearing Sheriff Rod Taylor and others express concerns about the state of the Thomas County jail Monday morning, county commissioners and everyone else present agreed that something needs to be done.

They decided it isn't a matter of "if" the jail needs to be improved, but whether it needs expanded or a new building put up, how much improvements will cost and where the money is going to come from.

To accommodate about 20 extra people attending the meeting, a presentation given by developers Mike Kalb and Ken Masker of BD Construction from Kearney, Neb., was moved to the Thomas County courtroom. Those in the audience included the three commissioners, the sheriff and undersheriff Marc Finley, Colby City Manager Carolyn Armstrong, Police Chief Randy Jones, economic development director Christy Rocca, Brewster mayor Mike Baughn and businessmen Mike Woofter and Mike Tubbs, among others.

Kalb explained that his company offers feasibility studies, concept development, coordination of project finances, design consultation, permitting and construction.

He said BD works with consultants to educate groups about community needs and does surveys to find out public perceptions about problems and to measure public support. Their presentation helped the group decide on a next plan of

action, although nothing was approved.

"We do have a pressing need for a new jail," Taylor said, talking about a 1993 study that identified problems within the jail. Many of those problems still exist today, and many of them are much more serious, he said.

"The biggest problems are overcrowding and safety risks of the people working over there," he said. "We've only got a nine-bed facility, but our average inmates per day is 13.25. Not only that, but the sewage and electrical is 30 years old and just can't keep up with the daily use."

Taylor said some of the sewer pipes have collapsed, hindering jailers' ability to wash the cells. He said circuit breakers trip all the time, and although the outer structure of the building is in good shape, everyday use is slowly wearing out plumbing and the electrical system.

He said ideally, he'd like to increase his staff by one or two, but there just isn't room for them in the office. He'd also like to have more female officers because of the increase in female prisoners, he said.

Taylor said the county has been paying more and more out to transport prisoners to other facilities because of overcrowding.

A handout on prisoner transports shows that since January 2009, about \$70,000 was spent to take 94 prisoners to the Rawlins County jail alone. This includes

Feds would turn off cars' devices

By Joan Lowy
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - Car-makers should design potentially distracting dashboard technology so it's automatically disabled while the vehicle is in motion, federal safety officials said Thursday.

In recent years automakers have been loading high-end cars with an array of built-in gadgets that enable drivers to multi-task behind the wheel - equipment that enables text-messaging, Internet browsing, GPS navigation and phone dialing. But this technological advance has raised concerns

that drivers' attention will be diverted from the road.

The new dashboard technology guidelines, proposed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, would exempt electronic-warning systems that alert drivers to potential collisions or lane changes, however.

The guidelines also include recommendations on how to make dashboard devices less distracting and time-consuming to use, including reducing the need for drivers to turn their eyes away from the road. The guidelines are

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Colby woman's experience helps church with expansion

By Christina Beringer
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The dictionary says that a coincidence is a striking occurrence of two or more events at one time, apparently by mere chance.

When God strikes though, the occurrence is called divine inspiration. This sort of inspiration occurred about a year ago in a complex network of hopes and goals between groups of people in Colby and Hays.

The goal of the Celebration Community Church in Hays to establish additional ministries coincided with a Colby resident's hopes to bring a new kind of worship to the area, and then "God brought us together," exclaimed Debbie McNinch of Colby.

McNinch said that although she loves living in Colby, the last five years here have been lackluster for her. She said she missed the atmosphere found during services at the Hays church, near the U.S. 183

Bypass exit from Interstate 70 west of Hays. She said that while she lived in Grinnell, she and her family would frequently drive nearly 2 1/2 hours round trip to attend the church.

"Colby just doesn't have anything like it," she said, "and I want people here to have the opportunity to experience this kind of worship."

"In a nutshell, we have modern worship with conservative values," said Pastor Bryant Rice. "We are very family oriented, and although we are a non-denominational church, we are very Bible-driven.

"It isn't like other churches. We have live contemporary music at every service, and we like to rock. The way the information is presented is very modern. We use a lot of multimedia and the messages are practical and have personal, everyday meaning."

Rice explained that he and the church's founding and senior pastor, Kyle Ermoian, developed a "20/20

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Bad logo fingers fake Nikes in car

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (AP) - Police say one of the first clues the Nike shoes might be fake was the logo of Michael Jordan. The former NBA star had too many fingers, an officer wrote in his report.

kCA) that the image and other tips led Gwinnett County, Ga., police to seize 78 pairs of Nike sneakers that authorities contend are counterfeit.

Police say they're questioning two South Carolina women they say were traveling with the shoes when police stopped their Pontiac Grand Prix on Saturday on Interstate 85 northeast of Atlanta.

Aside from Michael Jordan's six fingers, investigators said the serial numbers on the shoes' tongue did not match the numbers on the box. Officers said they could peel the Nike logos right off what appeared to be Nike Air Jordans.

Police say counterfeit goods being transported on I-85 is a growing trend. The hot items are sneakers and designer bags.

Students collect for Genesis



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Jennifer Kinderknect, head captain of the Colby Community College cheer squad, accepted a food donation last Thursday during Colby High School basketball games at the Community Building. The college Student Government and Circle K Club and the Colby High Student Council joined for a drive to collect items for the Genesis-Thomas County food bank.

WSB-TV reports (bit.ly/yKt-

