

Weather

New center set to open in Oakley in November

From "CENTER," Page 1

said. According to the website for the Buffalo Bill statue, the 8,000 square foot facility will have approximately a 3,200 square-foot multi-purpose event center that can hold meetings, weddings and events for up to 350 people, or Keller said it can hold up to three events at once.

The website says booking for 2013 events has begun and interested parties can call (785) 671-1000 for information.

Keller said the center will be marketed as a regional visitor's center and will also have a gift shop.

The website says the gift shop will showcase Kansas-made products and artists, and the visitor center will provide travel information for the entire state of Kansas.

Keller said they also hope to use the center for other purposes.

"We hope to have rotating art exhibits," Keller said. "Oakley is the center of the Western Vistas Historic Byway, so we will really showcase the history of this area and the byway."

The byway features historic sites from Scott, Logan and Wallace counties, including the Buffalo Bill sculpture, the Fick Fossil and History museum in Oakley and the Monument Rocks, which are 25 miles south of Oakley on U.S. 83.

Oakley Mayor Jerry Robben said he hopes it will be a site for learning for kids and hopes to have some classes out there as well as hold field trips to learn about western Kansas.

"It will be something for the whole region out here, to show off some culture that's out here," Keller said. "We've been wanting to do that for quite a while and now we can do that."

K-State Extension, county weigh redistricting options

From "COUNTY," Page 1

erally think the quality of service and variety of service is greater when more counties are involved," said Standage. "Counties who have merged still have a local office and one subject specialist in every county, but the person may cover the whole district's area."

At the April 16 meeting, commissioners asked the extension representatives to do some research to figure how a merge would affect the mill levy. Several worksheets were distributed to show how Thomas County's levy may be affected, based on several scenarios.

Historical data was shared, showing how the mill levies of the 14 Kansas districts have changed since entering into a district. The first district formed was in 1996: the Post Rock District of Lincoln and Mitchell, and Jewell and Osborne were added later in 2005. Since 1996, their mill levy has decreased .179 mills from 2.433 to 2.254 in 2012.

Of the 14 district offices, mill levies in eight have decreased an average of .273 mills; mill levies in four district offices have increased by an average of .292 mills; and mill levies in two dis-

tricts have remained the same — one was formed in 2010 and the other in 2012.

"We don't want to enter lightly without having done our homework," said Standage. "So we have looked to see what our mill levy will do based on the different districting options."

He provided spreadsheets for budget comparisons between Thomas and each of the options: Rawlins County, Sunflower District, Golden Prairie District and the Twin Creeks District.

All of the options showed an increased mill levy for Thomas County extension, whose levy is presently set at 1.513 mills.

By merging with Rawlins County, the levy would potentially increase to 1.737 mills. It would raise to 1.981 mills by partnering with the Sunflower District. Merging with the Golden Prairie District would result in an increase to 1.651 mills. And the levy would increase to 1.916 if Thomas County merged with the Twin Creeks District.

There are other factors to consider though, in addition to the mill levy, explained Standage. They also have to take into account the population size of the county, how much financial support they get through local appropriations and how that

is divided per capita, assessed tangible valuations, how many agents they currently employ and what subject matters they specialize in, to name a few factors to consider.

If all of the parties are in agreement, Standage said there are protocols already in place to enter into and get out of a district which are both lengthy processes.

"Districts always become effective on July 1, which is the beginning of our fiscal year," explained Gerstner. "They say to not begin the process later than January."

"We have an advantage since we have one of the biggest valuation bases among the surrounding counties," explained Standage. "We are in a good position to negotiate."

Commissioner Paul Steele added that although Rawlins County doesn't seem to have a lot of resources or assets and seem to be "in the hole pretty far," a lot of their residents shop here and work here, and that should be taken into account.

No decision was made on the matter, and more research about what each of the entities could offer will be looked into before any decision is made.

Kansas House passes \$14B budget

From "BUDGET," Page 1

occurred early in the debate when members approved an amendment adding \$50 million to base state aid for school districts, an increase of about \$37 per student next school year. Supporters said the addition would be a step toward restoring cuts made to education in recent years that were

caused by declining state resources.

The funding would come from the Kansas Department of Transportation budget. Legislators complained that under House rules approved at the start of the 2011 session they were unable to use the projected state general fund balance, the main repository for tax dollars, to increase spending.

Briefly

Coalition plans meeting on Thursday

Come join the Thomas County Healthy Community Coalition at noon Thursday at El Dos De Oros. Become a partner in building a healthy community. For information, call Paige Campbell at 460-8177.

League track meet wrong in calendar

The Great West Activities Conference high school league track meet will begin at 3 p.m. Thursday in Scott City. Information in the school calendar is incorrect. For questions, call Colby High Principal Larry Gabel at 460-5300.

Colby Spring Cleanup runs through Friday

Colby's annual Spring Cleanup will be from Monday through Friday. Residential trash customers may clean and spruce up their yards and have the city remove the debris if they are boxed and bagged, weigh less than 50 pounds and placed at the curb. Call the city manager's office at 460-4410 to schedule a pickup. For questions, call Jo Strange at the same number.

Hospital to mark 30th with Business After 5

Citizens Medical Center Inc. invites everyone to a Business After 5 and 30th Anniversary celebration from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday. A Founders Celebration will begin at 6 p.m. in the hospital conference room. Activities, food and tours will cover the Family Center for Health Care, Citizens Medical Center and Prairie Senior Living Complex. For questions, call Tama Unger at the Citizens Foundation, (785) 460-1214.

College plans retirement-farewell reception

Colby Community College will hold a retirement-farewell reception at 3 p.m. Friday in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union for Suzi Calilham, sociology and psychology instructor since 2007; Cathy Horinek, nursing instructor since 2008; Ruth Wolfram, director of nursing since 2004; Micheal McVay, psychology instructor since 1993; and Dr. David Kruse, physics and computer science instructor since 1987. For information, call Debbie Schwanke at 460-5411.

Church to hold new congregation on Sunday

The church at Range and Third will be opening with a new congregation as Faith Fellowship at 2 p.m. on Sundays beginning May 13, with future services planned. Come enjoy singing old-time gospel songs, along with newer songs, and join in an opportunity to worship God in spirit and truth. All are welcome. For information, call Pastor Dan Keel at (337) 401-7207.

Commodities to be given out here Monday

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center at Fike Park. Distribution is first come, first-served, but you may send a signed permission slip with another person. Under new guidelines, households of one with monthly income under \$1,211 are eligible. For two people, the amount is \$1,640, and so on, adding \$429 for each person. Bring a sack or box. For questions, call the office at 462-6744.

Methodist church to enroll for youth program

Enrollment for the summer youth program at the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave., will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday. The program offers a wide variety of classes Monday through Wednesday each week from June 4 through July 3. It's open to children age 3 through fifth grade. For information call Kim Barnett at 460-2761.

Rep. Huelskamp's staff to offer assistance

Rep. Tim Huelskamp's Kansas staff will hold "local office hours" in 16 communities across the district in May. If you need assistance with federal agencies (like Social Security, Veterans, or Medicare), staff are prepared to help cut through the red tape. If you just want to relay your thoughts on the issues, feel free to stop by and do that, too. Huelskamp's staff will be in Colby from 11 a.m. to noon on Tuesday at the Fireside Lounge in the Student Union at Colby Community College. The staff will then be in Oakley from 1 to 2 p.m. on the same day at the Northwest Kansas Education Center. For information, call Steve Howe at (785) 309-0572.

Prairie Museum features art club's work

The Prairie Museum of Art and History has a free exhibit by members of the High Plains Art Club up through the end of the month. Works include oils, acrylics, watercolors, mixed media and ceramics and subjects range from landscapes to portraits to flowers. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call Ann Miner at the museum, 460-4590, for information.

Monday: High, 60; Low 45
 Tuesday: High, 73; Low 36
 Precip: Monday 0.03 inches
 Tuesday None
 Month: 0.03 inches
 Year: 4.53 inches
 Normal: 7.21 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
 Thursday 6:35 a.m. 8:47 p.m.
 Moon: waning, 73 percent
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Thursday Evening May 10, 2012										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Missing		Grey's Anatomy	Scandal			Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live	
KBSL/CBS	Big Bang	Rules	Person of Interest	The Mentalist			Local	Late Show Letterman	Late	
KSNK/NBC	Community	30 Rock	Office	Parks	Awake		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late	
KSAS/FOX	American Idol		Touch		Local					
Cable Channels										
A & E	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48			The First 48		
AMC	Die Hard				Die Hard-Veng.					
ANIM	Wild Pacific		Wild Pacific		Wild Pacific			Wild Pacific		
BRAVO	Housewives/NJ		Don't Be	Don't Be	Kathy		Happens	Don't Be	Kathy	
CMT	Pure Country				Broken Bridges					
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360		E. B. OutFront		Piers Morgan Tonight	
COMEDY	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Katt Williams		Daily	Colbert	Tosh.0	Tosh.0
DISC	MythBusters		MythBusters		MythBusters		MythBusters		MythBusters	
DISN	Austin	Shake It	ANT Farm	Jessie	Phineas	Jessie	Jessie	Shake It	Wizards	Wizards
EI	The Soup	Ice-Coco	Ice-Coco	Eastwood	E! Special		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	
ESPN	College Softball				Baseball Tonight		SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	30 for 30		30 for 30		NFL Live		E:60	MMA Live	Baseball Tonight	
FAM	Raising	Stepmom			The 700 Club		Prince		Prince	
FOOD	Chopped		Chopped		Sweet Genius		Sweet Genius		Chopped	
FX	Two Men	Two Men	Avatar						Two Men	
HGTV	Million	Selling	Sell LA	Selling	Hunters	Hunt Intl	Hunters	Hunt Intl	Sell LA	Selling
HIST	Swamp People		Swamp People		Ax Men		United States		Swamp People	
LIFE	Wife Swap		7 Days of Sex		7 Days of Sex		Amanda de Cadenet		Wife Swap	
MTV	Ridic.	Ridic.	Pauly D	Punk'd	Punk'd	Pauly D	Punk'd	Pauly D	Ridic.	Ridic.
NICK	'70s Show	'70s Show	George	George	Friends	Friends	Yes, Dear	Yes, Dear	Friends	Friends
SCI	The Village		The Wicker Man		Children of the Corn					
SPIKE	Stings	Stings	IMPACT Wrestling		MMA	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die		
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang		Conan		Office	Office
TCM	Phenix City				The Case Against Brooklyn		I Want to Live!			
TLC	Dateline: Real Life		Dateline: Real Life		Dateline: Real Life		Dateline: Real Life		Dateline: Real Life	
TNT	NBA Basketball				NBA Basketball					
TOON	MAD	Regular	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Eaglehear	Delocated
TRAV	Man, Food	Man, Food	Baggage B	Baggage B	Mysteries-Museum		Bizarre Foods		Baggage B	Baggage B
TV LAND	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	King	King
USA	NCIS		NCIS		NCIS		In Plain Sight		Necessary Roughness	
VH1	La La	La La	The Wood				Barbershop 2: Back in Business			
WGN	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	WGN News at Nine		30 Rock	Scrubs	Scrubs	Death
Premium Channels										
HBO	Rock and Roll				True Blood		Real Sex		Girls	Win Win
MAX	Vampires	Vampire in Brooklyn			Underworld				Sanctum	
SHOW	Panic	Barbershop			Gary Owen: True		Gigolos	Sunset	The English Patient	

Friday Evening May 11, 2012

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Shark Tank		Primetime: What		20/20		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live	
KBSL/CBS	Undercover Boss		CSI: NY		Blue Bloods		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late	
KSNK/NBC	Who Do You		Grimm		Dateline NBC		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late	
KSAS/FOX	The FINDER		Fringe		Local					
Cable Channels										
A & E	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
AMC	Caddyshack				League-Own					
ANIM	Swamp Wars		Whale Wars		Frozen Planet		Whale Wars		Frozen Planet	
BRAVO	Silence-Lambs				Silence-Lambs					
CMT	The Singing Bee		J. Garth	Melissa	J. Garth	Melissa	The Singing Bee		Son-in-Law	
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360		E. B. OutFront		Piers Morgan Tonight	
COMEDY	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	G. Iglesias: Fluffy		Ralphie May: Too Big		Half Hour	Half Hour	G. Iglesias: Fluffy	
DISC	Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch		The Devil's Ride		Deadliest Catch		American Guns	
DISN	Jessie	Phineas	Fish Hook	ANT Farm	Austin	Good Luck	ANT Farm	ANT Farm	Jessie	Jessie
EI	Fashion Star		Khloe	Khloe	Fashion Police		Chelsea	E! News		Chelsea
ESPN	NBA Basketball				NBA Basketball					SportCtr
ESPN2	NASCAR Racing				NBA Basketball					Baseball
FAM	Stepmom		Freaky Friday				The 700 Club		Prince	Prince
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FX	Avatar				Ultimate Fight		UFC		The Bounty Hunter	
HGTV	Hunters	Hunters	Million	Million	Hunters	Hunt Intl	Hunt Intl	Hunt Intl	Million	Million

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	American Pickers	History/World	Brad Meltzer's Dec.	American Pickers
HIST	American Pickers	History/World	Brad Meltzer's Dec.	American Pickers
LIFE	Amer. Most Wanted	Amer. Most Wanted	Amer. Most Wanted	Amer. Most Wanted
MTV	Strangers	Strangers	Pauly D	Punk'd
NICK	Korra	Korra	George	George
SCI	WWE SmackDown!		Dream Machines	Fact or Faked
SPIKE	The Marine 2	Gamer		Stings
TBS	Payne	Payne	Payne	Payne
TCM	Bedazzled		The Wrong Box	
TLC	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes
TNT	Edge of Darkness		Edge of Darkness	
TOON	Cartoon Planet	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad
TRAV	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	The Dead Files	Ghost Adventures
TV LAND	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Raymond	Raymond
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Fairly Legal	Common Law	Suits
VH1	The Wood	Honey 2		Behind the Music
WGN	MLB Baseball			News/Nine

Premium Channels

HBO	One Day	Gervais	Too Short	Real Time/Bill Maher	Real Time/Bill Maher	Gervais	24/7
MAX	Alien		Men in Black		Depravity	Lingerie Feature 1: Nighty	
SHOW	Hoodwinked Too! Hood vs. Evil		Source Code		Boxing		