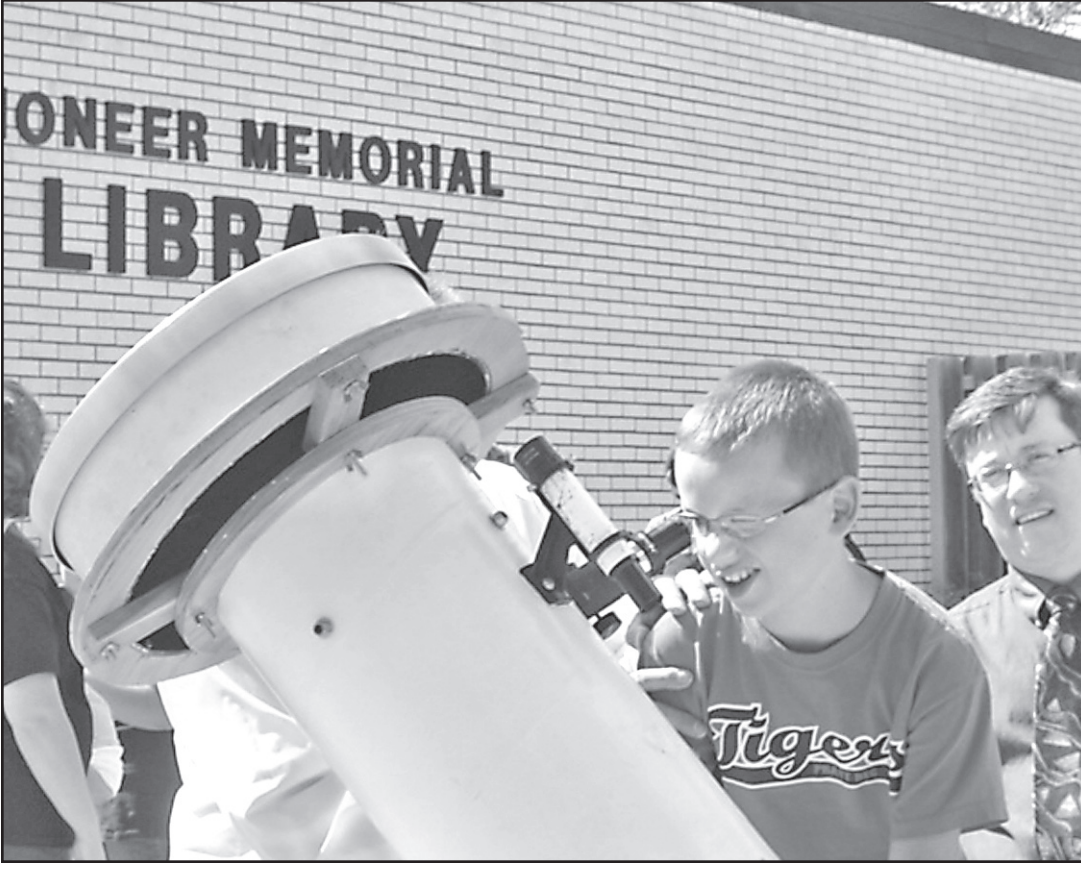


## Wow, that is sooo cool



MELANIE WILKS/Pioneer Memorial Library

Astrophysicist Kevin Manning shared the wonders of space with kids and adults Thursday at the Pioneer Memorial Library, including a chance to line up in the parking lot and take a gander through his telescope.

## Education open to older vets

Unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 can now apply for new benefits to cover education costs for up to one year through a joint U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and U.S. Department of Labor program that focuses on retraining 99,000 veterans for high-demand jobs.

"Our veterans have made this nation stronger through their service, and they deserve our continued support," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "This new program will help unemployed veterans expand their skills and compete for good jobs."

As part of a provision of the Veterans Opportunity to Work to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program allows qualifying veterans to receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the full-time Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty rate, currently \$1,473 per month.

Veterans can apply on a first-come, first-serve basis for programs that begin on or after July 1. Assistance under this benefit

program ends on March 31, 2014.

To complete an application, a veteran will need to know his or her direct deposit information (bank routing number and account number), the name and location of his or her school, the program the veteran wishes to pursue and the applicable high-demand occupation.

To qualify, veterans must:

- Be 35 to 60 years old, unemployed on the day of application and not dishonorably discharged.

- Start education or training after July 1 in a Veterans Administration-approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school leading to an associate degree, non-college degree or a certificate for a high-demand occupation as defined by the Department of Labor.

- Not be eligible for any other veterans education benefit program, such as Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment.

- Not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program within the last 180 days.

- Not receive Veterans Administration compensation at the 100 percent rate due to individual unemployability.

Upon completion, the Labor Department will engage with participants within 30 days after their training to help them find good jobs that use their newly learned skills.

"This is a true example of inter-agency collaboration, and we are committed to the full and speedy implementation of this program to ensure the success of our veterans in the civilian labor market," said Ismael "Junior" Ortiz, deputy assistant secretary for the Labor Department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service.

For information, veterans may go to the [www.benefits.va.gov/VOW](http://www.benefits.va.gov/VOW) website or call (800) 827-1000. The application is also online at [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov).

### Public Notice

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON ADOPTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR CITY OF GEM. LACEY TOWNSHIP, GEM CEMETERY**

You are hereby advised pursuant to the provisions of KSA 12-17, 117, a public hearing will be held at 415 Elm Street, Gem, Thomas County, Kansas, on the 14th day of June, 2012 at 8:00 o'clock p.m. to consider whether City of Gem, Lacey Township, Gem Cemetery, Thomas County, Kansas, should adopt a "Neighborhood Revitalization Plan" for all of the area and territory lying within the corporate limits of such township in Thomas County, Kansas.

The proposed Revitalization Plan is available for public review and consideration at the office of Thomas County Economic Development Alliance, 350 S. Range, Ste. 12, Colby Kansas during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

CITY OF GEM  
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS  
BY: Phyllis Ziegemeier, Mayor  
ATTEST:  
Clerk - City of Gem

LACEY TOWNSHIP  
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS  
BY: Jonathan Higerd, Trustee  
ATTEST:  
Pete Ziegemeier

GEM CEMETERY  
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS  
BY: Chuck Saddler  
ATTEST:  
Clerk - Margie Flanagan

(Published in the Colby Free Press on Wednesday, May 30, June 6, 2012)

## Watch out for scams in summer travel plans

With Memorial Day behind us, summer travel season is in full swing. Unfortunately, that means scammers will also be looking to take advantage of your travel plans to make a quick buck. Whether your travel plans include an exotic excursion or a weekend getaway to one of Kansas' many local attractions, it's important to be on alert for potential scams.

### Travel deals

Scammers often target vacationers with faxes, e-mails or phone calls offering an incredible price for what sounds like a dream vacation. Or they offer a "free" vacation if you join a travel club or attend a promotional seminar for their timeshare.

As with all offers that sound too good to be true, it's important to read the fine print. In many cases, travelers arrive at their destination to discover the accommodations aren't quite what they were promised. Vacation-goers may also be hit with hidden fees or extra charges like bed fees, meal fees or even fees for sheets and towels.

Offers that seem too good to be true almost always are. Instead of being pressured by sales representatives or promised deals and discounts, it is better for you to initiate the transaction. Do careful research. Many online travel sites offer ways to compare prices and travel options. You can also work with a local, trusted travel agent.

### Read the fine print

Before purchasing a vacation package, study the agreement carefully. Make sure you clearly understand all charges and fees. Also, be sure to check refund policies on airfare and hotel rooms, in case you have to cancel.



**Derek Schmidt**

• Attorney General

You should also consider using a credit card to pay for the purchase. In many cases, credit card companies offer fraud protections and you maintain the ability to dispute any charges you did not agree to. Many credit card companies also include travel and rental car insurance in your credit card agreement. Check with your credit card company to see if these options are currently available to you.

### Beware of timeshares

Timeshares offer vacationers the opportunity to use a vacation property for a limited amount of time each year. While these may sound like great deals, our office often hears complaints from consumers who have been hit by hidden charges in their timeshare agreements. Be thorough in your research prior to purchasing a timeshare so you understand the true cost of ownership. In addition to the purchase price, timeshare owners are usually required to pay annual maintenance fees, which can go up each year. Improvements to the timeshare property can also result in additional costs. If you decide to sell your timeshare, the company may charge you recurring listing fees.

If you think you've been the victim of a scam, please contact our office at (800) 432-2310 or online at [www.ag.ks.gov](http://www.ag.ks.gov).

Remember, having a memorable, relaxing experience with your family doesn't have to take you far from home. There are many great places to visit right here in Kansas. Go to [www.travelks.com](http://www.travelks.com) to learn more about the great attractions within a short drive from home.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

## Loch Ness monster ordered to leave

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (AP) – The Loch Ness monster is on vacation in Wisconsin – and state officials want the legendary lady to leave.

Department of Natural Resources spokesman Dan Baumann says a sculpture of Nessie is illegally obstructing the Chippewa River in Eau Claire and must be removed by the person who placed it there.

The sculpture's creator remains

a mystery, although a person who anonymously e-mailed the Eau Claire *Leader-Telegram* (bit.ly/IL170C) said it would be removed.

Retailer Menards says it would like to acquire the guerrilla art and that the monster could make her home in retention ponds at the home improvement chain's Eau

Claire property.

The Loch Ness monster was first "spotted" at Loch Ness, a waterway some 10 miles south of Inverness, Scotland, in 1933.

### Public Notice

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON ADOPTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR CITY OF REXFORD, UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #316, REXFORD CEMETERY, FIRE DISTRICT #4, WENDELL TOWNSHIP**

You are hereby advised pursuant to the provisions of KSA 12-17, 117, a public hearing will be held at 210 Maple Street, (City Hall), Rexford, Thomas County, Kansas, on the 13th day of June, 2012 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. to consider whether City of Rexford, Unified School District #316, Rexford Cemetery, Fire District #4, Wendell Township, Thomas County, Kansas, should adopt a "Neighborhood Revitalization Plan" for all of the area and territory lying within the corporate limits of such township in Thomas County, Kansas.

The proposed Revitalization Plan is available for public review and consideration at the office of Thomas County Economic Development Alliance, 350 S. Range, Ste. 12, Colby Kansas during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

CITY OF REXFORD  
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS  
BY: Dave Williams, Mayor  
ATTEST:  
Clerk - City of Rexford

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #316  
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS  
BY: Paul Bruggeman, President  
ATTEST:  
Treasurer - Orba Smith

REXFORD CEMETERY  
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS  
BY: Dave Williams  
ATTEST: Clerk -

FIRE DISTRICT #4  
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS  
BY: Mark Miller  
ATTEST:  
Clerk -

WENDELL TOWNSHIP  
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS  
BY: Mark Miller, Trustee  
ATTEST:  
Clerk - Kenneth Johnston

(Published in the Colby Free Press on Wednesday, May 30, June 6, 2012)

### Public Notice

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON ADOPTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #275, WINONA TRIPLAINS**

You are hereby advised pursuant to the provisions of KSA 12-17, 117, a public hearing will be held at Triplains School at 5th and Wilson, Winona, Logan County, Kansas, on the 11th day of June, 2012 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. to consider whether Unified School District #275 (Winona Triplains), Thomas County, Kansas, should adopt a "Neighborhood Revitalization Plan" for all of the area and territory lying within the corporate limits of such school district in Thomas County, Kansas.

The proposed Revitalization Plan is available for public review and consideration at the office of Thomas County Economic Development Alliance, 350 S. Range, Ste. 12, Colby, Kansas during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #275  
(WINONA TRIPLAINS)  
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS  
BY: THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BY: President - Mark Hanson

ATTEST:  
Clerk of the Board of Education

(Published in the Colby Free Press on Wednesday, May 30, June 6, 2012)

### Public Notice

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON ADOPTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #274, OAKLEY**

You are hereby advised pursuant to the provisions of KSA 12-17, 117, a public hearing will be held at 621 Center Avenue, Suite 103, Oakley, Thomas County, Kansas, on the 11th day of June, 2012 at 6:00 o'clock p.m. to consider whether Unified School District #274 (Oakley), Thomas County, Kansas, should adopt a "Neighborhood Revitalization Plan" for all of the area and territory lying within the corporate limits of such school district in Thomas County, Kansas.

The proposed Revitalization Plan is available for public review and consideration at the office of Thomas County Economic Development Alliance, 350 S. Range, Ste. 12, Colby, Kansas during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #274 (OAKLEY)  
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS  
BY: THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BY: President - Scott Maurath

ATTEST:  
Clerk of the Board of Education

(Published in the Colby Free Press on Wednesday, May 30, June 6, 2012)

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