



Kids practice acting

Olivia Finley (above) instructed Elijah Shepherd on acting Tuesday afternoon during the Night at the Museum summer camp at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Shepherd (left) then practiced his performance as a settler wanting to move to Kansas; participants are preparing for a performance on Friday. To reserve a spot for the show, call the museum at 460-4590.

SAM DIETER
Colby Free Press



County OKs bids for jail sewer

By Christina Beringer
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Thomas County Commissioners gave Sheriff Rod Taylor permission Monday morning to seek estimates from local businesses to clean up sewer problems at the county jail. "Throughout the years, it's hard telling what has been stuffed down those drains," the sheriff said, "and it might just be a minor problem, but we need to get down there and look."

commissioner, both talked about past incidents involving the jail sewers. Taylor said most recently, an inmate flooded the cells, and they have had many problems with the drains backing up. "The problem is, we don't know the size of the pipes and only a guess where they go," said Taylor. "We can't find any drawings, but we do know that in the '70s or '80s they poured cement over the main sewer line. There's a place where the pipe sticks up out of the ground so you can get down in there."

how damaged and blocked they are. He said, for security reasons, he will need to evacuate the inmates. He needs to have a plumber and an electrician to help. He said Jim's Electric has offered to come, saying they have experience locating sewer lines. In addition to the sewer problems, Taylor said that he wants to get figures for a fence and posts for the exercise yard. "The fire marshal has wrote us up about every year on that yard, and we need to do something about that, too," he said. Taylor said money for these

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Pavement strength tests could slow traffic here

Kansas Department of Transportation is testing pavement strength this week on three highways in Thomas County: • K-25 through the county. • U.S. 24 from the K-25 junction to U.S. 83. • U.S. 83 from the U.S. 24 junction - Nine-Mile Corner - to the Sheridan County line northeast of Rexford.

The testing crew uses a falling weight deflectometer, a device equipped with a series of weights that checks the strength of asphalt pavement. Every year, sections of the state highway system are tested. A pilot car will guide traffic around testing sites. Motorists may experience delays of 15 minutes or less. For information, call Kristen Brands, district manager of public affairs, at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org.

Colby grad wins Fulbright

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Andrew Toth, a 2007 graduate of Colby High School, is one of five University of Kansas students to receive a prestigious Fulbright award to study abroad, and plans to study in Germany this school year. The university says the program is "the flagship international education exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government, designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people of other countries."

"Recipients of the Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields..." Toth received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from KU in May. He received his Fulbright

award to study in the master's program in environmental engineering at the Technical University of Hamburg in Germany. "I feel really honored to receive the Fulbright," said Toth. "It will allow me to study engineering in an international setting. Moreover, Hamburg has a really impressive and unique public utilities infrastructure I hope to be able to explore over the next couple of

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Legislature wants audit of new system

By John Hanna
AP Statehouse Correspondent

TOPEKA - A legislative committee in Kansas ordered an audit Tuesday of a \$40 million upgrade of the state computer system handling vehicle registrations, reflecting bipartisan frustration with long lines and hours of waiting in recent weeks in some counties for residents getting their annual car tags. But the Legislative Post Audit Committee also honored a request from Revenue Secretary Nick Jordan to delay the start of auditing until later this year, so that the review doesn't delay work by his department's Division of Vehicles to fix computer problems. The

state auditors supervised by the committee don't expect to begin their examination until December, with a report issued in late spring. The division rolled out the upgraded system in early May, and county treasurers to stop taking vehicle registrations, driver's license applications and other related business for about a week during the installation. That created backlogs, and other problems with the system have hampered counties' efforts to deal with the backlog, even as residents come in with new business. Sen. Laura Kelly, a Topeka Democrat who initially sought the

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Vice president retires at bank



Darryl Pabst spoke with Nancy Saddler during his retirement reception Thursday at Sunflower Bank. A vice president and

loan officer, he worked for the bank for 41 years. Drinks, homemade cookies and cake were offered.

KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Kansas wheat crop up 43 percent this year

WICHITA (AP) - A new government report estimates that Kansas farmers harvested 396 million bushels of winter wheat this year. The Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service said today that would make this harvest 43 percent larger than last year's drought-stricken crop. It is also up 2 percent from last month's forecast.

The agency says this year's crop was cut off of 9 million acres, making it the largest area harvested since 2006 in Kansas. The average yields were 44 bushels per acre, far better than the 35 bushels Kansas farmers got a year ago. The monthly forecast is based on crop conditions as of July 1. By that time, the harvest in Kansas was 99 percent complete. This was also the earliest Kansas harvest on record.

