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## 4-Hers sell off livestock

A 4-Her (above) showed off his livestock up for auction, hoping for a high sale price Thursday during the 4-H Livestock Sale at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. A group of potential bidders (right) talked while waiting for another animal to be up for auction at the sale.

KAYLA CORNETT  
Colby Free Press



## Emergency group holds exercise drill

By Christina Beringer  
Colby Free Press  
colby.society@nwkansas.com

Thomas County's Local Emergency Planning Committee conducted an exercise tabletop drill during its quarterly meeting Wednesday, asking members to think through the response to a train wreck where toxic chemicals ignite, forcing evacuation of about 100 homes.

Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan led the drill, based on a hypothetical train derailment at Tenth Street

and Country Club Drive in Colby. The ignition of the hazardous organic compound Styrene on board caused three cars to derail with smoke and liquid pouring out.

Members present for the meeting were split into four groups to find solutions to problems posed by the wreck and fire, including how to get people in nearby neighborhoods out of the "hot zone" to safety. About 15 professionals participated from area fire and police departments, the county health department, hospital and local gov-

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## Trucks crash Sunday

The Kansas Highway Patrol responded at 10:55 p.m. Sunday to an injury accident between two semi-trailers on I-70 at mile marker 71.9, about two miles east of the exit to U.S. 83 near Oakley.

A Volvo semi driven by Izakhar Khalilov of Tukwila, Wash., with a 15-year-old passenger, Eldar Khalilov, was headed eastbound in the

driving lane, when a Freightliner driven by Lesley Rafton Montag of Valhermoso Springs, Ala., with passenger Robert Montag Jr., tried to pass.

The passing vehicle collided with the other truck.

All four people involved in the accident were taken to Logan County Hospital, where they were treated and released by this morning.

All except Robert Montag were wearing seatbelts.



Local Emergency Planning Committee members (back from left) Don Morton, Larry Jumper, Kevin Berens, Mike Baugn, (front) Dan O'Brien, Clair Schrock, Christina Beringer and Kent Dible worked out evacuation concerns during a train-derailment table-

## Work starts on bond for jail project

By Christina Beringer  
and Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press  
colby.society@nwkansas.com  
sdieter@nwkansas.com

Members of Thomas County's first Public Building Commission met Monday at the courthouse to get organized and begin work on a bond issue to pay for a rebuilt and expanded jail.

County commissioners established the commission to issue revenue bonds needed to pay for the jail expansion and remodeling.

Four members – interim City Manager Randy Jones, Under-sheriff Marc Finley and Commissioners Ken Christiansen and Paul Steele – met Monday in the courthouse just after the county commissioners adjourned. The

fifth member, Colby Mayor Gary Adrian, was unable to attend.

Originally, Brewster Mayor Mike Baugn had been named to the group, but during the commissioners meeting beforehand, he stepped down to allow a seat for Finley on the five-member board.

Members discussed budget concerns after being told commissioners had already decided any bond issue should be limited to \$2 million. Steele noted that 30 years ago when the current jail was built, the budget also was \$2 million. Steele said many amenities and accommodations had to be cut out then because bids came back "way over the amount."

"If there is concern that this dollar amount has a high likelihood to increase, I don't have a good

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## Conservatives seek boost from GOP contests

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA – Conservative Republicans hope Tuesday's primary in Kansas gives them control of the state Senate, where moderate GOP leaders have checked the right's ambitions for cutting taxes, shrinking government and rewriting social policy.

The Kansas Chamber of Commerce, long influential in GOP politics, and the anti-tax, small-government group Americans for Prosperity have backed conservatives in their quest for control. Moderates are getting help from

the state's largest teachers' union and even some labor organizations traditionally aligned with Democrats.

Two years ago, frustration with Democratic President Barack Obama in GOP-leaning Kansas and the tea party movement shattered a bipartisan coalition in the state House that had helped Democratic Govs. Kathleen Sebelius and Mark Parkinson. But all 40 Senate seats weren't on the ballot until this year, leaving a similar coalition in place there to hinder conservatives.

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AUTUMN ARASMITHEmergency Management

top drill on Wednesday. Members and guests were split into groups of four to discuss a hypothetical situation and identify strengths and weaknesses in response capabilities.