

# Cooler temps bless Rexford

We've been thankful for the cooler weather these past few days. It's so nice to actually enjoy being outdoors – whether taking a walk with a friend or working in the garden.

Sondra Barnett has returned from a three-week trip to Africa. She helped to hold Vessels of Honor seminars and toured many cities and villages. One village she toured was called Chancosa, where people with white skin are not trusted at all. This village has been taken on as a project – it needs a larger medical building and many other things.

There's one more week of T-ball and softball for the kids. This event happens on Wednesday nights at the Selden ball fields. Younger kids begin playing T-ball at 6:30, then older kids play softball at 7:30. High school kids and college kids that are still home are welcome to join in at 8:30.

This is the week for Spuds and Splits. If you are part of the 40 and over crowd, head over to the Red Barn at 6:30 on Thursday night for baked potatoes and banana splits, as well as lots of fun.

You may have noticed the flurry of activity surrounding the Philip



Teens from the Celebration Community Church of Hays gave a linseed oil treatment to the porch of the Historic Philip Houston House in Rexford during their high school camp Aug. 1 to 4.



## Gwen Griffiths

• Rexford Correspondent

Houston House this summer. Restoration is complete, and the facil-

ity will open as the Historic Philip Houston House Bed and Breakfast in September. Shepherd's Staff will be holding an open house and dedication from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 12, (dedication held at 4:30 p.m.), and would like to invite the entire community to join in the celebration. Come and

GWEN GRIFFITHS/Colby Free Press

see this beautiful home.

That's the news for this week. If you've had something exciting happen recently, I'd love to write about it. Just call 687-2076 or e-mail griffithsgang@gmail.com, and I'll make sure it gets in the paper.

Have a great week!

# Drought makes for risky feed decisions

Without any improvement in the weather, producers will have to make some tough decisions when managing their crops and feed supply.

Irrigated crops are also suffering from the dry conditions. Some producers are diverting their allocated water to save a portion of the crop, while others have had to shut their wells off all together.

There are a few options for salvaging a failed corn crop. You can graze it, swath and bale it, or chop it for silage.

In any case you will want to test for nitrates. High levels of nitrates can be toxic to cattle and can even cause death. With the higher prices of cattle it only makes sense to send in a test even if it saves only one cow. Nitrate tests run around \$7 plus shipping – pretty cheap investment considering the cost of losing a cow.

In my office I have available a hay probe you can take out to your fields and take core samples of your corn bales to test for nitrates. The hay probe is free to use.

If you are sampling corn you may graze,



## Clint Milliman

• Knowledge for Life

you will want to bring in the bottom foot of the plant as that is where the majority of nitrates accumulate. Cows will not eat this low at first but if left out for an extended period of time may be forced to eat this portion, which could be deadly. If you are chopping corn for silage, it is best to sample the silage right before you feed it or at least 21 days after sealing the pile. This allows for the silage to ferment. Fermentation can cut the original nitrate level in half, so it is best to test the product you will be feeding.

Weeds also can be high in nitrates. Kochia and pigweeds are notorious for having high nitrate levels in drought conditions. If you may

be baling up weeds or if cattle will be grazing weeds it would be a good idea to test the weeds or make sure they are part of the sample from the hay bale.

I have sent in several feed samples to be tested for nitrates. I have sent in corn stalks, corn hay, corn silage and sorghum. The results that have come back are mixed. Some have been safe to feed; however a few have come back toxic and could be deadly if fed without mixing with other feed stuffs.

It takes about one week to get results from the lab from the time it is shipped from our office. For the best turnaround, you will want to bring samples in on Monday or Tuesday. However, we can send them in at any time. The sooner you bring in a sample, the safer you will be when feeding your cows.

Clint Milliman is the Thomas County agriculture and natural resources agent with Kansas State Research and Extension. A native of Illinois, Milliman works with area 4-H clubs, farmers and ranchers.

# Straw as forage to be shown Friday

With the drought of 2012 showing no signs of easing, farmers may want to bale straw for forage this year, according to Sandy Johnson, K-State Research livestock specialist in Colby.

To address the pros and cons of baling straw and treating it with ammonia to create a quality forage, K-State is offering demonstrations around the state.

"Ammoniation is an option for those producers with wheat straw on hand to improve its feed value to a level comparable to prairie hay," said Dale Blasi, beef cattle specialist with K-State.

The demonstration closest to northwest Kansas will be at 9 a.m. Friday, nine miles south of Ness City to Road 40 and one mile west to top of hill. Contact Jared Petersille at (785) 798-3921.

Participants will learn how to ammoniate low quality forage, as well as the benefits and uses of ammoniated forages. Presenters will cover safety precautions related to ammoniating forage.

"Anyone interest in help with ammoniation," Johnson said, "can call the County Extension Office." That number is 460-4582 in Colby.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$7.83
Corn (bushel)	\$7.84
Milo (hundredweight)	\$13.25
Soybeans (bushel)	\$15.70

# Reported drowning victim was only sleeping

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP) – A man floating on a central Pennsylvania river was mistaken for a drowning victim – until he sat up.

WNEP-TV reports (bit.ly/Qk-GqGr) police and a coroner arrived at the scene Thursday along the Susquehanna River near Williamsport.

Onlookers reported seeing the man floating face-up in a lifejack-

et just below a dam. The area has seen drownings before.

Turns out the man had fallen asleep while cooling off.

Swimmer Joseph DeAngelo says he had no idea what was going around him until a dragonfly landed on his nose.

**Thank You!** I want to thank all who supported me and gave me consideration in the Primary Election. I am grateful to have been able to serve Northwest Kansas in the House of Representatives for the past two years. It meant so much to me to serve my community and state.

• Thank you! Rick Billinger

### Colby is Lucky

Colby is lucky to have an assisted living facility like Fairview Estates. I have a comfortable life here with great meals, a wonderful housekeeper, and friendly staff on hand if I need them. I'm truly lucky that Colby has Fairview Estates.

- Tim Adrian

**Fairview Estates Retirement Community**  
Independent & Assisted Living  
1630 Sewell Ave. • Colby, KS • (785) 462-2154

I would like to thank everyone for your support in the primary election. All of your positive comments and phone calls were very encouraging to me.

I look forward to your continued support in November.

Senator Ralph Ostmeier

## Thank You

Thomas County Fair Board for honoring our veterans in the fair parade and with the tribute and "American Soldier" song words in the fair book.

~ Ladies Auxiliary to VFW ~

## Deaths

### Murray L. Adrian

Murray L. Adrian, 89, a Colby City Council member from 1963 to 1964, died Saturday, Aug. 11, 2012, at his daughter's home in Wichita.

He was born Sept. 25, 1922, at his family's Sheridan County farmhouse near Menlo, the son of John George III and Marie Eva (Tucker) Adrian. He attended grade school in Rexford and graduated from Colby High School in 1940.

During World War II, he served in the 13th Armored Division from 1942 to 1946.

On Feb. 14, 1947, he married Joan Shirley Keck. With his father-in-law, he started his first business, the Keck and Adrian Machine Shop. The Adrians later operated a Sears store in downtown Colby.

He was a member of the Colby United Methodist Church, a volunteer fireman and a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He enjoyed

camping with his family, and after he retired, he bought furniture at auctions to refurbish in his shop.

A brother, Duane Adrian, preceded him in death while in the service during World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Joan S. Adrian, Wichita; a son, Kevin D. Adrian, Topeka; a daughter, Karen K. Adrian, Wichita; a brother, Gerald L. "Tim" Adrian, Colby; a sister, Rosemary Gordon, Norton; three grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012, at the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby, with the Rev. James Mardock officiating and burial in Beulah Cemetery.

Visitation was to be from 2 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

The family suggests memorials in his name to be designated later, in care of the funeral home, 745 S. Country Club Dr., Colby, Kan., 67701.

## High Plains Art Club

The High Plains Art Club met July 10 at the Colby United Methodist Church, conducted by President Bev Kern.

Members present were Marj Brown, Shirley Baker, Alice Wolf, Barb Highland, Maxine Nelson, Margaret Denneler, David Ketchum, Marilyn Surmeier, Marlene Carpenter, Poppy Dean, Kern and her daughter Dee.

Treasurer Baker reported on the club's art show in June. Highland reported on the show's reception.

Brown said she is already making arrangements for an art show next year and plans to ask for a grant from the Thomas County Coalition.

Denneler gave the program on American painter Thomas Kincaid, who died April 6, 2012, from an overdose of alcohol and valium. Kincaid was known as the painter of light, said Denneler.

He painted dreamy scenes of candlelit cottages, stone bridges and garden gates, pictures of what he wished the world would look like. Kincaid was popular with the public but suffered attacks from critics, who called his work tacky and kitch, Denneler said.

Kincaid and his wife established a business and raised four daughters until they separated in 2010. His business fell off as he turned to alcohol which he had battled for many years.

Denneler also reported on Rudy

Wendelin, 1910-2000, a national forest employee who was the creator of Smokey Bear. Wendelin was born in Herndon and some of his works are on display at the Rawlins County Museum.

Denneler said Smokey, the official mascot of the Forest Service, was created in 1944 during World War II with hopes of preventing forest fires by educating the public, since there were few able-bodied men available to fight fires during the war.

Smokey was inspired by a black bear cub rescued from a wildfire in 1950, said Denneler. He lived in the National Zoo in Washington for 26 years.

Ketchum brought several paintings to illustrate his series of self-portraits. He was inspired by the book "Ageless Body, Timeless Mind" by Deepak Chopra. Ketchum has been painting the self-portraits since 2007 and each shows 22.5 percent rotation per year.

The next regular meeting was to be Tuesday.

- Maxine Nelson, secretary

## Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

### Theron E. Johnson

Theron E. Johnson passed away peacefully on August 1, 2012, at Citizen's Medical Center in Colby, KS. He was 78.

He was born in Sutherland, Utah, on December 5, 1933 to Amon Fullmer Johnson and Laura Arvilla Erickson Johnson. He had three brothers, DeLo, Don, and Floyd, three sisters, La Von Thalman, Janeanne, and Bonnie Graham.

Theron was raised on a family farm in Sutherland, Utah. Early morning chores and long days in the fields helped him develop a solid work ethic that became a staple of his personality. His enthusiasm was infectious, as he positively influenced multiple generations throughout his professional and personal life.

In 1954, Theron married Claudia Gowers, in 1955 Debra Marie Johnson and in 1957 Robert E Johnson were born to this marriage. They later divorced. In 1962, he married Barbara Christensen. To this marriage, four children were born. Russell C in 1963, Connie Rae in 1965, Mitchell Kent in 1968, Douglas Ryan in 1971 who was a pleasant surprise. In 1980, Barbara passed away, after a short battle with colon cancer. In 1984, Theron married Jane Walker Turvy. He enjoyed the opportunity to raise a step-son, Joshua Bryant Turvy.

After graduating high school in Delta, Utah, in 1952, Theron traveled to Cedar City to attend Branch Agriculture College to study Agriculture. In 1953-54, he spent 2 years in the US army as a gunner on M7 tanks. In 1955-56, he attended Southern Utah College and received an associate's degree in physical education. He also enjoyed playing college baseball and football. In 1958, he transferred to Utah State in Logan. He valued education, earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Utah State University in 1960 and a Master of Science in Educational Administration from Utah State University in 1965. During his college years, he held several part-time jobs. He decided to attend college so he didn't have to work so hard on the farm.

His professional career began as a P.E. teacher and coach at Beaver High School 1962. He taught English, Math, and Physical Education. In 1964 he began work for Grand County School District in Moab, Utah. He was the junior high school basketball coach and physical education instructor for 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. After completing his Master's degree he held positions as principle of both the Grand County High School and Grand County Middle School.

In 1987 he moved to Colby, KS where he accepted the position as Colby Community College Director of Admissions and then became Dean of Student Services in 1986.

In 1997, Theron quit his paying job at the college and purchased a 180 acre quarter horse breeding farm. This included 4 horse barns, a vet lab and breeding barn, indoor and outdoor riding arena and corrals. He and Jane moved from their house in town and began purchasing horses.

Theron and Jane operated an American Quarter Horse sales and breeding program specializing in reining and working cow horse. He was very proud of his stallions, especially his show stallion—San Holly's Tandy Gin (Bravo), a three time world show qualifier. He also owned Haidas San Sonita (Haida), who helped him fulfill his goal to place a horse in the top 10 in the world in the National Reined Cow Horse Association. He owned several other horses that won multiple futurities and derby's. He and Jane also operated a Horse Hotel and a Bed and Breakfast for horse travelers.

He enjoyed international travel and had the opportunity to visit throughout the Mediterranean, including Greece, Italy, Turkey, Croatia, and Santarini. He enjoyed salmon fishing in Alaska and several deep sea fishing trips off the big island of Hawaii. He also traveled to London and Bermuda which were not his favorites, but Jane enjoyed them. He loved the opportunity to live in Kansas because of the excellent pheasant hunting. He owned several exceptional hunting dogs that possessed his same drive. He loved fly fishing float trips on the Colorado river. He enjoyed elk hunting in Meeker, Colorado with Clayton and Bonnie Graham. He always valued athletics and the maintenance of physical fitness and ran 8 miles a day for years. He saw athletics as a way to influence young people, teaching them discipline, the value of winning and losing well, humility, and goal-setting.

He was a dedicated father and spent hours working with each of his children in athletics and activities. He also knew the importance of eating dinner together and spending time talking over the day's events with his family over the dinner table. He enjoyed coaching his children and later watching his grandchildren participate in various activities.

In his retirement, the boy who went to college to leave the farm, returned to his roots. He took his last ride in his horse trailer from Colby, Kansas, to Moab, Utah, his final resting place.

In October of 2006 Theron was diagnosed with leukemia. He participated in 11 different chemotherapy treatments including 1 clinical trial. As his disease progressed, Jane organized a big family reunion in the mountains of Colorado.

Theron is survived by his wife, Jane, and seven children: Robert (Heidi), of Stansbury, Utah; Deborah, of Prior Lake, Minnesota; Russell (Becky) of Indian Springs, Nevada; Connie Frazier (Joe) of Erda, Utah; Mitchell, of LaSal, Utah; Douglas (Melissa) of Colby, Kansas; and Joshua Turvy (Angie), of Flagstaff, Arizona.

Theron was preceded in death by his wife Barbara, his brother DeLo and two sisters, Janeanne, and Bonnie.