



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Ringneck Classic begins Thursday

By Kayla Cornett

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Oakley is gearing up this week for the second annual Kansas Governor's Ringneck Classic pheasant hunt, which will run from Thursday to Sunday at the new Buffalo Bill Cultural Center west of town on U.S. 83.

Organizer Raelene Keller said this year's event will be similar to the inaugural last year, except with an extra day for more activities.

The Classic raises money for four nonprofit organizations: the Kansas Classic Conservation Foundation, the Logan County Health Care Foundation, the Buffalo Bill center and Pheasants Forever.

On Thursday, the Classic will begin with open trap/sporting clay shooting from 1 to 5 p.m. and a re-



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

The new Buffalo Bill Cultural Center west of Oakley, completed earlier this month, will be the site of the Kansas Governor's Ringneck Classic from Thursday to Sunday. The grand opening for the center will be Saturday, Dec. 1.

ception for landowners and hunters at 6.

The next day, the Governor's Sporting Clay Tournament will go from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At the same time, open trap shooting will continue. Keller said two chosen youth hunters will be invited to join either of these events along with the main hunt.

There was going to be an archery sharp-shooting demonstration by Heath Getty, Kansas bow hunter and sharpshooter, on Friday. However, he won't be able to make it to the Classic, so the demo has been canceled.

"We're sad about that," Keller said. "That was going to be a fun kind of thing."

Team photos will be taken from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and then the main event of the weekend will start.

The Governor's Reception will

run from 6 to 10 p.m., with a barbecue dinner, live and silent auctions and a concert.

The concert will be put on by Joey+Rory, a Nashville country-singing duo. Keller said they will sell tickets, \$40 each, until they are gone. For information or tickets to the dinner and concert, she said, people can call the center at (785) 671-1000.

On Saturday, the main hunt will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; snacks, lunch and beverages will be provided.

Guides, hunters and birds will determine the actual duration of the hunt; bird cleaning and packaging will be offered at Mitten's.

Joining Gov. Sam Brownback for the hunt Saturday will be Rob-in Jennison, secretary of the state Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism; state Sen. Ralph Ostermeyer; state Rep. Ward Cassidy;

and Rep.-elect Travis Couture and Lovelady.

More than 60 hunters are scheduled to participate, including former Kansas City Chiefs player Bill Maas; Howard Vincent, national president of both Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever; and freelance outdoor photographer Larry Kruckenberg.

Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, at Fort Riley will be Gov. Brownback's special guests, including 1st Lt. Josh Willis, Maj. Andrew Thueme, Capt. Tad Slatter and Sgt. Maj. Robert Allen.

Pheasants Forever is going to film the hunt for the Outdoors Channel.

Then, from 6 to 10 p.m., will be the awards dinner, with a musical performance by Rivers Ruther-

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Accident halts Selden traffic

By Stephanie DeCamp

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An accident between a semi-trailer rig and a tractor pulling a grain cart in Selden on Tuesday shut down traffic on U.S. 83 for four hours, sent both drivers to the hospital and spilled about 100 gallons of fuel across the highway and a Selden city park.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Morris Ray Arnold, 64, Colby, was driving the tractor northbound on the highway and went to turn left into the roadside park.

Jacque Boultinghouse, emergency preparedness director for Sheridan County and mayor of Selden, said that as Arnold turned, the semi, driven by John Burns Sr., 64, of Roseland, Neb., went to pass him.

"He went to go around him," Boultinghouse said, "and ended up going over him instead."

The Highway Patrol report said that the tractor came to rest

on its side in the middle of the road and the semi went into the north ditch, striking a tree.

Boultinghouse said that a Sheridan County ambulance and fire trucks from Selden and sheriff's deputies, along with Kansas Department of Transportation workers and state troopers, all rushed to the scene.

The Highway Patrol report listed both drivers as "possibly injured," which Trooper Tod Hileman, the Troop D public affairs officer in Hays, said "means that they had minor injury or complained of hurting somewhere."

Neither man had a working listed phone number, and officials at the hospital they were taken to, the Sheridan County Health Complex in Hoxie, did not immediately return phone calls on the status of their injuries.

Boultinghouse said she had heard both men were later released.

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The tractor of a semi-trailer truck from Nebraska (above) lay in ruins Tuesday after it collided with a tractor pulling a grain cart (left) on U.S. 83 at the west edge of Selden. State troopers (far left) examined the damage to the semi, which spilled much of its fuel. The spill, estimated at less than 100 gallons, sprayed across the highway, shutting it down for about four hours.

MARIAN BALLARD
Colby Free Press

Safe Routes to School receives \$250,000 grant

By Christina Beringer

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Colby is one of five Kansas towns selected to receive a \$250,000 grant to improve sidewalks and other infrastructures and to create plans that will encourage children to walk or bicycle to school – rather than ride a bus or drive a car.

The grant comes from the Safe

Routes to School program administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation. Thomas County Healthy Communities Coalition's Safe Routes to School unit and the City of Colby partnered together on the application to bring the opportunity here.

Other Kansas cities to get Phase II money for physical improvements are Chanute, Hillsboro, Hugoton and Rose Hill. Beloit, Erie, Hutchinson, Lyndon, Mineola and Stockton all got \$15,000 in Phase I grants to help develop Safe Routes plans.

"Receiving this money is an incredible honor," said Megan Carmichael, Colby's Safe Routes program coordinator. "We are so thankful for the support we've gotten from the city that made this grant possible."

"Getting this funding has enabled us to focus our efforts on three streets in town that have been designated as major routes for kids to get to school safely, and we are squeezing as much out of it as we can to get the biggest

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City approves new maps for Colby electrical system

By Sam Dieter

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The City of Colby will have new maps of its electric system early next year, the City Council decided at its meeting last Tuesday.

The council approved a contract with Midland GIS Solutions to make the maps. The Missouri-based company will probably start working early next year and take three weeks to finish, City Manager Tyson McGreer said.

"Essentially, they're going to map our electrical system," McGreer said at the meeting. "We, from what I've been told, have very suspect maps at best."

The project was made possible by a grant from the Kansas Municipal Energy Association through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help cities with mitigate hazards from a possible disaster.

The grant will cover most of the \$14,559 project, but the city will still have to pay \$4,804.

"This was a real good way to get our electrical system mapped," McGreer said after the meeting.

The city has most of its system mapped, he said, but changes have been made since the last maps were done.

The new maps will include the city's whole power-supply infrastructure, down to the last elec-

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