

Storm-damaged cars made to seem like new vehicles

A photo in an insurance magazine recently caught my eye. It showed a small portion of the vehicles, damaged by Superstorm Sandy, that were being temporarily stored on the runway at an airport on Long Island, N.Y.

The landing strips at the airport contained approximately 18,000 vehicles, just a little more than six percent of the estimated 250,000 vehicles that are being processed for claims damage because of the huge storm.

Many of those vehicles have gone through proper claims adjusting procedures and have been taken off the market because they have suffered irreparable damage. Or, legally, they have been declared flood damaged or salvage vehicles and are listed as such by sellers.

Unfortunately, there may be vehicles that have been cosmetically reconditioned or "title-scrubbed" (re-registered in another state) and are out on the market masquerading as acceptable used-car selections at vehicle dealerships throughout the country.

Potential buyers of these suspect vehicles have no idea they were damaged by floodwater and declared totaled. Or, in these electronic times, they are offered over the Internet in private sales that often have few buyer safeguards.

I don't know if East Coast flood-damaged vehicles are making their way to the Great Plains. But what can Kansas car buyers do to avoid finding out - too late - that good-looking used cars they want have a car-ful of risk attached to them, hindering their insurability?



Sandy Praeger

• **Kansas Ins. Commissioner**

Experts from around the country offer the following flood-damage tips when you are shopping for vehicles.

- Check the vehicle's title history. One key would be if it has been titled several times over a short time period. Also, look for an insurance company's name on the title; if so, contact the company.
- Get a vehicle history report from the dealer.
- Check for a musty or moldy smell, or a strong scent of deodor-

izer.

- Check under the floor mats for rust or water, as well as in the spare tire wheel well. Also look for mud or sticks.
- See if electrical wires in the engine are stiff. They

should be pliable if they haven't been exposed to water.

- Look for rust on metal where you would not normally find it.
- Check the air filter for an indication of water.
- Check the oil and transmission fluid dipsticks. Lighter, discolored fluid in each could indicate water seepage into the engine.
- Check the National Insurance Crime Bureau (www.nicb.org) VINCheck, a database to deter-

mine, through the Vehicle Identification Number, if a vehicle has been declared as salvage or is stolen.

With a quarter-million vehicles involved in the East Coast devastation, consumers should be savvy about how the damaged-vehicle market works. And with vehicles bought and sold nationally at the click of a dealer's or buyer's computer mouse, smart consumer shopping is absolutely necessary.

For good tips and a pricing comparison for vehicle insurance,

check out the Kansas Insurance Department's 2013 edition of the "Kansas Auto Insurance and Shopper's Guide," available this month online at www.ksinsurance.org, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kansasinsurancedepartment or in hard copy by contacting our department at (800) 432-2484.

Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK OF COLBY, PLAINTIFF,

VS.

PATRICK WILLIAM HEER, A/K/A PATRICK W. HEER, AND JAMMIE ALLENCEA LA'BAU HEER, J/A/K/A JAMMIE A. L. HEER, A/K/A JAMMIE A. HEER, HUSBAND AND WIFE, DEFENDANTS.

CASE NO. 2013-CV-9

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued to the Clerk of the District Court of Thomas County, Kansas, in the above action, wherein the parties above named were, respectively, Plaintiff and Defendant, to me the undersigned Sheriff of Thomas County, Kansas, I will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand, at the front door of the Courthouse in the City of Colby, in said County of Thomas, State of Kansas, on the 10th day of April, 2013, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. of said day, the following described real estate situated in the County of Thomas, State of Kansas, to-wit:

All of Lots Eighteen (18), Nineteen (19) and Twenty (20), Block One Hundred Eleven (111), North Addition to the City of Colby, Kansas, as shown by the recorded plat thereof.

This sale is to satisfy the judgment in the above entitled case, said sale to be made without appraisal and subject to the three month redemption period of the Defendants, and further subject to the approval of the Court.

ROD TAYLOR SHERIFF

John D. Gatz, #10808 Attorney at Law P. O. Box 346 Colby, KS 67701-0346 785-460-3383 Attorney for Plaintiff

John D. Gatz, as attorney for Farmers and Merchants Bank of Colby, is attempting to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case No. 13CV7 Division 7 K.S.A. 60 Mortgage Foreclosure (Title to Real Estate Involved)

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued by the Clerk of the District Court in and for the said County of Thomas, State of Kansas, in a certain cause in said Court Numbered 13CV7, wherein the parties above named were respectively plaintiff and defendant, and to me, the undersigned Sheriff of said County, directed, I will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand at 10:00 AM, on 04/11/2013, at the front door of Thomas County Courthouse, the following described real estate located in the County of Thomas, State of Kansas, to wit:

THE SOUTH EIGHTY-THREE FEET (S-83) OF LOTS ELEVEN (11), AND TWELVE (12), AND THE SOUTH EIGHTY-THREE (S-83) OF THE WEST HALF (W/2) OF LOT THIRTEEN (13), BLOCK NINE (9), GILMORE AND LARSON'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF COLBY, THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS, AS SHOWN BY THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.

SHERIFF OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

Shawn Scharenborg, KS # 24542 Sara Knittel, KS # 23624 Kelli N. Breer, KS # 17851 Kozeny & McCubbin, L.C. (St. Louis Office) 12400 Olive Blvd., Suite 555 St. Louis, MO 63141 Phone: (314) 991-0255 Fax: (314) 567-8006 Email: sscharenborg@km-law.com Attorney for Plaintiff

(Published in the Colby Free Press on Wednesday, March 20, 27, April 3, 2013)

(Published in the Colby Free Press on March 20, 27, April 3, 2013)

Higher carbon dioxide in air helps wheat

Plenty has been written about concerns over elevated levels of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere, but a Kansas State University researcher has found an upside to the higher CO2 levels. And it's been particularly relevant in light of drought that overspread the area in recent months.

"Our experiments have shown that the elevated carbon dioxide that we now have is mitigating the effect that drought has on winter wheat and sorghum and allowing more efficient use of water," said K-State agronomy professor Mary Beth Kirkham.

Kirkham, who has written a book on the subject, "Elevated Carbon Dioxide: Impacts on Soil and Plant Water Relations," used data going back to 1958. That's when the first accurate measurements of atmospheric carbon dioxide were made, she said.

"Between 1958 and 2011 (the last year for which scientists have complete data), the carbon dioxide concentration has increased from 316 parts per million to 390 ppm," she said. "Our experiments showed that higher carbon dioxide compensated for reductions

in growth of winter wheat due to drought. Wheat that grew under elevated carbon dioxide (2.4 times ambient) and drought yielded as well as wheat that grew under the ambient level carbon dioxide and well-watered conditions."

The research showed that sorghum and winter wheat used water more efficiently as a result of the increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, Kirkham said. Because elevated carbon dioxide closes stomata (pores on the leaves through which water escapes), less water is used when carbon dioxide levels are elevated. Evapotranspiration is decreased.

Studies done subsequent to the early work confirmed the findings.

Over the past few months, the researcher said she's heard people comparing the dry summer of 2012 with the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s and the drought of the mid-1950s in Kansas.

The first accurate measurements of CO2 levels were made in 1958, so while scientists do not know what the concentration of CO2 was in the 1930s, Kirkham said, she used the data that she and her students collected to calculate

how much the water use efficiency of sorghum has increased since 1958, which was about the time of the middle of 1950s drought.

"Due to the increased carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere, it now takes 55 milliliters (mL) less water to produce a gram of sorghum grain than it did in 1958," she said. "Fifty-five mL is equal to about one-fourth of a cup of water. This may not seem like a lot of water savings, but spread over the large acreage of sorghum grown in Kansas, the more efficient use of water now compared to 1958 should have a large impact.

"The elevated carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in 2012 ameliorated the drought compared to the drought that occurred in the mid-1950s."

At the basis of Kirkham's book are experiments that she and other researchers conducted in the Evapotranspiration Laboratory at K-State from 1984 to 1991.

"They were the first experiments done in the field in a semi-

arid region with elevated carbon dioxide," Kirkham said. The lab no longer exists, but the work continues.

Information about Kirkham's research is available at www.agronomy.ksu.edu/MBKirkham.

Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of Harold E. Jones, Deceased.

No. 2013-PR-11

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on March 22, 2013, a Petition was filed in this Court by Grace I. Jones, an heir and Executor named in the Last Will and Testament of Harold E. Jones, deceased, dated September 7, 1999, praying for Informal Administration and to Admit Will to Probate.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before April 18, 2013, at 10:00 o'clock AM of said day, in this Court, in the City of Colby, in Thomas County, Kansas at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

GRACE I. JONES PETITIONER

Submitted by: John D. Gatz, #10808 Attorney at Law P. O. Box 346 Colby, Kansas 67701 (785) 460-3383 Attorney for Petitioner

(Published in The Colby Free Press on March 27, April 3, 10, 2013)

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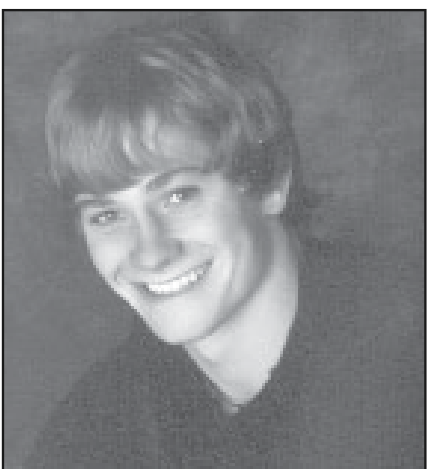



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The Colby Free Press is now planning the Senior Graduation Tab and will be giving parents a chance to put a baby picture in along with a short message from the family for a small fee.

We will automatically feature your student's picture and information, but this will be your chance to put in a baby picture to show how much your senior has really changed over the years!



Call Sharon or Kathryn, at **785-462-3963** for more information or stop by the office at 155 W. Fifth in Colby.