

Weather

Suspect arraigned at hearing Monday

From "SUSPECT," Page 1

gone to work, but was unable to reach her.

Rodenbeck said he told officers Addy might still be inside the house, and they broke windows in the baby's bedroom to check. Addy was not inside.

He said he saw Morris' body pulled out of the house.

He has not been in the house since she died, he said.

Kris Smith, fire investigator from the Kansas Fire Marshal's office, testified next. He said when he arrived at the house later that day, he noticed burn patterns that indicated an accelerant likely was used to start the fire.

The heaviest damage was in and around the master bedroom where the bed and other furniture was heavily damaged, Smith said.

After debris was removed from the room, Scout, Smith's accelerant-sniffing K-9 partner, indicated the presence of accelerant in three areas of the master bedroom, Smith said.

Scout later indicated the presence of accelerant on the pants and a shoe Shank was wearing when arrested, Smith said, though the Kansas Bureau of Investigation was unable to discover any accelerant traces on Shank's clothing.

His investigation revealed "no accidental or natural cause" for the fire.

Next, Carolyn States, Shank's sister, gave emotional testimony about her experiences the day of Morris' death.

She said she was with her children at their home outside

Logan that morning when Shank surprised her by knocking on the door.

He had Addy with him and obvious injuries to his forehead area, she said.

He cleaned his wounds in her kitchen and called the Garden City Police Department, she said, while she took care of Addy. Shank did not have any baby supplies with him, she said, but she was able to change Addy's diaper and feed her with supplies States had on hand.

Shank dumped his dirty paper towels into the kitchen trash can, then pulled the bag out and deposited it by the door to the States' garage, she said.

States said she later drove Shank into Logan to meet law enforcement officers, including Mark Kendrick, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation's lead investigator for the case and the fourth witness to testify at the preliminary hearing.

That night, Kendrick seized a trash bag and backpack from States' residence, he said. The bag contained latex gloves and tools along with bloody paper towels, and the backpack held clothes, food and other gear, he said.

A pair of latex gloves recovered from the white bag had blood caked on the outside, he said. DNA tests linked Shank to the inside of the gloves and identified Morris' blood on the outside, he said.

After witness testimony was finished and the prosecutors presented diagrams, reports and photographic evidence, Ressa gave each side the chance to present an argument.

Domme argued there was sufficient evidence tying Shank to the killing and fire. The use of gloves, she said, showed premeditation. The trauma to Morris' body and the number of stab wounds, she said, was brutal.

"Teri Morris was still alive inside that residence when the defendant set this fire," Domme said.

Jerry Fairbanks, Shank's court-appointed attorney, said there was "absolutely no evidence that anyone broke into that house."

He also argued there was no evidence of arson, and the state's evidence of pre-meditation was "speculative."

He asked Ressa to release his client, but Ressa held him for trial after considering the evidence presented at the hearing.

"The state has met its burden," Ressa ruled.

In the gallery of the court, Morris' family and friends whispered happily.

After a short break, District Judge Glen Schiffner stepped into the courtroom to arraign Shank.

Schiffner explained some of Shank's rights to him, and Shank pled not guilty to all three counts.

Schiffner said Shank is facing a maximum sentence of life without the possibility of parole for 25 years plus a fine of up to \$500,000 for the first-degree murder charge.

The trial is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 21, and Domme estimated it will take about two and a half weeks to complete.

Budget increases; levy higher

From "BUDGET," Page 1

drain pans added beneath the roof of the gym to stop condensation from dripping from air handlers onto the floor, also part of the improvements.

Harrison later reported that the district will organize a dedication for the statue and the other projects at the high school - which will also serve to celebrate paying off the bonds issued to build the school - with the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce. Harrison also said the Booster Club bought new license plates for

the front of the school vans the board used to take the tour. She said 45 gallons of debris had been vacuumed out of the middle school's air ducts during a recent cleaning.

• Heard about an assessment of the school's storm shelters done by county Emergency Management Director Autumn Arasmith, who Harrison said had been trained by the Federal Emergency Management Administration. Harrison told the board that the hallways are used as shelters in the grade school, and that Arasmith approved of that location.

But Arasmith said the basement in the middle school would be risky to use as a shelter because of falling debris and the danger of the pipes breaking and flooding the area. She suggested Ross learn how to shut off the pipes and that as many kids be moved to the weight room as possible. The locker rooms at the high school are also a bad place for a storm shelter, Arasmith said. Instead, the kids should go to an inside room without windows. Harrison said she was not sure why the locker room had been used as a shelter.

Briefly

The deadline for Briefly is noon the day before. Items submitted in the morning will be set up for the following day, space available. The deadline for Monday's paper is noon Friday.

Pets ready for adoption at Animal Clinic

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a female blue and cream 4-year-old Himalayan cat, a Siamese, a brown and white female chihuahua pug mix and two lab mix puppies, available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

Brewster to have hot dog feed Thursday

Brewster's annual hot dog and watermelon feed is planned for 6 p.m. Thursday at Hunter-Hall Park. Donations will benefit the Brewster Heritage Center. Please bring a lawn chair and enjoy the evening social. Contact the Brewster Heritage Center at (785) 694-2851 for information.

Cub Scouts to hold sign-up meeting

Cub Scouts will hold an information and sign-up meeting for new and returning boys in first through fifth grades at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Colby Grade School activities room. Call Mary Zerr at 460-9757 for information.

Ex-gun lobbyist to give 'Max' lecture

Former gun lobbyist Richard Feldman will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center near the southeast corner of the Colby Community College campus. The free lecture is part of the Dr. Max Pickerill series. For information, contact Dr. Linda Davis-Stephens at 460-5528.

Largest Convoy helps Special Olympics

The World's Largest Truck Convoy, open to the public, will be Friday and Saturday, Sept. 6 and 7, in Colby. At 5 p.m. Friday, events kick off with a tailgate barbecue party at Oasis-Petro, a car and motorcycle cruise-in and fireworks. Saturday, convoys from Oakley and Goodland will merge at 11 a.m. on Horton Avenue for a parade down Range to Fourth and back south on Franklin. All events, including a truck and bike show and lunch are open to the public. Donations go to Special Olympics. For information call Joe Mentlick at 443-1682.

Donations needed to pay for county's map

The Kansas Association of Counties is seeking donations for the county's share of a marble map in the floor of the new visitors' center at the Kansas statehouse. To donate, contact County Commissioner Mike Baughn at (785) 694-2278, (785) 460-9061 or prairielawman@yahoo.com or send donations to Box 159, Brewster, Kan., 67732. Checks should be made payable to the Thomas County Community Foundation with a memo for the Kansas Statehouse Thomas County Map Fund.

County Landfill to close for weekend

For the Labor Day weekend, the Thomas County Landfill will close at noon Saturday and remain closed until Tuesday. Call the landfill at 462-8139 if you have questions.

Sanitation trucks won't run on Labor Day

City of Colby sanitation trucks will not run on Monday, in observance of Labor Day. Monday's sanitation route will be picked up Tuesday. Please have your tipper cans to the curb by 8 a.m. For more information, contact Omar Weber at the Public Works Department at 460-4420.

Senior center needs drivers for meals

The Senior Progress Center needs a volunteer to deliver meals from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays. For information, call Director Kaila DeBoer at 460-2901.

Community garden needs more volunteers

Anyone interested in working on this year's community garden should contact Denise Singer at 465-9103 or ssnwks@st-tel.net. Group gardening days are scheduled Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings throughout the season.

Group keeps track of lost dogs in Colby

Lost a pet? Go to the "Friends of the Colby Dog Park" Facebook page and see animals found recently. The group has volunteers who take care of lost pets until someone claims them. For information, call Stevi Strick at (719) 892-0745.

Make a Difference. Please Recycle

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table with columns for Thursday Evening August 29, 2013. Rows include KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSNK/FOX, Cable Channels, AMC, ANIM, BRAVO, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISC, DISN, EI, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FOOD, FX, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, MTV, NICK, SCI, SPIKE, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TOON, TRAV, TV LAND, USA, VH1, WGN, Premium Channels.

Table with columns for Friday Evening August 30, 2013. Rows include KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSNK/FOX, Cable Channels, AMC, ANIM, BRAVO, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISC, DISN, EI, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FOOD, FX, HGTV.

AmericanProfile CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN SPIRIT. Table with columns for HIST, LIFE, MTV, NICK, SCI, SPIKE, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TOON, TRAV, TV LAND, USA, VH1, WGN, Premium Channels.