



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

How does he do that?

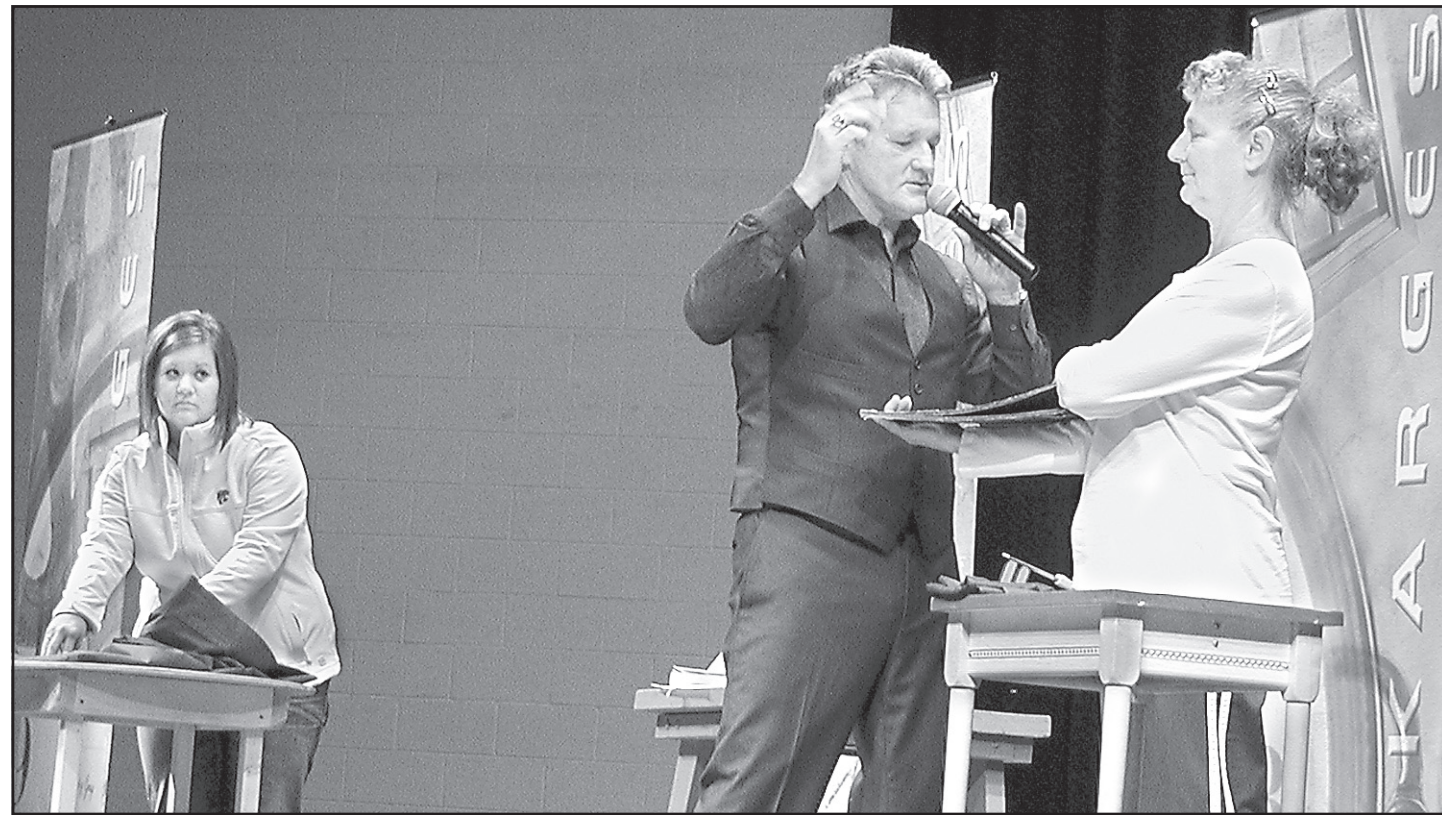
Mystery and wonder took center stage at the Cultural Arts Center in Colby Sunday afternoon as "extraordinist" Craig Karges led an audience through a series of seemingly impossible demonstrations of what he called the power of the human mind.

The most common comment was "How did he DO that?" as Karges had children display a random phone number picked by an audience member from a Boston directory, made a table float in midair, and, while blindfolded, read the serial number of a random \$5 bill from the audience.

The event was big on audience participation, as volunteers, some picking others to help, joined Karges on stage for each demonstration. Karges said he has a standing — unclaimed — offer of \$100,000 if it can be proved that anyone attending actively aids him in his act.

Karges risked injury at one point, using his hands to smash all but one styrofoam cup while blindfolded — the remaining cup having a nail hidden in it.

Author-showman Karges concluded the program by shredding two of three envelopes; the remaining one contained his fee and travel expenses. Money from the Patricia A. Embree Trust Fund helped make the show part of the Western Plains Arts Association season.



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

A well-blindfolded Craig Karges (top) read off the serial number on a \$5 bill brought up by an audience member, as two volunteers verified his accuracy. While Karges got one woman to "see" Marilyn Monroe's picture (center) when it wasn't really there, he got a second to write "Monroe" on a whiteboard inside a bag. Karges had the audience close their eyes (left), stretch out their arms, and imagine a heavy weight in one hand as he looked for people more susceptible to the power of suggestion.

Street plan unveiled for Colby

By Sam Dieter

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A long-term plan for improving streets, especially state-highway connecting links, in Colby was unveiled to government officials and community members Thursday morning.

Representatives from the engineering consulting firm Kirkham Michael presented the plan to almost 30 people during a public meeting at Law Enforcement Training Center. They suggested adding new lanes and intersections to Range Avenue and Country Club Drive, and even some new through streets in parts of south Colby.

A final draft of the firm's plan — the end result of a study started about a year and a half ago — will

be ready next month, they said. After that, it will be up to the city, Thomas County and the Kansas Department of Transportation to decide which parts to implement first — and how to pay for the work. Officials from these groups, which commissioned the study, heard the same presentation from Kirkham Michael before the public meeting.

Sorin Juster with Kirkham Michael said the 20-year plan is a way to manage traffic as Colby gets bigger, and that the firm studied south Colby mainly between Range Avenue and Country Club Drive and between College Drive and Horton Street, as well as open land to the east and west.

In June, the firm presented its initial plan for improving streets

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County honors years of service

Several Thomas County employees were honored by county commissioners Tuesday for their long service.

The commissioners presented eight employees with certificates from the Kansas Association of Counties recognizing their "commitment to county government in Kansas."

Former County Treasurer Donita Applebury was recognized for 32 years. Applebury retired last month, and she said, her health has improved since then.

"She's smiling because taxes went out and she doesn't have to deal with the questions," said Deputy County Appraiser Kathy

Cunningham.

Cunningham herself was recognized for eight years of service, along with Clint Jackson, a road and bridge department employee, Shelly Harms, the county clerk, Susan Guill, the deputy clerk, and Paul Steele, commission chair.

Don Morton Jr., an emergency medical technician, was recognized for 32 years of service, and Jim Harms, the county's transportation van driver, for 24 years.

Commissioner Mike Baughn thanked the recipients for their "dedicated service" to the county.

"It's much appreciated on behalf of the citizens of the county," he said.

Scott City man hurt in rollover

A Scott City man was hurt badly after being thrown from a pickup as it rolled Sunday night north of Goodland and had to be flown to a Denver-area hospital. Troopers said he was not wearing a seat belt.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Douglas L. Margheim, 23, was driving north out of Goodland on K-27 when his truck drifted into the southbound lane about 11:40 p.m. two miles from town. The 1987 Chevrolet

pickup rolled into the west ditch and came to a stop right side up, partly in the roadway.

Margheim was thrown from truck. The patrol reported that he was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center, then flown to St. Anthony Central Hospital in Denver. However, employees said St. Anthony Central is closed, and they did not have a record of the man at either of the two current St. Anthony locations.

New Oakley police chief has years of experience

By Sam Dieter

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Oakley has a new police chief with a long history of serving the community there.

Jason Moses took over from Dan Shanks as chief of the Oakley Police Department on Oct. 1. The new chief said he has lived in Oakley throughout his 17-year career in law enforcement, working for the city of Oakley, the state, and for

both Logan and Thomas counties.

Moses said he doesn't recall a specific time he decided to go into law enforcement.

"It was just something I always knew I was going to do," he said.

When he was growing up in Imperial, Neb., Moses said, his family was in the radio business, and he was around many officers who used two-way radios.

"I just got to know a lot of those law-enforcement guys," he said, adding that they were always a positive presence.

Being around officers makes an impression, he said, especially when you're still small enough to have look up at ev-

eryone around you.

In 1996, Moses earned an associate degree in criminal justice from Colby Community College. By October of that year, he was 21, just barely old enough to start work as a Logan County sheriff's deputy. He rose to the position of undersheriff there, then became the Thomas County undersheriff in 2005.

To the best of his knowledge, Moses said, Oakley is the only town in the state that sits in three counties at once.

"I moved up on 8th street, which made me a Thomas County resident," he said. "Through all the changes in my work, I've been able to stay in Oakley the whole

time."

He worked for the Kansas Adjutant General from 2007, then became Oakley's assistant police chief in 2012.

"I have a lot of very close colleagues who I've worked with over the years," Moses said.

This, he added, includes Shanks, who had been working for the Oakley Police since 1973, most of that time as chief. By the time he retired, Moses said, Shanks was one of the few officers who had been working in the area since he started his career.

He said he also has worked with a lot of officers from Colby, including Police

Chief Ron Alexander, who started his career at about the same time.

"The caliber of people that you work with," he said, "is unparalleled by any other place you'll go."

But Moses did not speak as highly of some people from out of town. His time in law enforcement has taught him how many bad actors from somewhere else show up on Oakley's front step.

"Before I got into this business, I did not know what could occur in a rural community," he said, adding that he was not talking about the locals. "You don't think these types of people, or these types of crime going on, occur in rural areas."

