



COLBY FREE PRESS

Stork misses mark Bundle of joy delivered on I-70

By TOM BETZ

The Goodland Daily News
GOODLAND—She has worked on the county ambulance for five years, and one goal was to be in on the birth of a baby, but she did not expect the delivery to be her own granddaughter.



Leslie Farley

"I thank God I am an EMT," said Leslie Farley, 604 Cherry, Goodland, Wednesday morning after delivering her daughter Kelli's baby at 12:55 a.m. in the back seat of a car heading east on I-70 about three miles from the Colby exit.

"We did some simulated training, and I witnessed a cesarean birth," she said of her emergency medical training, "but this was my first."

Mother and daughter Kaitlin Rae Thompson, are doing well at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. The baby weighed 6 pounds 8 ounces and was 19 1/4 inches long.

"Never again," said Kelli Farley, 18, when asked about her experience with "natural" child birth.

Kelli and the father, Aaron Thompson, who works at the Frontier Equity



Kelli and Aaron Thompson, Goodland, looked at their new baby girl, Kaitlin.

shop, had driven to Colby with Leslie and sister Randi Gray, 16, about 9:30 p.m. Tuesday when it seemed the labor pains had started.

However, the nurses sent them home to Goodland about an hour later after consulting by phone with Dr. Victor Hildyard who thought the blessed event would not happen that night.

"We had been home about 30 minutes when the pains got worse," Leslie Farley said. "I called dispatch and said we were headed to Colby and wouldn't be going slow, but would have our flashers on.

"We stopped at Brewster to change with Aaron driving and I got in the back seat with Kelli. It was just so fast, and there she was. I cleaned the baby off and got her to cry as we got off the Interstate," she said. "I didn't have any tools. We wrapped her in a Winnie the Pooh baby blanket."

"I thought I was going to die," Kelli said. "I kept saying I wanted the pain to stop."

When they arrived at Citizens the mother and baby were taken into the delivery room to complete the birth and cut the umbilical cord.

"I was less nervous after I started driving," Thompson said. He had planned to be in the delivery room for the birth, but wasn't expecting the delivery room to be the back seat of a car moving rapidly down the highway.

At the hospital Thompson was holding and feeding Kaitlin.

When it came time for a diaper change, however, he handed her over to Kelli saying it was her turn as he had already done it once. Leslie said she shampooed the back seat and had the car cleaned up about 4 a.m.

Technical college student delivers report to the Colby School Board

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

During the past four years, three Colby High School students have attended the Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland during their senior year to pursue vocational courses not offered here.



Justin Sloan

The most recent student, Justin Sloan, attended this week's Colby School Board meeting to talk about his experiences and thank the board for allowing him the opportunity and paying nine months of his tuition.

Sloan said his course study is in the diesel mechanics program and his hours at the college are just as long as they would have been in high school.

"I started classes in October and won't be finished until July," he said. "My day starts at 7 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m."

He said his instructor, Lloyd Koel, recommended him to serve as the representative for the Ambassador's Club and he also served as the Student Senate vice president and president.

"My future plans include continuing my education by enrolling at Colby Community College and then going on to Kansas State University," he said. "After that, I would like to come back to Colby and take over the family farm."

When asked by a school board mem-

ber what he plans to major in at college, Sloan said he was undecided.

He did say that he was offered a job in Scott City after graduation from the technical college that would pay \$16 an hour.

Justin's parents are Nola Sloan and Tom and LaDonna Sloan, all of Colby. The other two students who have attended the technical college included Brad Skolout and Bobby Gilbert.

According to Colby Superintendent Kirk Nielsen, the state allows for students to attend vocational-technical schools in their senior year, if they meet all the necessary requirements by the end of their junior year in high school.

"These students plan ahead and it's a good avenue for those wanting to start a career after high school," Nielsen said.

City council approves fuel bid

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

The city of Colby will be paying more for fuel to operate the power generating plant after the city council approved a new natural gas contract on Monday night.

The city received three bids. City Manager Carolyn Armstrong told the council. Post Rock Gas from Luray, the

current supplier, bid \$5.25 per 1,000 cubic feet, Allied Energy, O'Neal, Neb. bid \$6.29 and Oneok Energy of Hays bid \$5.23.

The council voted to accept the Post Rock bid.

"Oneok has a limit," Armstrong said. "Once we reach a specified limit, they buy gas on the market and we could end up paying much more."

Council member Ken Bieber asked if the contract had to be signed right away. Armstrong said no, but that natural gas prices had hit a lull and she didn't expect any better prices.

"Contracts are a roll of the dice, anyway," said councilman John Bremenkamp.

The current contract, which ends in July, is for \$3.44.

House and Senate seek final accord on Bush's \$1.35 trillion tax cut

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush is eager to sign an 11-year, \$1.35 trillion tax cut that mirrors most of his own goals. Now, it's up to House and Senate negotiators to agree on details of the largest tax cut in 20 years.

The two sides planned to continue closed-door meetings Thursday in hopes of reaching a compromise in time to send the tax bill to the White House before Congress embarks on a

weeklong Memorial Day recess.

"We're planning on getting it done before we get out of here," said Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., the assistant Senate Republican leader.

The key to a deal is finding a way to keep enough of the tax breaks added by the evenly divided Senate to keep moderates of both parties from jumping ship while moving a bit closer to the House cuts favored by conservatives

that are more in line with Bush's original plan.

"They can pass a partisan Republican bill with 51 votes, but they will send a strong signal that they don't want to work with Democrats in the future," said Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J.

The stage for final action was set Wednesday when the Senate voted 62-38 in favor of its version of the tax re-



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Rosa Lee Waterman hands a book to Nancy Saddler through the drive-up window at Pioneer Memorial Library. Patrons can make advance arrangements to check out material and pick it up at the window.

The only one?

DRIVE-UP WINDOW
For pre-arranged services only
Call 462-4470

Pioneer Memorial Library may have pioneered drive-up window concept

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby just might have something no other public library has: a drive-up window. When the library was remodeled and enlarged a couple of years ago, the drive-up window was incorporated.

JoAnne Sunderman, library director, said she doesn't know of any other libraries with drive up windows in Kansas. She said she has heard rumors of some in the United States, and would assume there probably are, but she doesn't know where they are.

"I don't think there were any when we did ours. I'd never heard of one before," she said.

Sunderman and the library staff compiled a wish list for the architect who drew up the plans for the library, which included a drive-up window.

"When we were thinking up things we would like to have for a new library, it kept coming to my mind that we live in a society where people are increasingly busy, and there are so many places you can drive through and get things. And why couldn't you do so at the library?" she said.

"It would have to be with certain rules and regulations. It had to be prearranged. If people would call ahead, we would tell them if we had the item, and then could check it out to them and have it there at the window to pick up," Sunderman said.

Users of the Colby library can call the library at 462-4470 and make arrangements for checkout, then pick up their items at the drive-up window in the alley, or have it delivered to their car if they are unable to get out of their vehicle. They can push the bell by the window or call on their cellular phone to let the librarians know they are there. Sunderman said this is just a nice little added feature, particularly for parents who don't want to get out of the car, or people who are handicapped.

"We haven't had the number of people use it that we thought probably would," Sunderman said, "but the people that need it seem to know about it."

Sunderman said it has helped people by not having to get out on the ice last winter. "(It helps) people who are leaving town, and want books on tapes. Some people just call and say 'I want to check out six hours (of tapes)...I like mysteries.' They don't care what they have. It has been a lot of fun."

Briefly

Weather: Record low set

This morning's 33-degree reading in Colby broke the old record of 34 set on this date in 1966. The forecast for the Colby region calls for warming temperatures in the days to come and lots of sunshine. Tonight, partly cloudy, low in the upper 30s to around 40 and north winds 5-15 mph. Friday, sunny, high near 75 and north winds 5-15 mph. Friday night, partly cloudy and the low around 45. Saturday and Sunday, sunny, lows in the upper 40s to around 50 and the high in the 70s. Wednesday's high in Colby was 75 and the overnight low this morning was 33. Precipitation remains at 2.38 inches for the month. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is now 68 degrees. The records for May

24: 98 in 1953 and 34 in 1966. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Gulf War health meeting today

The Kansas Commission of Veterans Affairs will hold a public meeting on Gulf War-related issues at 7 p.m. today in the Colby Community College Student Union. The meeting will provide current information on health problems reported by Gulf War veterans and results of a study of Kansas veterans. The state-sponsored public meeting will provide up-to-date information on what is known about these conditions and information on available government

programs and benefits.

Help needed to plant sod

Volunteers are needed to help lay sod at the Fairview Estates Retirement Community east of Dillon. In exchange for helping lay sod, ABC Construction company has donated three sets of portable bleachers to the community. Please report to the job site at 8 a.m. Saturday and again on June 2. At least 40 volunteers are needed and the minimum age is 16. For information call Rod Williams at 462-8260.

No Free Press Monday

The Colby Free Press will not publish on Monday, May

28 in observance of Memorial Day. "We are taking the day off to be with family and friends," said Tom Dreiling, publisher. "However, because of the nature of our business, any activities of general community interest over the holiday weekend will be recorded and published in subsequent issues," he said. Normal hours, 8-6, will resume Tuesday, May 29.

Landfill schedule noted

The Thomas County Landfill will be open from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 26, and will be closed Sunday and Monday, May 27-28, for the Memorial Day weekend. For information please call Larry Jumper at 462-8139.

