



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Colby grad among earliest Pearl Harbor casualties

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

One of the first Americans killed in World War II was Everett Windle, a 20-year-old farmboy from Chardon, in rural Rawlins County.

Windle was remembered by his aunt, Mary Harper Brown, Colby and brother Lynn during the Memorial Day holiday.

"He was (listed as) missing in action for a long time," said Brown. According to official Navy records, Windle's body was never found.

Windle graduated from Colby High School in 1940 and went to Wichita for technical training.

He joined the Navy in May of 1941 and after completing basic training in San Diego, Calif., was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, one

of eight battleships moored at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

The Oklahoma was hit by several Japanese torpedoes almost immediately after the shooting started. Within minutes she rolled 150 degrees and sank to the bottom of the channel.

Survivors trapped inside the hull tapped on the hull until Dec. 10. Thirty-two additional survivors were rescued by cutting into the hull.

In all, 448 men died on the Oklahoma.

In 1943, the ship was raised to clear the channel. The bones of the men who died were interred at Pearl Harbor and she was sold for \$46,000 as salvage. During the tow, about halfway between Pearl Harbor and San Francisco, she capsized and sank in 3,000 feet of water.

Two of Windle's brothers also served in World War II. Gene, 78, was in the Army Air

Force, but "never left the United States." Herb, 76, joined the Marines, but was discharged a few months later because of a heart problem. He joined the Merchant Marines and sailed in the convoys that supplied Europe.

Lynn, 68, the youngest, joined the Air Force in 1952 and retired in 1974 as a master sergeant.

The Navy gave the family a marker, which has been placed in the cemetery in Chardon.

Autopsy determines smoke killed three

By TOM BETZ

The Goodland Daily News

GOODLAND — Official identification of the three residents killed in an early morning fire Monday at their trailer home in southwest Goodland has been completed and the cause of death has been determined, Police Chief Ray Smee said today.

"The autopsies show they died of carbon monoxide and smoke inhalation," Smee said. The official identification had been delayed until dental records could be obtained on all three.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Goodland United Methodist Church for Jenny McCurry, 29, her son James, 7, and daughter Amanda, 5, who died in the Memorial Day fire.

"We are expecting the state fire marshal, Melvin Dale, from Garden City to be here this week to review what we

know about the fire," Smee said. "It is possible we may never really know what caused the fire, and it may go down as accidental."

This morning workers were at the scene preparing to remove the burned trailer from the Mid-America Trailer Park, and several neighbors were thankful to have the reminder and curiosity gone.

"Maybe it will stop the traffic," one neighbor said. The fire was discovered about 7:45 Monday morning, and after the fire department had responded and doused the flames they found the bodies of the mother and two of her three children. A second son, Thomas McCurry, 8, was found outside the home and escaped injury. Efforts have begun to assist the surviving son with clothes, toys, book and other items which he lost in the fire.

Legislature to wrap up

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislators will ceremoniously folded the tents for another session today, but their work for fiscal year 2002 is far from complete.

The occasion is the formal end of the session, where leaders officially adjourn the Legislature until January.

House Speaker Kent Glasscock said Wednesday he expected at least a few attempts to override some of Gov. Bill Graves' vetoes of budget cuts for fiscal year 2002, which begins July 1.

"We're calling members to let them know that there may be some work to do," said Glasscock, R-Manhattan. "Frankly, it's too late for that."

It takes 84 of the 125 House mem-

bers and 27 of 40 senators to override a veto.

Last week, Graves made 22 vetoes in the state's final spending bill. The vetoes totaled more than \$56 million, most in spending cuts for the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Some of the vetoes also restored cuts in spending for several state agencies, such as \$1.3 million for the Department of Administration and \$850,000 for the Kansas Water Office to implement a state water plan.

Graves said the vetoes addressed his concerns that Kansans were being shortchanged in services by the reductions to state agencies.

School with a different theme



MAXINE NELSON/Colby Free Press

D'Ette Scholtz has been assisting children at Trinity Lutheran Church's vacation bible school this week, along with others, as children made shifting sand bottles, along with creating shifting sand scenes. This was only one of many activities during this year's theme, "Beach Trek,"

she said. Vacation bible school dates will appear on Friday's Religion page. In the photo, Scholtz helped (left clockwise) Zach Harlow, Cody Wark, Phillip Bullington, Brandon Rasmussen, Megan Higerd, Caitlyn Albers, Brandon Harlow and Kayla Scholtz at Thursday's session.

Board serving 17 counties faces fairness issue

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

The Northwest Kansas Community Corrections and Juvenile Services board is looking for a way to be fair.

The problem isn't fairness with their clients, but fairness to vendors.

The board is looking for a way to inform everyone in their 17-county district of upcoming bids without spending more on advertising than the items they want to buy will cost.

"We are required to get at least three bids," said Thomas Drees, Ellis County Attorney and chairman of the board.

"We aren't required to do legals on the bids."

Basically, we are no more able to give away advertising than you are to donate your services to the county. I wish we could."

Steve Haynes, president
Nor'West Newspapers

Drees said the question arose after the board received five bids on new cars. Some of the board members wanted to know why dealers in their counties were not bidding.

Drees suggested inquiring to the 22 newspapers serving the area to see if they would run legal type ads as a pub-

lic service.

Asked if anyone had responded positively, Drees said, "Not yet." He added that he has received "10-12" responses.

Steve Haynes, owner of Nor'West Newspapers, said, in a letter to Drees, "Legal notice, which is a fairly small

part of our and a government's budgets, often is the part which keeps small papers such as ours afloat.

"Basically, we are no more able to give away advertising than you are to donate your services to the county. I wish we could."

Nor'West Newspapers operates *The Oberlin Herald*, *The St. Francis Herald*, *Bird City Times*, *The Goodland Daily News*, *Colby Free Press* and *nwkansas.com*.

Drees said the board could not afford to publish for every bid. "We would end up paying more for publishing than for many items."

So, for now, the board is still looking for a way.

Wheat tour planned Monday

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

This year's Thomas County Wheat Tour is scheduled for Monday, June 4, at the M.L. Barrett farm, managed by Mike Brown, at 7:30 a.m. According to Dennis Chandler, Thomas County Extension agriculture agent, the farm is located five miles south of I-70 at the Levant exit.

"There are 32 varieties entered in the trial this year," Chandler said. "The planting and growing season were challenging for this year's wheat crop, so the plot should tell us what variety or varieties will stand

some severe stress."

In addition faculty from Kansas State University will be on hand to review the test plot and tell how each variety is performing throughout the state.

The staff will also give an update on wheat marketing strategies and marketing outlook, Chandler said. Mattson Farms is furnishing coffee and rolls for the tour with serving beginning at 7:15 a.m.

"The Thomas County Extension Office encourages you all to come and bring a neighbor," Chandler said. For additional information, call Chandler at (785) 462-4582.

Hail to the champs!

NJCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

1999 WRESTLING & WOMENS CROSS COUNTRY

Colby Community College

www.colbycc.org

PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College recently placed new billboards along I-70 west and east of Colby. The new signs promote the college's national championships in wrestling and women's cross country. The signs went up about a month ago.

Briefly

Weather: Pleasant

If it doesn't rain today, Colby will have ended the month of May with 3.35 inches, according to the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center. The forecast doesn't seem to indicate moisture at least through the weekend. Tonight, partly cloudy, low in the lower 50s and light and variable winds. Friday, sunny, high 75-80 and north winds 10-20 mph. Friday night, clear, low in the lower 50s. Saturday and Sunday, continued dry, low in the lower 50s and the high 75-80. Colby's high Wednesday was 70 and the overnight low this morning was 54. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 64 degrees. The records for May 31: 92 in 1955 and 36 in 1964. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Singles dance planned Friday

The Colby Singles Group will hold its regular monthly dance on Friday, from 8 p.m. to midnight, said Don Birzer, coordinator. This month's entertainment is being provided by Swingin' Country from Imperial, Neb. All single people and alumni are invited. For information, call Birzer at 462-2127.

College board meets Monday

The Colby College Board of Trustees are meeting Monday, June 4, at 5 p.m. in the board room at Thomas Hall administration building. Items to be discussed or approved include bids for Internet access, Bedker Memorial Complex mural, student-trustee dinner comments, swim club

request and negotiations. In addition, a special meeting at 7 p.m. will be held to discuss negotiations specifically.

Commodity distribution Friday

USDA commodities will be distributed Friday from 9 to 11 a.m. at the RSVP office in the Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park. Anyone receiving commodities in May is eligible for this distribution, officials said. For information, call 462-6744.

Icecream fund-raiser Sunday

The Aid Association for Lutherans in conjunction with Trinity Lutheran Church, Fifth and Country Club, is having an icecream social fund-raiser beginning at 6 p.m., Sunday, June 3. The purpose of the social is to raise money for tornado victims in Hoisington, officials said.

Craft fair expanding

The Colby Girl Scouts are once again organizing the October Craft-a-Ganza craft fair. This year, said Jan Barnum, one of the organizers, the scouts are adding antique dealers to have a wider variety of vendors. Crafters and antique dealers can call Barnum at 462-6503.

Help needed to plant sod

Volunteers are needed to help lay sod at the Fairview Estates Retirement Community east of Dillon on Saturday, June 2, beginning at 8 a.m. In exchange for helping lay sod, ABC Construction Company has donated three sets of portable bleachers to the community, according to local organizers. For information call Rod Williams at 462-8260.

