



# COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

## Mass murderer McVeigh dies by lethal injection

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP) — The government Timothy McVeigh so despised executed him by chemical injection Monday, taking his life in exchange for the 168 lives lost when he blew up the Oklahoma City federal building six years ago. He died silently, with his eyes open.

Instead of making an oral statement, McVeigh, 33, issued a copy of the 1875 poem "Invictus," which concludes with the lines: "I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul."

He was pronounced dead at 8:14 a.m. EDT by Warden Harley Lappin, becoming the first federal prisoner executed in 38 years.

In Oklahoma City, 232 survivors and victims' relatives watched a closed-circuit TV broadcast of the execution, sent from Terre Haute in a feed encrypted to guard against interception. Others embraced each other at the memorial marking the bombing site.

The lethal injection was adminis-

tered to McVeigh's right leg. McVeigh made eye contact with his four witnesses, then with the 10 media witnesses, then squinted toward the tinted window shielding the 10 victims' witnesses from his view. He also stared straight at the victims in Oklahoma City by looking directly into the TV camera. McVeigh, wearing a white T-shirt, khaki pants and slip-on sneakers, looked pale as he awaited death. His hair was cropped short. A white sheet was pulled up tightly to his chest as he lay on the gurney.

When the first drug was administered, he let out a couple of deep breaths, then a fluttery breath. His head moved back, his gaze fixed on the ceiling, and his eyes were glassy.

In a recent letter to the Buffalo News, McVeigh said his body would be released to one his attorneys and cremated, and his ashes would be scattered in an undisclosed location.

In Oklahoma City, Kathleen

Treanor, whose 4-year-old daughter, Ashley, and her husband's parents died in the bombing, watched the execution on closed-circuit TV. Afterward, she held up a picture of her daughter and said: "I thought of her every step of the way." She said there was no display of emotion in the room as the execution took place. She said some of the victims were chuckling that they knew McVeigh was dead before the hordes of media outside did.

"I don't think anything can bring me any peace or anything from this. I'll always face the loss of my daughter. I'll never get over that," said Treanor, 38. "When I die and they lay me in my grave is when I'll have closure. That's when I'll stop grieving for my daughter."

Larry Whicher, the brother of a bombing victim, said McVeigh looked straight into the camera with cold, blank stare in the moments before he died — "and that stare said volumes."

## Death toll climbs from storm

HOUSTON (AP) — As floodwaters from Tropical Storm Allison began to recede, crews scrambled to open roads Monday that were clogged by a week-end deluge that left 18 people dead and did an estimated \$1 billion in damage.

Houston Mayor Lee Brown urged businesses to give their workers the day off Monday as the city recovers from floodwaters that reached rooftops in some neighborhoods.

"I'm asking employers to consider (Monday) a day of recovery, to let downtown get back on track, back on its feet, to take the day off, to take care of their own problems or to help friends or neighbors," Brown said.

Brown estimated that 5,000 homes and businesses had been hit and \$1 billion in damage had been caused since flooding began Friday.

Texas officials on Sunday said the

death toll in the Houston area was up to 17, mainly drowning victims. The flooding caused one death in Louisiana, where rain was still falling Sunday.

"It's terrible," Deyanira Barragan said through tears as she and her 9-month-old daughter fled their flooded apartment complex in Houston.

Theirs was among an estimated 20,000 Houston-area residences inundated by some 3 feet of rain which has fallen since Alison, the first named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, sloshed ashore in southeast Texas last week. The rapidly rising waters trapped some people in their cars. A few others were electrocuted. Underground parking lots also were filled with water, and one woman drowned when she went to rescue her car and an elevator opened and water rushed in.

"The loss of property pales compared to human lives," Gov. Rick Perry said after flying over the hardest-hit areas. "This is a tragedy of very large proportion." Perry declared 28 counties a state disaster area and President Bush followed with a federal declaration. Flood watches and warnings finally came down Sunday in Houston and the weather began clearing with little additional rain in the forecast.

Brown said opening roads would be a top priority.

"We're working throughout the night to make it happen," Brown said.

Freight moving by land and sea were disrupted. The Coast Guard said the upper part of the Houston Ship Channel was closed after 26 barges and two ships broke free from moorings at the Port of Houston, clogging one of nation's busiest waterways.

## Area Scouts learn about car safety

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

Sixty-seven Cub Scouts from Hoxie, Atwood, St. Francis, Goodland, and Colby attended the Buffalo Bill District Cub Scout Day Camp Saturday at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

The theme was *Outer Space Adventure* and the cubs were divided into seven groups, each with their own name such as Apollo, Ranger, Mir, Soyz, Mercury, Voyager, Gemini.

The groups rotated among seven stations, with different activities such as bb guns, archery, space walk (rope bridge), flying saucer throw, velocity (safety demonstration by Highway Patrol) rockets where they make their own rockets and shot them off, and aliens who made a craft. Dillon's donated popsicles to hand out in the morning. Officer Scott Sitton and Blitz gave a demonstration during the lunch.



MAXINE NELSON/Colby Free Press

Sgt. Langdon of the Kansas Highway Patrol discusses with the Cub Scouts what happens to the dummy when it is ejected from a roll car in a simulated accident.

McDonalds donated the drinks, and the boys brought their own sack lunches.

After lunch, the boys went to the

bowling alley. The leaders did a skit and were different characters for closing at bowling alley.

## Nation's school districts using unconventional methods to find teachers

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Peggy Larson bypassed the booths at a job fair for seniors and took her resume straight to a recruiter from a local charter school.

Larson, 76, a retired teacher from Cottonwood, Ariz., learned she was just the kind of candidate they were looking for: eager, certified and ready to return to teaching — a profession in desperate need of qualified applicants throughout the country.

"I'm much older, but I'm a good teacher," Larson said. "And they have a shortage of teachers."

Turning to nontraditional candidates — seniors among them — is just one of the tactics school districts across the nation are using to fill gaps in their fall teaching lineups.

In Las Vegas, the Clark County School District put up signs at McCarran International Airport, advertising the community beyond the

casinos. "Elvis has left the classroom, we have a vacancy," reads one.

Other school districts offer cash bonuses, housing allowances or recruit teachers from other countries.

Whatever the method, the competition for talent is stiff and schools say they cannot get more qualified teachers into their classrooms fast enough. Some administrators are feeling desperate.

"I've heard some recruiters say

they're just looking for warm bodies until they can meet the demand," said Mildred Hudson, chief executive of Recruiting New Teachers, a recruitment research group in Belmont, Mass.

The group estimates that during the next decade, U.S. schools will need to hire 2 million teachers to meet rising enrollment demands and replace an aging baby boomer teaching force.

But schools are finding that the usual methods — college job fairs and Inter-

net postings — are not enough to fill their needs, forcing them to get creative in their recruiting.

Jane Vert, assistant principal at the Paradise Education Center in the Phoenix suburb of Surprise, diversified her recruiting this spring by attending the seniors job fair, where she met about 25 interested retirees, including Larson.

"We want the best possible candidates and I don't want to be forced into

the position of hiring the first person who walks in the door," Vert said. "The retirement pool is an incredible pool of people. There's a lot of talent there."

As evidence: The Alaska Legislature passed a law that allows retired teachers to re-enter the work force without losing their pension benefits.

First Lady Laura Bush has been active in pushing a program aimed at bringing retired military personnel into the classroom.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Austin Hart, Loveland, Colo., sat patiently on Sunday as awards and cash prizes were being announced at this year's eighth annual Colby Rod Run.

## Record numbers at Colby Rod Run

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Colby's Rod Run, which ended Sunday, saw 193 cars registered, which was one of the largest turnouts ever reported in its eight-year history, organizers said.

Many of the rodders have been coming to this event since it began in 1992, said Bill Biel, committee member, and each year coordinators try to add something a little different in the way of prizes and fun activities.

"Colby's event is the best one (Rod Run) around," said Dean Buhler, Loveland, Colo., who is considered one of the "gurus" in rods.

Buhler's car, a 1932 Ford Coupe, has been in the show since the beginning and normally is painted black with bright-colored flames accessorizing the look.

This year, however, Buhler traded the flame look to Dale Earnhardt's number 3 in tribute to the well-known driver.

"I was in the process of re-painting the car black when the news of Earnhardt's death was announced," Buhler said. "I did the 'number 3' to remember a great racer."

For Buhler, street rodding is a family-oriented activity. There's also a lot of misconceptions about the cars. "These are new cars in old clothing," he said. "The majority have cruise control, air-conditioning and, in many cases, are cheaper than a new car," he said. His '32 Ford Coupe just turned over 160,000 miles and "is going strong."

Another long-time rodder, Juleen Bauer, Longmont, Colo., said she and her husband, Richard, have six rods and attend about 26 shows a year.

When asked if the couple drives the cars across the country, Juleen gave a hearty laugh and said, "trailers are

for horses."

While the majority of Bauer's cars are pre-1948, she said that events like the one in Colby are considered an "open run," which means that all cars are eligible, but the majority usually are in the 70s and older class.

Along with spectators enjoying the various styles and colors of the rods, the rodders themselves enjoy the recognition for their hard work.

This year's choice awards were as follows: Mayor's Choice went to Jim and Pat Landsparger, Broomfield, Colo., with a 1933 Ford; City Manager's Choice was a 1965 Oldsmobile owned by Sidney and Eva Dyke, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Chamber's Choice was a 1934 Dodge coupe owned by Dewayne Stevens, Colorado Springs, Colo.; and Police Chief's Choice was a 1937 Chevy coupe owned by Jake Brooks of Scott City.

Other choice awards included a 1948 Nash owned by Willie and Olivia Lepez, Pueblo, Colo., by KXXX-KQLS; and a 1970 Chevy El Camino owned by Don Brown, Broomfield, Colo. as the paint choice award from Lyle's Body Shop. In addition, a 1934 Plymouth coupe owned by Jerome Naugle, Boulder, Colo. was selected as the Mopar choice; a 1949 Chevy half ton was the pick up choice; a 1966 Ford Mustang, the Ford choice; a 1931 Ford HiBoy was the engine choice and Brad Mullins of Hoxie took first in the Under 21 Choice with his 1954 Chevy pickup. Second place went to Tyler Henderson, Goodland, for his 1970 Mustang.

"There were so many people in our community that made this event possible by either donating money, prizes, and/or awards," said Bev Biel. "We just want to thank everyone who helped make the event a big success this year."

## Briefly

### Weather: Just plain hot

If you like heat, then this forecast from the National Weather Service is for you. Tonight, cloudy, a 30 percent chance for thunderstorms, the low in the 60-degree range and south winds 10-20 mph, turning east. Tuesday, sunny early, then becoming partly cloudy, a 40 percent chance for thunderstorms, the high around 100 and south winds 15-25 mph. Tuesday night, cloudy early with a 40 percent chance for thunderstorms, then clearing off, with the low around 65. Wednesday, partly sunny, thunderstorms and the high in the mid-80s to around 90. Colby's weekend temperatures: highs, Friday 82, Saturday 90 and Sunday 97; lows, Saturday 59, Sunday 54 and this morning 63, climb-

ing to 72 by 8 a.m. Precipitation for the month remains at 0.09 inches. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 81 degrees in Colby and 72 degrees at the weather office in Goodland. The records for June 11: 104 in 1918 and 35 in 1903. *The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.*

### Remove cemetery flowers

The Cemetery Board requests that decorations be removed from Beulah Cemetery by Wednesday, June 13, unless they are permanent displays. This is necessary to facilitate mowing of the graves.

### Foodstuff still available

USDA commodities are still available at the Colby Senior Progress Center. If you missed either the May or June distribution, you are eligible to receive them. Please call 462-6744 to make arrangements for pickup.

### Museum opens new exhibit

Over 1,200 mugs, jugs, cups, plates and other pieces of ceramics will make up the newest permanent exhibit "FIRED UP! The Art and Function of Ceramics," now open at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, Colby. For information on the exhibit, call 462-4590.

### Library to hold book sale

Pioneer Memorial Library's annual used book sale will begin on Saturday, June 16 and conclude on Saturday, June 23. Prices will vary from full price on June 16 through June 18; then 1/2 price on June 19 and 20; \$4 a box or bag-full on the June 21 and 22; and end with \$3 a box or bag-full on Saturday, June 23, said JoAnne Sunderman, librarian. Prices will range from \$5 to 10-cents and there will be selected items such as older encyclopedia sets available for bid. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to get some great buys. All proceeds will go to the library for the purchase of new books and other materials, and also special programming. For information, call 462-4470.

