



# COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

## Death of child in Texas by tiger has Colby ties

By **PATTY DECKER**  
*Free Press Editor*

Funeral services for a small boy, with Colby connections, was held today in Lexington, Tex., after he was dragged to death by a tiger on Wednesday.

Matthew James Scott, 3, was the great-grandson of Dorothy Stephens and Veanna Martin, Colby, and son of Charlotte (Stephens) Scott, who was born and raised in Colby and the daughter of Chris and Judy Stephens, now living in Manhattan.

The 7-year-old tiger was owned by Matthew's step-grandfather, Kenny Quinney, and according to a report from the American-Statesmen, a newspaper in Lexington, the animal was bottle-fed as a cub and considered docile around small family dogs.

Quinney said he took Matthew into the tiger's enclosure for a photo on Wednesday and no sooner had he done so, the 250-pound Bengal and Siberian mix grabbed the boy by the foot and took off running.

"The boy's head struck several objects, including a log and the gate to the tiger's cage before his step-grandfather was able to beat the tiger into releasing the child," reported Janet Jacobs, a newspaper reporter.

Matthew, known as his mother's "Loving Little Cowboy," was taken to

Children's Hospital at Austin, Tex., and was pronounced dead at 6:45 p.m., Wednesday.

Lee County Judge Robert Lee said on Thursday that a ban on keeping wild animals was enacted in 1997, but Quinney was allowed to keep his three tigers because he had a permit from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Those who had a license prior to October of 1997 were grandfathered and allowed to keep their animals, but from then on they were outlawed," Lee said. However, in Quinney's situation, the federal permit to breed his tigers had expired in July and had not been renewed, said Charlie Curren, USDA animal care inspector.

The American-Statesmen newspaper reported that Matthew's parents, Charlotte and James, were present at the time of the incident, but no further information was made available.

All three tigers are still at Quinney's residence and no criminal charges were filed, said Joe Goodson, Lee County Sheriff.

"You can raise them (tigers) from a bottle," said Skip Trimble, legislative chairman for the Texas Humane Legislation Network, "but they're not domesticated...they're predators."

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home, 588 N. Main, Giddings, Tex., 78942, is in charge of all arrangements.

## Getting things ready



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Sarah Oesterreich, Amanda Barnum and Arianna Valdez, left to right, with Colby Girl Scout Troop 162 are preparing for this weekend's craft sale on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Crafters from as far as Great Bend and Burlington, Colo., along with local vendors, will be in Colby for the scout's annual Craft-a-Ganza. The event each year is orga-

nized by the local Girl Scouts and will be held in the Colby Community Building. "These crafters will be offering woodcrafts, baked goods, sunflower art, fleece products, jewelry designs, sweatshirts, homemade candles and handiworks of crocheting and tatting," said organizers, "and everyone is invited to look around and enjoy the concessions too."

## Drug seizure money might figure in aiding the 4-H program

By **MAXINE NELSON**  
*Colby Free Press*

There is a 'distinct possibility' that some of the drug money seized by law enforcement officers will be used for educational purposes for the 4-H program, Sheriff Tom Jones told the Thomas County Fair Board at Thursday night's meeting.

Jones talked to the board in response to a letter requesting \$7,500 each year for three years for educational purposes to be used for premiums for the youth. After investing some of the drug seizure money in new law enforcement equipment, Jones said he, the county

attorney and police chief had conferred with the state attorney general on how that money could be used.

The attorney general decided it could be used for organizations and groups to reinvest in the county, Jones said. Some of the money has been spent on sod for a baseball field, a fence for the soccer field, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts for camping equipment, and such, he further said. Jones added that rather than make the decision himself, he had formed a committee to administer the money. Among committee members are Roger Hale, Paul Bange of Brewster, Tracey King of Rexford,

Bob Luck, and others.

He said he'll get the committee together, lobby for the fair board, and hope to have an answer by the next fair board meeting. He said even if the committee did not want to commit for three years, the board could resubmit their request next year, or could request funding from the county attorney.

In other business:  
• Thomas County Extension Agent D'Ette Scholtz reported the fair superintendents meeting had been held in September, and requested the fair books be printed by the first Monday in June. Board president Mark Miller

said the board needed to establish a time line and check list. David Pabst asked if 4-H might have a volunteer who would input information on the computer during the fair.

The board voted to bill the Colby High School rodeo \$100 for cleanup after the high school rodeo, after Pabst said the caretakers at the fairgrounds had cleaned the area after being told the high school would clean it 'after six weeks.' He said there was no problem with Heartland Christian School which had run the concession stand. Pabst said McKee Plumbing was doing some digging for leaks in the water mains at

the fairgrounds. He said the new restrooms have been winterized and cannot be used until spring.

• Miller said no carnival was contracted at this time, but he had been in contact with a couple who were interested. He said there is a possibility of having a concert this year.

• The board voted to advertise the position of secretary/treasurer in the Colby Free Press. Anyone interested can pick up a job description and application at the county treasurer's office. Applications are due by Nov. 1.

• The board voted to hire Adams Brown Beran and Ball Chartered to do

an audit before hiring the new secretary/treasurer.

• The board voted to pay all bills except for \$414 for fair advertising, and \$60 for a fair thank you to the Colby Free Press. The board had not been happy about coverage of the fair, and had voted in August not to pay the bill 'at this time', but to the write a letter expressing their dissatisfaction. However, the letter was never sent. Miller and Vera Sloan, board member, agreed it was 'a little late' to refuse to pay. Miller will contact the Free Press, discuss the advertising bill, and find out who authorized the thank you.

## 'Cough him up'

## President Bush gives Taliban another chance

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush offered the Taliban a chance to stop America's punishing assaults on Afghanistan by turning over suspected terror mastermind Osama bin Laden. "Cough him up," the president said.

Bush also put Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, whom the United States has long considered a sponsor of terrorism, on notice: "We're watching him carefully."

In the first prime-time news conference of his presidency, Bush gave a progress report Thursday night on the government's response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

He said "it might take a year or two" to unravel the terrorist network behind the attack but asserted the five-day bombardment in Afghanistan already had put bin Laden's al-Qaida network on the run.

The president said he did not know whether bin Laden was dead or alive, but it mattered little: "I want him

brought to justice."

Bin Laden is widely believed to be behind the attacks by four hijacked airliners that killed more than 5,000 people in New York, at the Pentagon and in a field in Pennsylvania.

The president, at times forceful, emotional and humorous, looked confidently beyond his war with Afghanistan's Taliban regime and suggested that the United Nations help rebuild the Central Asian country. He urged patience, telling Americans he was "slowly, but surely" tightening the noose around al-Qaida.

"This particular battlefield will last as long as it takes to bring al-Qaida to justice. It may happen tomorrow; it may happen a month from now; it may take a year or two. But we will prevail," said Bush, who criticized open-ended military missions as a presidential candidate.

As U.S. bombs increasingly targeted Taliban troops, Bush held out a carrot

to the Taliban rulers harboring bin Laden.

"If you cough him up, and his people today ... we'll reconsider what we're doing to your country. You still have a second chance. Bring him in. And bring his leaders and lieutenants and other thugs and criminals with him," Bush said.

The president said an FBI warning issued earlier in the day was the result of a "general threat" of possible future terrorist acts the government had received. "I hope it's the last, but given the attitude of the evildoers it may not be," he said.

The possible threats ranged from diplomatic sites overseas to possible truck bombs in the United States, a U.S. intelligence official said later, speaking on condition of anonymity.

At the same time, Bush sought to reassure Americans the government was doing all it could to make them safe. The president said he wouldn't

hesitate to close buildings or facilities if there was credible evidence of an attack, and he urged Americans to report anything suspicious to law enforcement authorities.

Above all, he said, don't let fear prevail.

"Their intention was to frighten (Americans) to the point where our nation would not act. Their intention was to so frighten our government that we wouldn't seek justice; that somehow we would cower in the face of their threats and not respond, abroad or at home," Bush said.

Despite Russia's cooperation in the war on terrorism, Bush said the attacks made him all the more in favor of building an anti-missile shield opposed by Moscow. When he meets Russian President Vladimir Putin later this month, Bush said he would raise the possibility of a hostile nation developing deadly missiles that can reach either country.

## Tiaht bows out of race for Kansas governorship

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservative Republican Rep. Todd Tiaht bowed out of contention for the Kansas governor's race, saying he wants to run statewide but that the 2002 campaign "is not the right time."

Tiaht revealed his decision Thursday in an interview with The Associated Press. The four-term congressman from Wichita said Kansas benefits too much from his seat on the powerful House Appropriations Committee and his job in the GOP whip organization, both of which allow access to the White House and congressional leadership.

"My decision is based on my family and on how effective I could be, and I just think this is the right time to stay where I'm at," Tiaht said. "Someday I hope to run statewide, if the opportunity is there, but this is

not the right time."

Tiaht said he would like to run for U.S. Senate but would never challenge an incumbent Republican for the job. Republican Sens. Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback "are doing a very good job," he said.

GOP Gov. Bill Graves cannot seek a third term. More than half a dozen Republicans have either declared their candidacy for governor or said they are mulling the race, but the widely acknowledged GOP front-runner, U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, abandoned the idea last month. Moran said that while he nearly entered the race, the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon helped convince him to remain in Congress. Many party conservatives wanted Tiaht to enter the race, and he said several moderates also urged him to run.

## Briefly

### Weather: Not much change

Other than the wind decreasing, there is not much change at all in the weather through Monday for the Colby area, says the National Weather Service. Tonight, mostly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for showers, then clearing late with lows 30-35 and north winds 15-25 mph, decreasing to 5-15 mph, also late. Saturday, partly cloudy, highs 60-65 and north-west winds 10-20 mph. Saturday night, mostly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for showers, lows in the 30s. Sunday, partly cloudy, high 65-70 and Sunday night and Monday, cloudy, a 20 percent chance for showers, lows in the 40s and highs in the in the lower 60s. Colby's high Thursday was 71 and the overnight low this morning was 30. Precipitation remains at 0.03 inches as of 8 a.m. today. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 59 degrees.

The records for Oct. 12: 92 in 1989 and 19 in 1909. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Legion Commander to Colby

American Legion National Commander Ric Santos of Maryland will tour the Sunflower State beginning Oct. 14. Santos was elected national commander during the closing session of the Legion's National Convention in San Antonio in August. He will have coffee at the Colby Post, 1850 W. 4th, from 4:30-5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 16. During his tour Santos discuss the Legion's 2002 legislative priorities, including National Security and Defense, Veterans Health Care, and Flag Protection. Santos will be

accompanied by Kansas American Legion State Commander Elgin Wahlborg, Arkansas City, and Vice Commander Russell Shughart, Overland Park.

### Commissioners meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet on Monday, Oct. 15 beginning at 9 a.m. at the courthouse. Chris Bieker, roads supervisor, will bring bid openings on culverts. Also on the agenda at 10 a.m. is Josh Buffington, director of the county's emergency medical services and at 10:30 a.m., Sandy Swob, director of the household hazardous waste collection site will talk about volunteers.

### Sign dedication postponed

The Parent Teacher Organization in conjunction with

Colby Elementary School has postponed its dedication ceremony of the new sign for the school, said Lisa Wilson, one of the coordinators. The event originally planned for today at 2:30 p.m. in front of the school has been rescheduled until Monday, Oct. 15 at 2:30 p.m. The ceremony will include a ribbon cutting, recognition of those who helped in the project and brief remarks by Colby Superintendent Kirk Nielsen.

### Teddy bear collection underway

Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges, is collecting teddy bears and other stuffed animals for children who need a friend, said Sarah Heier, one of the collection organizers. Drop-boxes are located in Dillons and the Colby Community College bookstore.

