



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## Interstate accidents kill two

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Interstate 70 accidents killed two people in the Colby area on Sunday. According to the Kansas Highway Patrol, Lya N. Ingraham, 33, of Colorado Springs, Colo. and Kieu V. Nguyen, 53, of Moore, Okla. were killed in an accident at mile marker 51, just west of Colby.

Twenty-month old Alexandria Ingraham was injured and transported to Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

The 2001 Kia sport utility was westbound on I-70 and entered the north ditch, came back onto the road, overcorrected into the median and then rolled two to four times before coming to rest on its top, according to the Patrol's report. Ingraham and Nguyen were ejected and it is not known who was driving.

The other accident took place on eastbound I-70 approximately three miles east of Colby.

James Anthony Tyler, 25, Hyattsville, Md., and Kathleen M. Gitay, 28, of Randallstown, Md., were injured in the accident when Tyler fell asleep at the wheel of his 1998 Chevy Cavalier, the Patrol report said.

The vehicle rolled once and came to rest on its top. Both were transported to Citizens Medical Center, Colby.

## Winona man dies in wreck

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

A two-vehicle collision killed a Winona man last Friday at 6:45 a.m. at the Levant I-70 exit.

According to a report from the Kansas Highway Patrol, Gregory L. Baxter, 52, of Winona, was killed when his motorcycle struck a 1989 Chevy pickup driven by Ernest A. Thacker, 63, of Phillipsburg.

Thacker and his wife, Thelma Thacker, 62, were westbound on the I-70 off-ramp at Levant when they pulled out and Baxter hit the driver's side of the truck with his motorcycle.

Baxter was heading north on U.S. 24.



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

For many years the five-stand trap shoot, sponsored by the Colby Fire Department, has been a tradition prior to the fire school and open to the public. Pictured is Jaron Cox, Colby, at right, and Deane Dethlefsen of Culbertson, Neb. offering tips. The trap shoot went from 1 p.m. until dusk. Along with the five-stand trap shoot, Pheasants Forever provided the wobble trap.

## Firefighters' training draws 50 to Colby

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

More than 50 area firefighters learned everything from hands-on firefighting to a training program development at a Kansas State Firefighters Association regional school in Colby over the weekend.

The school, one of 12 given in different locations each year, was sponsored by the Colby Fire Department.

Classes included a safe driving course and pump operations class for drivers, forcible entry, ventilation and ropes and ladder courses and a "saving our own" class.

On Sunday, after morning classes wound up, students had a chance to go through the smoke

trailer. The trailer provides a realistic, but safe simulation of a structure fire, including extreme temperatures. The difference between the trailer and a fire is the trailer can be shut down in case something goes wrong.

The class on rescuing downed firefighters was well received. Many firefighters are killed because they get lost or are injured in areas where it is difficult to get to them.

The class also taught students how to avoid or diffuse dangerous situations they might face in the course of their work.

The school was given without charge for any departments wanting to participate. The firefighters, association includes 581 Kansas departments, but departments who are

not members are welcome to send their people also, according to Colby Service Officer J.L. Ellis.

The association is funded by a tax on fire and lightning insurance premiums paid in Kansas and is administered by the Kansas Insurance Department. More than \$225,000 has been allocated this year to train firefighters all over the state.

Ellis also said he had hoped for a bigger turnout, but the instructors were very pleased by the crowd. Firefighters from Norton, Grinnell, Oakley, Scott City and Syracuse were among those present.

"The instructors thought the turnout was great," Ellis said. "I guess we thought we could have done a little better."

Ellis also said the Colby firefighters had been very good

hosts. Members of the Colby department were in each class and functioned as liaisons as well as students.

"Our guys did a great job," Ellis said.

Regional schools also have a social aspect when colleagues from across the state get together. Friday night started with a trap shoot, open to the public, organized by Capt. Jeff Unger and firefighter Tim Hansen.

About 30-40 people took part in the Pheasants, Forever wobble trap and a five-stand trap provided by Deane Dethlefsen from Culbertson, Neb.

After classes on Saturday, Colby firefighters treated their visitors to a hamburger cookout at the TNT Auction building.

## Council to talk parking

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council will again consider a request by a resident in the vicinity of W. 3rd St. and Copeland to establish no parking on the south side of W. 3rd during the construction when it meets Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

The no parking issue was discussed at the last council meeting, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, but now one property owner is asking that the council reconsider its original decision and invoke the no parking resolution.

The council will also consider approving a new copier for the finance office and bids from Ikon and Office Works will be discussed.

A revised geometric improvement project for 2006 and 2007 involving concrete paving on 4th St. between Franklin and Range Avenues could also be approved by the council at Tuesday's meeting.

There will also be discussion about the 2004 budget and plans to set a public hearing date tentatively for Aug. 5, she said.

Approval could also be given for an engineering proposal for mill and overlay on Range Avenue from Cedar to I-70.

Items on the consent agenda include the following:

- Approval of a request from the Thomas County Emergency Medical Services for its eighth annual Nine-Run-Run event on Saturday, Aug. 2, beginning at 6 a.m.
- The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce has requested the council approve closing Southwind Ave. and Taylor Ave. on Sept. 6, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. for the second annual "Celebration on the High Plains."
- Another request related to street closings will be for the Thomas County fair parade on Aug. 2 at 10 a.m.

The fair board is asking the city to allow them access south on Franklin to 5th St., east on 5th to Lake Ave., south on Lake to 3rd St., west on 3rd St. to Franklin Ave., south on Franklin to Cedar St., and west on Cedar to the fairgrounds.

All meetings are open to the public.

## Fairgrounds selected as the site

## Colby's Bluegrass Festival changing locations

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Once again the 'Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival will be in Colby, but this year at a new location, said Leilani Thomas, director of the Colby Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

"This year the festival will be held at the Thomas County fairgrounds on Friday, Saturday, and

Sunday, July 18-20," Thomas said. "Although this is an outdoor event, the audience will enjoy the comforts of ample shade under a 3,600 square foot canopy with water-cooled fresh air.

There will be 11 bands performing over the three-day event, she said. Those include the Faris Family of Ozarkie; Spontaneous Combustion of Kansas City; High Atmo-

sphere from Colorado Springs; Bluestem of Lawrence; Kansas Heart from Wichita; Scenic Roots of Concordia; and the New Old-Timers of Hill City.

Colby groups include the Wagoner Family, Sappa Strings, Larry Booth and the McLemore Family.

Shows begin Friday at 6 p.m. and will continue through Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 in advance for

adults for the entire weekend, \$10 for youth 12-16, and children under 12 are free with an adult. Day passes are also available at the gate, Thomas said.

For those wanting advance tickets, stop by the Colby Chamber of Commerce, Dave's His Shop, the House of Wood Furniture or City Limits.

For questions or information, call

Thomas at (785) 462-3474 or (800) 611-8835.

"This festival is very family oriented with horse and oxen-drawn wagon rides, kids' make and take crafts, games, craft fair and food booths on the grounds," she said. "There will also be a youth bluegrass contest on Saturday at 10 a.m. and a gospel sing-along on Sunday at 10 a.m."

## Briefly

### Ribbon-cutting announced

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce said today that a ribbon-cutting will be held next Thursday for LINK (Living Independently in Northwest Kansas) at their offices at 505 N. Franklin. The ceremony will take place at 1:30 p.m.

### Levant reunion plans told

The Levant reunion will be held on Sunday, Aug. 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Quality Inn in Colby. Dinner will be served in the restaurant at noon. Contact Elva Livingston for reservations by July 16 so she can give the restaurant a head count.

For information, call (785) 462-6012.

### Car wash to benefit local group

The Community Awareness Team is holding a car wash to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County. The event

will be held all day Saturday, July 19 beginning at 11 a.m. in the Dillon's parking lot.

### Coffee House Night scheduled

The Community Awareness Team is sponsoring a smokefree Coffee House Night at City Limits Convention Center from 8 to 11 p.m. on July 26. Team members invite area poets, musicians and comics to perform at the open microphone. The event is open to the public. For more information, contact j\_cateam@hotmail.com or (785) 462-7188.

### Bluegrass potluck scheduled

A community potluck supper to kick off the "Pickin' on the Plains" bluegrass festival will be held on Thursday, July 17 at 7 p.m. on the cement slab at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Bring a covered dish, table service and then stay for the open jam session. Everyone is welcome.

### School district has new prefix

Colby Public Schools has changed all telephone numbers from the "465" prefix to "460" prefix, said Kirk Nielsen, superintendent. The change went into effect on Tuesday, July 1.

### Library's 'Family Night' date changed

"Family Night" at Pioneer Memorial Library will be held Thursday, said JoAnne Sunderman, librarian. The time of the "Family Night" is 7 p.m. For questions, call the library at 462-4470.

### Mosquito spraying underway

City of Colby crews are spraying for mosquitoes for the remainder of the summer. For those wanting to be notified before crews enter their area, call Jo Strage, executive secretary to the city manager, 462-4410. City officials ask that residents check yards and empty anything that is holding stagnant water.



### Continued hot

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 60s. Northeast wind around 15 mph. Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming southeast late. Tuesday night...A slight chance of thunderstorms until midnight... Otherwise partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s. Chance of rain less than 20 percent. Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s. The forecast is provided by the National Weather Service, all other numbers are supplied by the Northwest Research-Extension Service, Colby.

### By the numbers

Sunday's high, 99  
Low this morning, 59  
Year ago today, 91 and 56  
Records for the date, 109 in 1934, 45 in 1943  
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
Month's precipitation, 0.09  
Year's precipitation to date, 10.96  
2002's precipitation to date, 4.18

### Water Usage/Colby

July 11-12-13 = daily average 3.343 million gallons.

