



COLBY FREE PRESS

Ice and snow result in six area accidents

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Freezing drizzle and a light snow-fall early Sunday was the cause of at least six accidents in and around Thomas County, sending nine people to either the Oakley or Colby hospitals, but none with life-threatening injuries.

Four of the six accidents were handled by the Thomas County Sheriff's office with the other two by the Kansas Highway Patrol.

The first reported, said Mike Baughn, Thomas County undersheriff, occurred when a 17-year-old lost control of his pickup after hitting an icy patch of road just after midnight on Sunday. Quentin Bear of Brewster was traveling north on County Road 2 when his 1990 Chevrolet pickup slid into a ditch and then the embankment. Baughn said there was damage to the vehicle, but Bear was uninjured.

No sooner had deputies worked the first accident, a second report was called in at 1:45 a.m., this time involving 1997 Jeep utility vehicle owned by Jacquelyn Boultinghouse, 47, of Selden.

Baughn said Boultinghouse was traveling west on US 24 when icy conditions caused her vehicle to slide off the road and roll once. Boultinghouse was taken by Thomas County ambulance to Citizens Medical Center where she was treated for minor injuries and released.

The next accident occurred at 3:30 a.m., again on US 24 westbound when Mark Golter, 20, of Colby lost control of his 1991 Ford Explorer after the vehicle went off the road and into a ditch causing damage to the car, but not the driver, Baughn said.

In the fourth incident, also on Sunday morning at 9:05, a 1993 Ford Explorer driven by Timothy Wilson, 30, of Winona, apparently took a curve on County Road A onto County Road 11, or about 15 miles south of Levant, and slid to the west shoulder of the road, rolling the vehicle, which landed on its wheels.

Wilson, along with two other passengers, Karla Wilson, 37, and Aric Grob, 14, also of Winona, were injured and transported by the Thomas County ambulance to Citizens Medical Center in Colby. Condition reports on all three were unavailable today.

In all four incidents, Baughn said the report showed everyone was wearing seatbelts.

At approximately the same times as the accidents in the county, the Kansas Highway Patrol reported two one-vehicle accidents early Sunday morning as well — both involving injuries and both occurring about one hour apart.

In the first accident at 2:15 a.m., a 1990 Chevrolet driven by Miguel Chacon, 21, of Juarez, Mexico, lost control while traveling eastbound on Interstate 70 about four miles west of Oakley. Officials said the accident was caused by the icy conditions which caused the car to overturn and come to rest in the south ditch facing northwest. The driver, along with one other passenger in the car, Victor Morales, 25, also of Juarez, was injured. Both were taken by ambulance to the Logan County Hospital in Oakley for treatment.

Also on Interstate 70 about seven miles west of Oakley, a 1994 Ford driven by Kathleen Carman, 51, of Oakley lost control on the ice. The accident was reported at 3:30 a.m. on Sunday when Carman driving eastbound on I-70 lost control and rolled her car into the south ditch. She, along with two other passengers were injured and taken by ambulance to Logan County Hospital. The other two were David Bolonskie, 51, and Joshua J. Carman, 14, both from Oakley.

In those two accidents, patrol officials reported everyone was wearing seatbelts.

As for accidents within the city, Gary Shull, Colby Police investigator, said there were none, attributing part of the reason to conditions probably not being as slick as other thoroughfares in the county.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Thomas County Red Cross Disaster Services Human Resources volunteer Molly Oliver went over procedures for the county's

emergency response vehicle with prospective volunteers Kenneth Gatlin of Colby and Paul Woodall and Frank Powers of Gove.

Red Cross finds many new volunteers

By **TISHA COX**

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Red Cross Chapter has had a successful drive for volunteers to take out the county's emergency response vehicle during national disasters.

Five of the volunteers received emergency response vehicle training Saturday at the Thomas County Office Complex.

Kenneth Gatlin, Duane Cheney and David Evert of Colby and Frank Powers and Paul Woodall of Gove participated in the session.

Jim and Molly Oliver of Colby conducted the training.

Jim said other volunteers, Amanda Schmidt, Ken Frahm, Vern Hazlett, Taylor Miller and Vic Van Camp were unable to attend.

When the training is finished, there will be 12 new emergency response vehicle volunteers.

The Olivers have been the only two volunteers in 12 counties who are trained and willing to assist with national disasters.

The two last went out to provide support to clean up teams and residents pushed out of their homes in the wake of Hurricane Isabel in September.

The two Red Cross Disaster Services Human Resource volunteers drove the emergency response vehicle to Baltimore, Md. to help out. They were there about two weeks, the standard length of time volunteers are usually gone.

Without more volunteers, the county was in danger of having the vehicle transferred to another chapter.

"They're doing the actual practical, hands-on part of the test," Molly said, which involved driving and parking the vehicle and getting a rundown on all of the protocols for serving food and other necessities out of the truck.

She said the volunteers have had to take several classes and had to go to Nebraska for some training. Ken Frahm is finishing his classes with the Topeka chapter.

Molly said it's an example of how the Red Cross will coordinate to get people trained.

The volunteers have taken a class on mass care and also have received their certification in first aid and CPR.

"We hope that more people will come out," she said. "They won't have to go as much."

Molly said even if people only go to help with one disaster a year, the feeling of satisfaction they receive and knowing they've made a difference makes it all worth it.

The Olivers were also happy two volunteers have come from outside the Thomas County area. Molly said it's the first time anyone outside the county has become a national volunteer. Volunteers from Brewster and the surrounding area are also part of the mix now.

"It's not just a Thomas County/Colby access," she said. "It's northwest Kansas." The five volunteers receiving training Saturday said they signed up because they saw the need for volunteers.

David Evert, who is on the Red Cross board, said he wanted to give something back to the community. "It sounded like a good idea," he said.

Powers and Woodall of Gove volunteered because of the need as well as wanting to represent their county with the Red Cross.

Powers said he's retired and helps his wife deliver meals to seniors from Quinter to Gove so he already has some experience with what he'll be doing as a disaster services volunteer.

Woodall, a pastor, just wanted to help out.

Cheney said he heard about the Red Cross emergency response vehicle during a presentation at Rotary recently.

He volunteered because he wanted to help keep the vehicle in Colby because of its importance to the area and Thomas County.

Gatlin, a member of Thomas County Emergency Medical Services, also wanted to keep the vehicle in the county. "It looked like there was a need and it looked like fun," he said.

Molly said more volunteers for any Red Cross area are always welcome. For information, call 462-7161.



Cold night

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...Partly cloudy, cold, lows +5. Northwest winds 10 mph. **Tuesday...**Partly cloudy. Clear. Highs upper 30s. West winds 10-15 mph. **Tuesday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper teens. West winds 10-15 mph. **Wednesday...**Partly Cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. West winds 5-15 mph.

The numbers

Sunday's high, 32
Low this morning, 11
Records for Jan. 26, 74 in 1920 and -20 in 1950
Year ago today, 33 and 11
Month's precipitation, 0.07
Month's snowfall, 1.5 inch
2003 precipitation to date, trace

Soil temperature, 35

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

'It's a dream come true,' says Colby's new postmaster

By **TISHA COX**

Colby Free Press

The Colby Post Office has a new postmaster.

And it's someone familiar to many Colby residents. Kenton Krehbiel takes over the post officially on Feb. 7. He's currently the Goodland postmaster.

"I started at the Colby office in October 1975 to June of 1997," he

said, which was when he was appointed postmaster in Goodland.

Krehbiel said he's happy to be coming back to Colby but he'll miss the people in Goodland.

"It always



K. Krehbiel

was my dream and goal," he said. "I've fulfilled that right now."

Colby is the mail processing center for the 677 area.

All mail that begins with that number first comes to Colby, where it's processed and sent back out to its respective areas.

Krehbiel said it covers the nine counties in northwest Kansas.

He and his wife Sheila moved to

Colby in 1973 and bought and ran Murphy's Cafe for about a year. They sold the cafe and then he went to work at Boogaarts grocery store..

In April 1975, he decided to take the postal service test and passed and was put on the roster until a position came open.

He spent 28 years in the postal service.

His wife, is a customer service

representative at Sunflower Bank and they have two daughters and one grandson.

Krehbiel is also active in the community as the chairman of the Colby Community College board of trustees and a member of Thomas County/Colby Kiwanis Club.

He said there will be an official installation ceremony at the Colby location and at a later date.

Freezing rain responsible for fatal crash near Hays

TOPEKA (AP) — Freezing drizzle, sleet and snow fell Sunday across parts of Kansas, coating roads with ice and canceling church services and other events.

The Kansas Highway Patrol said the icy conditions played a role in several accidents, including a fatal crash on U.S. 183 near Hays that killed a Colorado man. The patrol

said Alan L. Carnill, 42, of Aurora, Colo., died when the car he was in went out of control on an icy bridge on Kansas 183 early Sunday.

In the Kansas City area, about 30 vehicles were stranded briefly overnight Sunday on an ice-covered Interstate 70 bridge that spans the Kansas-Missouri state line.

Traffic resumed moving after ice

trucks treated the bridge. Several fender-benders contributed to the traffic snarl, said Steve Hoskins, a supervisor in the Kansas City 911 center.

A patrol dispatcher said there were a handful of reports of vehicles sliding off the side of the road or into barrier walls on the Kansas Turnpike.

The storm moved into the state about midnight Saturday, bringing freezing rain to northeast and north-central Kansas. Rain fell across much of the rest of the state, said Matt Wolters, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Wolters said there were isolated reports of downed limbs and power lines in northeast Kansas.

Dozens of churches from Lawrence to the Kansas City area told members to avoid the slick roads and stay home.

And in Manhattan, concerns about the weather prompted Kansas State University to postpone Monday's scheduled Landon Lecture by Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

Briefly

Girl Scouts to begin selling cookies

The Colby Girl Scouts started taking orders for cookies last week, said Shannon Koon, service unit manager. The annual cookie drive will continue through Friday, Feb. 6, she said, and many of the favorites will be available, along with a new type of cookie this year. No money will be collected until delivery, which will be announced at a later date. In case a scout misses someone, Koon encourages them to call her at (785) 460-6662 prior to the deadline.

Senior center holding elections

The Senior Progress Center will have election of officers at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday. Four board member positions will

be filled. Those running are Dora Hopson, Willie Engelhardt, Rick Tremblay, Emma Rogers, Merle Wolf and Maxine Jones. This meeting is open to the public and will be conducted by Kansas Legal Services of Hays. For information, call 460-2901.

College auditions start tonight

The drama department at Colby Community College will conduct auditions for the spring play tonight and Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. in the Frahm Theatre located in the Cultural Arts Center on campus. Auditions are open to students and the community. The spring production will be a full-length, nonmusical play. Performance dates for the production are Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 22-24. Rehearsals will

begin Sunday, Feb. 22. For questions, call Deb Bickner at 462-3984, ext. 300.

Colby schools plan auction

Colby Public Schools will be holding a surplus action at the Dennen Football field in the southeast corner starting at 1 p.m., Friday, said Kirk Nielsen, superintendent. A public viewing at noon on Friday is also planned. Item at the auction range from cabinets, chairs, desks and doors to scrap metal, trash cans, fans and more. All items are "as is" and payment will be due the day of the sale, Nielsen said. For a complete list of items that will be auctioned, call 460-5000 or stop by the administration building, located on the corner of Third and Grant Streets..

