



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Five are injured Saturday

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

A wreck at Fourth and Range in Colby Saturday that injured five people, caused the intersection to be closed down for more than an hour, said Gary Shull, an investigator with the Colby Police Department.

The wreck happened at 6:25 p.m. when a 1996 Plymouth minivan driven by Ohio D. Aumiller, 61, was struck by a 1986 Ford Bronco driven by Dalene R. Rowley, 25, of Gem.

Shull said witnesses said Aumiller ran the stop light at the intersection.

The Aumillers were headed south on Range and Rowley was driving west on Fourth when the minivan was hit. It spun 180 degrees, coming to rest in the southeast corner of the intersection, said Shull. The Bronco skidded to a halt facing in the opposite direction.

Aumiller and his wife, Delores, 70, of Colby, were taken by separate ambulances to Citizens Medical Center. Rowley and her two passengers, Eric Baker, 32, and Roxanne Baker, 28, were also transported by ambulance to the hospital.

Gwen Young at Citizens Medical Center said all five people were treated and released.

Shull said the clean-up after the accident took more than an hour. Both vehicles were extensively damaged.

"It was just a mess," he said, adding it took time to take measurements at the scene and to get every thing cleared away. The intersection was closed down along with the street a block in each direction.

The Thomas County Sheriff's Office and officers from the Kansas Highway Patrol helped direct traffic after the accident.

'Come here little fishy'



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Jaden Reeh played at the duck races during the annual Sacred Heart School Carnival Sunday. Principal Dave Evert said there was a "tremendous" turnout with 600-800 people coming to the carnival. He said the raffle raised \$26,000. The goal was \$17,415. Four students sold more than 100 raffle books each and they were Emilea Finley, Kelsey Voss, Reed Stephens and Caitlin Wark. The fifth grade class was the top-selling class with the second grade coming in second.

Public input requested on wastewater site

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Public input will be wanted for the design, location, and construction of the wastewater treatment facilities when the Colby City Council meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, at City Hall, 585 N. Franklin.

Participation from the public is a requirements by the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Program, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager.

"Thaniel Monaco of Miller and Associates (Nebraska)," Armstrong said, "will be here to answer questions and update the council on the funding alternatives for the project."

In addition to the updates from Miller and Associates, the council is expected to consider approval of a contract with the company for the wastewater treatment plant and sewer main improvements after money is secured for the project.

Depending on what action the council should take with respect to the wastewater treatment facility, the next agenda item would be on scheduling sewer main improvements for south Colby.

The council will also be recognizing a middle school student who won the an essay contest sponsored by the Kansas League of Municipalities.

Nate Horinek, an eighth grade student at Colby Middle School, was the Northwest Regional winner in the statewide contest with his submission of "If I Were a Mayor."

Armstrong said Horinek was invited to the council meeting so that members could congratulate him personally and also hear him read his winning essay.

The council could also authorize the acquisition of electric service territory from Midwest Energy in the area south of College Drive and north of Willow from Range Ave. to Country Club Drive, along with discussing street improvements for S. Franklin and Willow.

The street improvement project would involve sewer main extension and acquiring more service territory with the city making improvements to those streets mentioned.

According to Armstrong, on Franklin, south of Davis, and on Willow east of the Holiday Inn Express, the current road is about 2 to 2 1/2 inches of asphalt.

"These areas had an overlay in the past, but we have never actually developed a street with the proper base," she said. Wal-Mart representatives are willing to pay for some of the improvements with more details being provided at this week's meeting.

Other agenda items include reviewing a site plan for a shopping center (Wal-Mart) and the requested annexation that would go with that plan, along with a notice to increase Southwestern Bell and S & T franchise fees for telephone lines effective July of 2004. Consent agenda items include three approvals of new daycare home occupation applications for Jin's Home Daycare at 360 N. Riddle (Jin Rotherham); The Little Explorer's Daycare (Jennifer Boell) at 1455 W. 4th St., and Brier Patch Daycare (Kimberly Brier) at 335 W. 6th St.

All council meetings are open to the public. For questions or to obtain an agenda, call Jo Strange, executive secretary, at 462-4410.

Opponents to Sunday liquor sales in quandary

TOPEKA (AP) — Opposition to Sunday alcohol sales in Kansas is a moral issue to some legislators, yet few have been willing to invoke religion or morality as they argue against the idea.

Instead, senators who oppose Sunday sales argue that such sales will lead to more drunks on the highways, increase access to alcohol for underage drinkers and take away the only day off for mom-and-pop liquor store owners.

Those all are legitimate arguments.

But some legislators making them oppose Sunday sales because the policy would deviate from a long-standing Kansas tradition that goes back well before Carry Nation, whose temperance crusade against illegal saloons in the early 1900s earned her national renown.

During the session, religious values have dominated a debate over banning gay marriage in the Kansas Constitution, but similarly indignant voices of morality are mostly muted when it comes to Sunday

sales. Sen. Stan Clark, an Oakley Republican who opposes Sunday sales on moral grounds, acknowledged that legislators are leery of waving the banner of religion in fighting against looser liquor laws.

"The feeling for some was that it would do more harm than good," he said recently, after the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee voted 5-4 to send a bill permitting Sunday sales to the full Senate. The bill failed, stripped of its Sunday sales provisions, failed last week.

But proponents also aren't using the argument that forbidding sales of a legal product on Sunday violates the separation of church and state. Only the Kansas Beer Wholesalers Association made that case.

"The primary reason for prohibiting package sales on Sundays is an ancient adherence to a belief that activity — including purchasing, working and consuming — should be curtailed on the Christian sabbath," association spokesman Neil Whitaker told senators.

One of the few lawmakers who hasn't shied away from religious arguments against Sunday sales is Republican Sen. Bob Lyon, a structural engineer from Winchester. Last week, when the Senate debated the issue, he implored his colleagues to consider what the Bible had to say.

"In reality, it's a Sabbath day issue that goes back to the Fourth Commandment. That's where this law and all blue laws have their roots," Lyon said on Friday.

Kerry's strength grows with Wisconsin primary Tuesday

MILWAUKEE (AP) — John Kerry says he will "do the work" necessary to win Wisconsin's Democratic presidential primary Tuesday, even though he has a hefty lead in the polls and emerged largely unscathed from debate with rivals trying to make a likely last stand.

Howard Dean and John Edwards were given several chances to criticize Kerry during a 90-minute debate Sunday night, but they seldom took advantage.

Dean in particular was uncharacteristically lenient on his leading rival. At one point, Dean rose to defend Kerry from Republican attacks that he is beholden to special interests, even though Dean himself has leveled similar charges.

"I think George Bush has some nerve attacking anybody about special interests," the former Vermont

governor said. Dean, still winless after 16 Democratic nominating contests, has said he would make a stand in the Wisconsin primary but is trailing Kerry.

Some of his supporters, including his national campaign chairman, are urging him to quit. But the former Vermont governor insisted Sunday, "We are not bowing out."

Edwards also resisted suggestions that the contest is over.

"Not so fast, John Kerry," the North Carolina senator said after his Massachusetts colleague declared he would beat Bush. "We're going to have an election here in Wisconsin this Tuesday. And we've got a whole group of primaries coming up. And I, for one, intend to fight with everything I've got for every one of those votes."

Kerry, winner of 14 contests, said he's prepared for GOP attacks. "I

am ready for what they throw at me," he said with all the confidence that he will win the nomination.

But when he stopped by a nearby pub where supporters had just finished watching the debate, he warned that the contest is not yet over.

"I don't care what the polls say," Kerry said. "There's only one way to make certain of an outcome in an election."

Briefly

Commissioners meet Tuesday

The Thomas County Courthouse was closed today in observance of Presidents' Day, thus county commissioners will meet on Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the courthouse. The meeting is open to the public. No agenda was available.

Benefit supper for preschool planned

Kappa Upsilon, a local sorority, is sponsoring a soup supper on Friday from 5 to 7:30 p.m., at the Colby Community Building when Colby takes on Atwood in basketball action. The menu will include chili, chicken noodle, and vegetable soups, along with cinnamon rolls, cookies and drinks. The cost is free-will donation with proceeds going to benefit PuddleDuck Pre-School.

First aid, CPR classes Thursday

There will be a first aid class on Thursday beginning at 6 p.m. and an adult, child, infant CPR class on Thursday, Feb.

26 at 6 p.m. Classes will be held at the Red Cross, 350 S. Range in Colby. Call (785) 462-7161 to register.

School board meets tonight

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. tonight in the board room of the Administration meeting. Items on the agenda include approval of consent agenda, construction projects and the high school woods class, a curriculum presentation at the high school, reports from the principals and superintendent, resignations, employment recommendations, administrative contract extensions and negotiations. The meeting is open to the public.

Tax help available

AARPTax Aide help is now available on Mondays and will continue through April 15 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the meeting room at Pioneer Memorial Library. On Wednesdays, help will be available on simple tax forms from 1-3 p.m. at the Senior Progress Center. For information, call Alvin Volk at

462-2645 or Lela or Don German at 460-3062.

Rotary soup supper Tuesday

The annual Colby Rotary soup supper will be from 5 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, during the Colby High School basketball game against Goodland at the Colby Community Building. All proceeds from this event go to benefit various organizations. Tickets will be available at the door.

Kindergarten enrollment next week

Kindergarten pre-enrollment for the 2004-2005 school year will be held at Colby Grade School on Wednesday, Feb. 25 from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in the conference room. Call (785) 460-1500 for questions.

Landfill hours for winter

The Thomas County landfill is operating on its winter hours, said Larry Jumper, supervisor. The hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Much warmer

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...Partly cloudy.

Lows around 20. Northwest winds 5 to 10 mph.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Warmer.

Highs in the upper 50s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday night...Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Not as cool. Lows around 30. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain showers in the afternoon. Cooler. Highs in the lower 50s.

The numbers Sunday's high, 36

Low this morning, 16

Records for Feb. 16, 72 in 1898 and -11 in 1903

Year ago today, 47 and 9

February 2004 precipitation, 0.27 inches

February 2004 snowfall, 6 inches

Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00

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.

