



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Friends, others grieve loss of Senator Clark

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

State Sen. Stan Clark, R-Oakley, will be missed by more than just the people who knew him in the political arena. In Oakley, the community where he lived and worked, residents talked about the man who served as their senator for the 40th District and also photographed many families and commu-



Sen. Stan Clark

nity events. Sen. Clark was a professional photographer by trade.

Lloyd Theimer said Sen. Clark was a good friend.

"We were very close and I had talked to him a couple of weeks ago," Theimer said.

Clark's wife and son, Ruth and Willie, were at the Theimer's 60th wedding anniversary celebration Saturday at the Quality Inn in Colby.

Theimer said Willie explained his father would have liked to have been at the celebration but couldn't make it because of an appointment in Hays.

He said Sen. Clark will be missed.

"Stan was an outstanding and brilliant person as far as government was con-

cerned," Theimer said. "He had an ambition to correct things in government. He dedicated his life and heart to the job of doing that."

He said it will be hard to find someone as dedicated to fill Sen. Clark's shoes.

"It will be a great loss to the state of Kansas, the community, and a great loss to all of his friends," Theimer said.

Penny Pfeifer, one of the owners of Oakley Farm and Home Center, said Sen. Clark will be "greatly missed" by the community, not only because of his service as a state senator but also by the many families who knew him through his photography business.

"He will be remembered often through

the many photos that he has taken of our family's milestone events — first communion, confirmation, graduations and countless suppers with Santa pictures," Pfeifer said.

Sharon Beougher knew Sen. Clark for many years.

"We really lost a great man that represented western Kansas with integrity and honesty," Beougher said. "I knew him probably all of his life. You can't say enough good things about him."

She said adults in the community weren't the only people who respected Sen. Clark. Beougher said kids of different ages liked and respected the senator, who taught photography to 4-H groups.

Her own children learned from Sen. Clark when Beougher was a 4-H photo leader when she lived in Grinnell. She said he taught her group photography along with his own.

"He was good with all of them," Beougher said.

Even before his political career, she said Sen. Clark took part in parades, riding his unicycle. She said he also farmed.

"He was a very versatile person," Beougher said.

Jim Robben also knew the senator. He said the two went to high school together, with Clark graduating a year ahead in 1973.

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## Replacement search beginning

The death of state Sen. Stan Clark on Saturday means the Republican party in his 40th District needs to call a convention to nominate someone to fill his place through mid-January.

Jesse Borjon, communications director with the Kansas secretary of state's office, said he planned to send out notification Monday to William V. Adams, Thomas County Republican party chairman. He will receive notice because Thomas County has the largest number of voters in the 15-county district.

Mr. Adams will then be responsible for notifying the other 14 counties in Sen. Clark's district.

The 15 county chairs will notify their precinct committee men and women and a convention will be held.

Mr. Adams said Mr. Borjon will have 21 days from notification to hold the convention.

As Thomas County chair, he will call the meeting to order. The members will elect a chairman for the convention and adopt rules.

Everyone will get a chance to vote by secret ballot.

Mr. Borjon said the quorum requirement to take any action will be a third of the precinct committee men and women in the entire Senate district.

The nominee who receives the majority of the votes will win, he

said.

Mr. Borjon said it will be up to Mr. Adams to send the results to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and then she will make the appointment. Gov. Sebelius will send notification to the secretary of state's office, and the oath and certificate of office will be sent from there.

Once the oath is taken and signed, everything becomes official. The nominee will serve until the new Legislature convenes in January, then be replaced by whoever is elected to the seat in November.

Mr. Borjon said there are some requirements to be a senator. The person must be over 18 years old, a citizen of the United States and a resident of the district.

Sen. Clark had filed for the upcoming election. He would have met Dan Rasure of Goodland in the primary on Tuesday, Aug. 3. Mr. Borjon said Monday morning the filing had become null and void under state law.

Anyone who is interested in filing can do so up to noon on Thursday, June 10.

There is a filing fee and a form to be filled out. Mr. Borjon said candidates filing for the Senate have to do so at the secretary of state's office in Topeka.

He said he has received several calls about what happens to the seat since Sen. Clark's death.

## Remembering with gratitude, pride



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

More than 75 people gathered at either Beulah Cemetery or Sacred Heart Cemetery on Monday to pay tribute to the men and women in the armed services who have made the supreme sacrifice by giving their lives to peace. Daren Guy (at the microphone), lead the Memorial Day service and spoke about hope for the future and the deep appreciation of the past for service

members. Also standing on the platform (left to right) are Jim Griffin, Betty Brenn and Jim Vap, either representing Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion or their auxiliaries. In the foreground are two of the four members making up the Color Guard. They are: Jennifer Kreigh, National Guard, and Sean Hankin, retired U.S. Navy.

## Senator Clark one of two killed in dust storm Saturday

By GREG STOVER

The Goodland Star-News

GOODLAND — Winds up to 90 m.p.h. and dust so thick one lawman reported he couldn't "see his hand in front of his face" dimmed the sky Saturday afternoon, killing the area's state senator and a Denver man in accidents on I-70.

The first wreck, about seven miles east of Goodland just after 5 p.m., killed a Denver man, while the other, about nine miles east of Oakley, killed state Sen. Stan Clark.

Sen. Clark died in the westbound lane of I-70 between mile post 84 and 85. The Kansas Highway Patrol said a Marten semi-trailer truck driven by Edward Williams, 36, Syracuse, N.Y., slowed down and was moving onto the right shoulder because of poor visibility just after 6 p.m. The driver reported hearing a collision ahead.

By Tuesday, troopers had decided taht Clark's 1997 Chrysler four-door sedan, struck the trailer

ahead before being hit by a following truck. The other semi, a CFI truck driven by Donald DeCarr of Yuma, Ariz., drove the Chrysler under the trailer of the first rig.

Clark was pronounced dead at the scene, and his body was taken to the Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home in Oakley. Neither semi driver was injured. All three drivers were wearing seat belts.

The first accident happened around 5:10 p.m. (Mountain Time) on the eastbound lane of I-70 about halfway between mile post 25 and 26, about eight miles east of Goodland and about two miles west of the Edison exit.

The Highway Patrol reported that a 2001 Cadillac four-door sedan driven by Pauline Stewart, 74, of Denver stopped in the left lane when dust obscured the road. Several other cars were stopped on both shoulders.

A semi-trailer rig driven by Edward Brown, 50, Commerce City,

Colo., struck the Cadillac in the rear. Dead at the scene was Hubert Stewart, 72, a passenger in the sedan, who was taken to Koons Funeral Home. His brother, Herbert Stewart, 74, also a passenger in the sedan, was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center. Pauline Stewart, Herbert's wife, was not injured. Neither Brown nor a passenger, Dianna Ward, also of Commerce City, was injured. All five people were wearing their seat belts.

Tod Hileman, public resources officer for Troop D in northwest Kansas, said there were two other accidents caused by the winds and dust. The other two were one vehicle accidents with no injuries. The Interstate was closed from W. Keeney to the state line for about two hours, Hileman said. The Colorado State Patrol closed I-70 east of Burlington.

Blowing dust caused a three-car accident about 4:55 p.m. a mile

south of Goodland on K-27. Deputy Sheriff Burton Pianalto worked the accident; the highway was closed because of the blowing dust and poor visibility.

Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson said Tuesday the accident occurred at mile post 169, when a 1997 Ford pickup drive by Rivera Ornelas, 28, of Aurora, Colo., slowed and was struck in the rear by a 1985 Chevy driven by Cathy Eddleman, 39, of Goodland.

The pickup had three passengers, Anelia Ponce, 33; the driver's daughter, Yahazra Ornelas, 7; and son, Noel Ornelas, 1, all of Aurora. All were taken to the hospital, where they were checked and released.

The Chevy had four passengers, Paul Eddleman, 44, and the couple's three children, son, Doug, 15; daughter, Johana, 18; and son, Joseph, 11. Johana Eddleman was injured and was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center.

The Chevy spun off into the ditch after hitting the pickup, and then a 1999 Chevy pickup driven by Brian Grilliot, of Syracuse, struck the pickup in the rear.

A passenger in the 1999 Chevy was Jaden Grilliot.

Sheriff Whitson said there was a two-car accident on I-70 at Milepost 25 at 6:03 p.m., near where the Denver man was killed.

A 2004 Dodge van driven by Guadalupe V. Underkofler, 60, of Evanston, Wyo., was stopped on the highway because of the accident in front of it when it was struck in the rear by a 1999 Ford utility vehicle driven by Bruce Ferguson, 46, of Ransom.

There were three passengers in the 2004 Dodge, a daughter, Tierney Underkofler, 12; son, Izok, 11; and daughter, Bryanne, 11.

There were two passengers in the Ford, Donald Wickman, 23, and Debra Wickman, 23 both of Greenville, S.C. There were no injuries.



### Continued warm Colby-Oakley-Hoxie

**Tonight...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s. East winds 10 to 15 mph. **Thursday...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 80s. South winds 10 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph. **Thursday night...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 10 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph. **Friday...**Partly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 80s. South winds 15 to 20 mph. **Friday night...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s.

**The numbers**  
Tuesday's high, 83  
Low this morning, 56  
Records for June 2, 105 in 2002 and 33 in 1969  
Year ago today, 80 and 54  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, trace  
June total, trace  
Soil temperature, 71  
**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.

## Briefly

### Change in billing software

The City of Colby has switched utility billing software. The bills will be mailed out on June 1, 2004, and are now in letter form, not on postcards. Please look them over carefully and call 462-4410 if you have any questions.

### Cemetery items can be retrieved

Paul Baird, the caretaker at Beulah Cemetery, said he has gathered most, if not all, the flowers and wreaths laid on the graves of loved ones following strong winds this past week-end. Anyone suspecting their arrangements might have blown away during the high winds is asked to stop by the shop building on the southwest corner of the cemetery and check for items that are in the pickup truck parked near the building. All flowers and wreaths that were blown from their locations will be available for retrieval until noon on Friday.

### Quilters Guild opens meeting to all

Dr. Bryan Grove, art instructor at Emporia State University, will be speaking at the Colby Community Building (basement) starting at 7:30 p.m., Monday, June 21. The program is one of the regular monthly meetings of the Kansas Prairie Quilters Guild. Grove will talk on the subject of "Kansas Landscape and Design," said Kathy Cayton, one of the coordinators. The public is invited and there will be an administrative charge. For questions, call 460-2161.

### College pool reopens today

The Colby Community College swimming pool reopened today. As a reminder to everyone about the hours of operation, college officials said, lap swimming is from Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Open Swimming is Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m.

### Meal delivery available

The Senior Progress Center in Colby delivers meals to the homebound. For those with a physical or social disability and who are certified by the Homestead Nutrition project qualified assessor, they will be eligible. For questions or to learn more about the program, call either Donna Schielke, director of the center, 460-2901 or the Homestead director at (800) 432-7422.

### West Nile tips issued

The Thomas County Health Department is reminding everyone to be aware of the West Nile Virus and mosquito population through prevention efforts. For example, when outdoors officials said to use a repellent with DEET and extra clothing. Off brand bug spray has proven to be the best repellent and it comes in all strengths for children and adults, said Juanita Dewey, administrator at Thomas County Health.



