



COLBY FREE PRESS

50¢

Thursday

April 30, 2009

Volume 120, Number 68

Serving Thomas County since 1888

8 pages

Baby born on Greyhound loses fight

By Tom Betz
Goodland Star-News
A Brewster ambulance crew rushed to meet a Greyhound bus eastbound on I-70 late Monday night after the driver reported a woman on the bus about to have a baby.

Emergency medical technicians who met the bus two miles west of the Sherman/Thomas county found a passenger doing cardiopulmonary resuscitation on a baby born about 15 weeks prematurely. Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts said the 911 emergency call went to Thomas County, but was relayed to Goodland dispatch because the bus was about two miles inside Sherman County. Ambulances from both Goodland and Brewster were dispatched.

Sherman County sheriff's Deputy Jason Showalter arrived just before the Brewster ambulance, Butts said. Showalter's report said a passenger, Morina Paxton, was doing CPR on the baby and continued until the ambulance arrived and the emergency crew took over.

The first call came in about 10:40 p.m. The next report was that the baby was not breathing, and that the mother was bleeding. The baby was declared dead at Citizens' Medical Center in Colby. The report indicates the baby, a boy, was born prematurely, at about 24 weeks. Before the ambulances arrived, people on the bus reported the baby was breathing, but appeared to be in distress and had not cried.

Butts identified the mother as Ashley Macklin, 21, of St. Louis. He said the bus was traveling east and Colby was the next stop. A Citizens Medical Center spokesman said the mother was admitted to the hospital early Tuesday and released on Wednesday. The report from Citizens Medical Center reported the ambulance with mother and baby arrived at 12:05 a.m., at which time the baby was declared dead. Sheriff Butts said they had no further information on the mother or on what happened to the child.

License law aims to keep teenagers safe

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkanas.com
Teens are involved in a disproportionate amount of car wrecks in Kansas despite being only a small portion of our states driving population. A study done by the Kansas Department of Transportation showed that while teenagers make up only 7 percent of the driving population in Kansas, they are involved in 20 percent of all car crashes and 13 percent of all fatal crashes. In an attempt to decrease this problem former Kansas Governor signed into law a graduate license bill that puts restrictions on teens getting unrestricted drivers licenses.

James R. Hanni, executive vice president for public affairs of the Kansas region of the American Automobile Association spoke to the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau about the bill. The law, which goes into effect on Jan. 1st.

- Raises the age where teens can get an unrestricted driver's license from 16 to 17.
- Forbids drivers under 17 from using cell phones behind the wheel.
- Prohibits drivers between 15 and 16 1/2 from driving after 9 p.m., unless they are going to a job or school-related activity.
- Makes teenagers wait six months after they get their license before they qualify for unrestricted driving. It also only allows drivers to have one non-sibling in the car with them at a time.

Kansas was the second to last state to pass the graduated license legislation. North Dakota is the only state that has not adopted a similar law.

See "LICENSE," Page 3

Prairie orchestra holds final concert

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will hold its last concert of the season at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, at the Frahm Theater on the Colby Community College campus. The orchestra will be conducted by Stacey Williams, Colby Middle School band teacher. Featured soloist at the end-of-the-season concert is Dr. David Younger of Goodland, playing "Fiddle-Fad-dle" on the viola. Other pieces will include "The Great Locomotive Chase," "Phantom of the Op-

era," a Beatles medley and many more. The orchestra, which began nearly 30 years ago, provides live classical concerts in area communities. It is made up of musicians of all ages from around the area. Admission to the concert, "A Musical Kaleidoscope," is by Friends of the Orchestra membership or at the door, \$7 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors. For information, go to www.prairieorchestra.com



Colby Rotary member Ken Wells watched Fernando Arminio admire a horse at the college farm on Tuesday while Aide Yolanda de la Pena Mata and Nadia Saltero looked on. Yolanda del la Pena Mata, Arminio and Saltero were visiting Colby as part of a Group Study Exchange Program sponsored by the Colby Rotary Club.

Exchange program opens eyes

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkanas.com
Six up-and-coming Mexican business people and educators visited Colby on Tuesday to get a feel of what life is like in the Oasis on the Plains. Members of the Colby and Sharon Springs Rotary clubs let the group around. The six are on a Group Study Exchange trip sponsored by Rotary International. The exchange program provides travel grants to business people 25 to 40 to visit another country for four to six weeks. They can see how their professions are practiced abroad while exchanging ideas with Rotarians in the host country. The program pro-

vides the airline ticket and the host clubs cover the meals, lodging and group travel within their district. Visiting Tuesday were Aida Yolanda de la Peña Mata (the team leader), Cristina Galvan, Fernando Arminio, Nadia Soltero and Alejandro Lugo. They were escorted by Colby Rotary member Nick Wells to sights around town, including the Colby Community College farm, the new fire station and Red River Commodities, Colby Implement and Wal-Mart. They were also given a tour of the campus, said Wells. "They study methods they learn in the United States of America, and share them with their peers when they return to Mexico," he said.

The group members pursue different careers in their country. De la Pena Mata produces organic fertilizers, Galvan works for the family business as a supervisor and is a coach-trainer and a cosmetology student, Arminio is studying for a master's degree in criminal law, Soltero is learning about risk management and Lugo's main interest is learning how administrative areas work in enterprises, such as communication and advertisement. The Colby Rotary Club is part of district 5670 which sponsors people from foreign countries each year, Wells said. He said they hosted a group from Japan last year.

See "EXCHANGE," Page 3



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Jaron Cox and Vicky Bange paired up to practice moves at a self-defense class Saturday afternoon at Colby Community College.

Coach teaches more than self-defense

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkanas.com
Four Colby residents knocked each other down over and over again Saturday afternoon at the Colby Community College campus as two instructors cheered them on. One of the men pushed a women down to the blue mat on several times. The instructors urged him not to go easy on her. They weren't promoting violence, of course, just teaching the group how to take care of themselves. Tae Kwon Do instructor Christine Zejda taught the class with help from Harvey Holmes, a first degree black belt in the marital arts skill. Vicky Bange, who is in charge of student accounts at the college; James Benson, a Colby volunteer fire-

fighter; and two students, freshman Ryan Downing and sophomore Jaron Cox, took the all-day class, which will be offered again at 9 a.m. Saturday at the student union. Throughout the afternoon, the four studied different tactics they could use if they were attacked. These included hip throws and joint locks, Zejda said. Downing and Cox both said they had experience in self-defense tactics because they had been active in Tae Kwon Do. Downing said he had acquired an orange belt and Cox a master brown belt. That is two levels below a black belt, said Zejda. Both worked hard to help Bange and Benson learn the basics. Zejda said the two novices picked things up pretty quick. She said she tries to keep things simple in her

classes so ordinary people can learn how to defend themselves. She said the key to combating an attack is to be aware of your surroundings, to be calm and to be aggressive. A passive response can a problem for some people trying to defend themselves, she said. "You can't be a nice victim," she said. "You have to be an aggressive victim." Zejda said she teaches through the college and has had students as young as 5. Seeing people reach their goals is her favorite part about being an instructor, she said. She added that Tae Kwon Do helps people gain confidence because they know they can defend themselves if they are ever attacked. To enroll in the class Saturday, call the college admissions office at 460-4690.

Briefly

'Wise Up' blood tests available
Wise Up, Count Down participants can get their wrap-up (fasting) blood test from 6 to 9 a.m. this week or next, through Friday, May 8, at Citizens Medical Center Lab. This is your chance to see how your hard work and healthier diet has "counted down" your numbers. For those who had blood work in January, this testing is free. If you did not get the blood test then, the fee is \$10 fee. For questions, call Diann Gerstner at 460-4582.

Former Colby doctor to talk
There will be a public "meet and greet" for Dr. Peter Burgos, a former Colby physician, and his family from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the Heartland Christian School, 1995 W. Fourth St. Come hear Dr. Burgos talk about his medical work in Asia at the 10:45 a.m. Sunday service at the Colby Wesleyan Church. For more information, call 462-8391.

Child safety fair Saturday
A child safety fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday on the Wal-Mart parking lot, and sponsored by Wal-Mart. Certified child passenger safety seat technicians from Smart Start, Kansas Highway Patrol, and organizations who deal with child safety laws, will be available to inspect and give information on car seats. The Child Identification Program will be providing voice, DNA, and photo identification kits for parents. The Colby Fire Department and the Regional Prevention Center will be available. All services are free. For information, call 465-9103 or 443-3715.

Baptist women plan craft day
The women of the First Baptist Church plan a crafting get-together from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the church fellowship hall. Come get together with others for fellowship, work on projects or learn how

to do some new crafts. There will be a demonstration on card embroidery and iris paper folding, with supplies available. Samples are on display at Colby Photo. Snacks and refreshments provided. For information, call 462-2967 or 462-2336.

Thrivent to work at home
Members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be cleaning and preparing a planting site from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Prairie Senior Living Center and then plant flowers 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday. This is a "Join Hands" project in conjunction with the citywide clean up. For questions, call 460-2443.

Women's group offers aid
Women who have graduated from a Thomas County high school and will be a junior or senior in college 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 are eligible for scholarships from the Colby Branch of the American

Association of University Women. Deadline is June 1. Applications are available at the Pioneer Memorial Library or can e-mail wildcat4@st-tel.net. For information, call 462-2272.

Carriers to collect food May 9
Colby letter carriers will be collecting nonperishable food donations along their routes Saturday, May 9, for delivery to the Genesis-Thomas County Food Bank in the annual "Stamp Out Hunger" drive. The National Association of Letter Carriers, the carriers' union, says this is the largest one-day food drive in the nation. Donations should be placed by the mailbox before the mail is delivered. For questions, call Sharlene Scheck, 462-6616.

