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Rexford grad killed in elevator fall

By Julie K. Samuelson
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A 21-year-old Sharon Springs man was killed early Tuesday morning when he fell 50 feet into an elevator tube partially filled with corn at the grain elevator where he worked.

The fall killed Brett Spreser, a 2007 Golden Plain High School graduate, according to officials at the scene, but the grain made recovering his body difficult.

The elevator is owned and operated by United Plains Ag, a division of CHS, formerly Cenex Harvest States.

Wallace County Sheriff Larry Townsend said "all units" were dispatched to the site at 8:35 a.m. Rescue workers managed to re-

cover the body around noon. Townsend said later that the man accidentally stepped into a hole at the top of the elevator used to fill the bins. He couldn't say why the hatch was open.

"Brett was a good man and our sympathies and prayers go to the family," said the sheriff.

Townsend said that rescue teams from the CHS crew and from Greeley and Wichita counties assisted in the recovery as well as Wallace County fire and ambulance crews and law enforcement officers.

Spreser grew up in Gem and played football for Garden City Community College after graduating from Golden Plains. Services are pending with the Koons Funeral Home in Sharon Springs and Goodland, (785) 890-3900.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

This sport utility vehicle was the second vehicle to hit a farm compactor that fell off a trailer on I-70 15 miles west of Colby on Friday night. There were no injuries in the vehicle, but the driver of the first car was severely injured.

Goodland woman injured in wreck

By Tom Betz
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A Goodland woman was injured in an unusual accident Friday night when her car hit a piece of farm equipment that had fallen from a trailer on Interstate 70 about two miles east of the Sherman County line.

About 9:58 p.m., Colby police, sheriff's deputies, state troopers, ambulances from Colby and Brewster and Colby fire and rescue crews were called to an accident near milepost 40, where two vehicles had hit a farm compactor that had fallen off a trailer.

The first report came in that "multiple" vehicles were involved, prompting dispatchers to send pretty much everyone on duty out to the scene.

Troopers said the first car to hit the compactor was a 2003 Chevrolet Cavalier driven by Peggy A. Bagley, 49, Goodland. She was taken to Citizen's Medical Cen-



State troopers, ambulance, fire and rescue workers were called to the scene of an accident caused by this farm compactor, which fell off a trailer Friday night.

ter in Colby and then flown to Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, where she is being treated for a long list of injuries.

Trooper Andy Schippers of the Kansas Highway Patrol reported that the Cavalier was eastbound when it hit the compactor. He said the car went across the median to

the south, across the westbound lanes and into the north ditch. It came to rest facing northeast.

A second vehicle, a white sport-utility, hit the compactor later, but there were no injuries in that crash, handled by another trooper.

Her boss said Bagley suffered

a broken back and ribs, a crushed right hip, tail bone and knee and a broken right leg and ankle. Surgery has been done on the knee and ankle, using rods and pins. On the left side, she had a dislocated hip and knee that have been put back into place.

She had internal bleeding, but doctors were hoping to do hip surgery Tuesday. The doctors have found bone fragments near her bladder and are waiting on a specialist to check on that.

She is expected to be in rehabilitation for three to four months, said Edith Blume, manager of the Presto Convenience Store in Goodland. She said Bagley told her over the phone the doctors expect it to be a year before she is walking.

Donation cans have been put out at Presto and the Conoco convenience store in Goodland to help with her medical and utility bills and rent, Blume said.

Driving hazard



STEVE HAYNES/Colby Free Press

Colby Police Officer Donnie Valles stands watch while city worker Marty Carman cleans up spilled nails from Fourth Street on Friday. The nails were spilled in front of Love's convenience store.

New pastor settling in at Lutheran church

By Aubrey Spencer
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Trinity Lutheran Church in Colby installed and welcomed a new pastor, Robert Alexander, earlier this month.

Pastor Alexander, with his wife Lori and son Robbie, 13, moved to Colby from Clayton, Ill., where he served as pastor of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the last 8 1/2 years. Alexander said that, come September, he will have been in ministry for 25 years, serving also in Blackwell, Okla., Galva, Iowa, and Palmer, Neb.

Since his June 5 arrival in Colby, the pastor said, he has been making a concerted effort to visit and get to know the members of

his congregation.

"We are off to a good start here," he said. "I see good things going on and we plan to keep on doing good things."

The pastor said getting settled in Colby has actually been somewhat overwhelming, due in large part to the town's size. The other towns he's lived in were usually about 400 people, so Colby seems like the big city, he said.

"This has been quite a change for our whole family," Alexander said. "We are trying to get to know people, learn where to shop, and trying to stay in touch with all the things going on in town."

Alexander said he was born in Wisconsin and grew up in Wilton, Iowa. After high school, he went

to school to become a draftsman.

While there, he drew military draft number 5 for the Vietnam War and spent the next four years in the Air Force as a security policeman. One of the blessings that came from being drafted into the war at that time, he said, was getting his college paid for through the G.I. Bill. His plans when he went to Concordia College in St. Paul, Minn., were to become a teacher, he said, but God changed his direction from teaching to preaching.

After graduating in 1981, Alexander went on to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, where he earned a Master of Divinity degree.

Alexander said his preaching and the way he ministers has been greatly affected by all his life experiences, including the loss of his father at a young age. He said helping others through the "valley

of the shadow of death" has become one of his strengths.

Pastor Alexander said he's heard all kinds of good things about his flock here from nonmembers.

"They seem like a very caring congregation and I'm looking forward to being partners with them in ministry," he said, "following the Great Commission to make disciples."

The pastor said his preferred model for church growth comes from Acts chapter 2, in the Bible. He said when there's good news, good friends, good neighbors, and the Good Shepherd, the church will grow. When faith grows, there's bound to be an increase in numbers, he said.

Alexander said he sees himself at Trinity Lutheran for many years and looks forward to growing together with the congregation in faith in Christ.



R. Alexander

Briefly

Diplomas still available at office

Diplomas, transcripts and miscellaneous items for the Colby High School's Class of 2010 are available for pickup at the administration building, 600 W. Third Street. For information, call the district office at 460-5000.

Hospital plans childbirth classes

Citizens Medical Center will offer a four-week series of childbirth education classes from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursdays starting this week. Women who are due to deliver before October should attend with their labor support partner. The next classes will begin Oct. 7. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown at the hospital Education Department at (785) 460-4850.

Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a 1/2-year-old male chocolate lab and two 6-week-old tiger-striped kittens available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

Heartland selling fireworks

Heartland Christian School will be selling fireworks at the Colby Livestock parking lot on Country Club Drive from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Sunday. All proceeds will go to the school. For information, call Ronda Myers at 462-7727 or 443-1384.

Museum plans family show

The Prairie Museum of Art and History will put up a special exhibit from Sunday to Saturday, July 10, featuring brief histories and photos of the Carpenter and Owens families of Thomas County. Paintings

and porcelain dolls made by Pearl Carpenter will be on display, as well as a family signature friendship quilt. The public is invited to an opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the museum. For information, call 460-4590.

No trash pickup Monday

The City of Colby Sanitation Department will not pick up trash routes on Monday because of the Fourth of July holiday. Monday's residential route will be picked up on Tuesday. Have your tipper cans to the curb by 8 a.m. For information, call the Public Works Department at (785) 460-4420.

Crews fogging for mosquitoes

Colby city crews are fogging for mosquitoes, south of Webster on Mondays or Tuesdays and north of Webster on Thursdays. You can help, officials say: check your yard and empty anything holding stag-

nant water, such as cans, swimming pools or tires. For information, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.

College pool open weekdays

The Colby Community College indoor swimming pool is open to the public for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. Monday through Friday this summer. Open swimming is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Cost for general admission is \$3, but monthly and yearly passes are available. Call manager Kipp Nelson at 460-5476 for information.



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