



10 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Friday

November 12, 2010
Volume 121, Number 177
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Love's cashier killed in crash near Oberlin

A Love's Country Store cashier died Wednesday morning when his Jeep struck a semi-trailer just south of Oberlin.

Michael Leroy Quakenbush, 26, of Oberlin, was driving home from Colby on U.S. 83 at 8:30 a.m. when his 1989 Jeep crossed the center line and hit the truck's trailer. Much of the Jeep's front end was crushed and it came to rest on its top. Quakenbush was pronounced dead at the scene by a Decatur County Sheriff's deputy. He had not been wearing a seatbelt.

The driver of the truck, Kenneth Jones, 64, of Altus, Okla., was not injured. The trailer suffered only minor damage to its back wheels.

Four troopers from the Kansas Highway Patrol responded to the scene as well as three sheriff's deputies, the Oberlin chief of police and the city fire department.

Quakenbush was born Jan. 3,

1984, in Hays. He lived in Oberlin and worked at Love's in Colby.

He was preceded in death by his mother and stepfather, Donna and Robert Boswell, a brother, Aaron Phillips, and a sister, Kristina Quakenbush.

Survivors include his father, Donald Quakenbush, Seguin; two grandmothers, Evelyn Meitl, Oberlin; and Cecelia Ottley, Hoxie; three brothers, Terry (Kindra) Quakenbush, Wichita; Dwayne Quakenbush, Oberlin; and Nick Phillips, Norton; and two sisters, Debby Phillips, Norton; and Tory Arnce, Manhattan.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010, at Pauls Funeral Home in Oberlin with burial in the Belleville Cemetery. There will be no visitation.

The family suggests memorials in his name to be designated later, in care of the funeral home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.



Emergency responders investigated the scene of a fatal accident involving a Jeep and a semi-trailer near Oberlin on Wednesday. The impact with the semi-trailer ripped part of the front axle from the Jeep.

CYNTHIA HAYNES/Colby Free Press



ORVELLA ROMINE

Youth volunteers helped maintain the Community Garden, pulling weeds, laying mulch and doing many other tasks that helped the garden have a successful year.

Garden has prosperous year

By Vera Sloan

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The Community Garden was a learning experience, said volunteer Orvella Romine of the Thomas County Coalition. It was fun, rewarding, hard work and it taught patience, work ethics and how to work with other people.

The plans now are to do it again, Romine said, only this time it will be bigger and better. The garden plot, on the Kansas State University Experiment Farm, will be doubled in size for next summer.

Romine was one of 32 volunteers, including nine youth, who helped make the garden a success. Members worked a total of 215.5 hours through the summer.

This was the first year for the community garden. The gardeners took on a plot 20 feet wide by 120 feet long. Romine said they didn't know in the beginning if anyone would participate, but word soon got around for families and individuals about the opportunity to learn gardening skills, teamwork and develop healthy eating habits.

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Saturday marks beginning of pheasant, quail seasons

The day many hunters have been waiting for is almost here, the start of pheasant season.

The pheasant and quail seasons begin Saturday and continues until Jan. 31. The daily bag limit for pheasants is four cocks. The birds must have a foot, plumage or other part to determine sex still attached. The daily limit for quail is eight.

Although there are some quail in northwest Kansas, pheasants are far more common. The Department of Wildlife and Parks does a six-week survey of pheasant and quail populations. This year they observed about 14 pheasants per day in northwest Kansas, compared to only one quail. The region also holds the most pheasants of any in Kansas.

The northwest region includes everything from Cheyenne to Ellis Counties.

In an October interview, Jim Pitman, small game

coordinator, said the relatively mild winter helped pheasant populations flourish. The pheasant population has been steadily increasing over the past decade. In 2002, department observers found only two pheasants per day.

Pheasant season is always a big draw for Thomas County. Most of the hotel rooms are already booked and some restaurants are offering hunter specials.

Despite a drizzly Thursday and damp Friday, hunters can expect clear weather this weekend. The National Weather Service in Goodland is predicting partly-sunny skies Saturday with a high near 49 and 10 to 15 mph winds from the northwest. Temperatures will get down to about 22 degrees at night. Sunday will be also be partly cloudy with a high near 49. The service is not predicting any moisture.

Wellness Fair and other events planned for today, Saturday

By Vera Sloan

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There's a ton of events going on in Colby, Brewster and Rexford this weekend, with the biggest probably being the annual Wellness Fair and the Drive One 4R School event at Tubbs and Sons Ford.

Organizers for the Wellness Fair said 404 people had blood drawn in advance for testing. They will get to learn about the results and what all the letters and symbols mean from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday at the Student Union on the Colby Com-

munity College campus.

Pat Erickson, a wellness committee member, said stroke detection, vascular and osteoporosis screenings filled up early, but have been extended by an hour, and there may be some slots left. The screenings are by appointment; the number to call is (877) 732-8258.

Doctors will be on hand at 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. to explain blood assessments, as the results will not be sent to your doctor.

Screenings are available for skin and oral cancer, weight and body fat percentages. The Kansas Lions mobile screen-

ing unit will be checking visual acuity, hearing, blood pressure, blood sugar and field of vision.

Posture exams, urinalysis, massages, colorectal screening kits, flu shots for \$12, and more will be available.

The Drive One 4 UR School event could raise from \$6,000 to \$18,000 for the Colby Public Schools. Everyone is encouraged to stop by Tubbs and Sons to test drive a new Ford and fill out a questionnaire to help out the school. Refreshments will be served.

Other things going on around

See "EVENTS," Page 3

Briefly

Food bank needs donations

Genesis-Thomas County needs nonperishable food to fill its Christmas baskets. Donations can be dropped off at the Genesis office, 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 13, from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays; Leroy's Printing, 560 N. Franklin Ave.; Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1065 W. Fifth St.; First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St.; Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave.; or Trinity Lutheran Church, 855 E. Fifth St. Genesis also needs money to help buy food. For information, call 460-7930.

City to measure home water use

If you need to water the garden or wash the car, it'd be wise to do it in the next week. The City of Colby will read water meters next Friday. Home water use from then through Feb. 21 will be used to calculate sewer charges for the year beginning April

1. Any outdoor or excessive water use during that time may affect your bill. For information, call City Hall at 460-4400.

Hill City artist featured at museum

Works by Hill City artist and teacher David Chalfant will be on exhibit at the Prairie Museum of Art and History in November and December. Chalfant grew up in Hill City and has taught at the high school for more than 30 years. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fort Hays State, and a Master of Fine Arts in 1993. His sculptures and paintings have been shown in regional and national shows. For information, contact the museum at 460-4590 or museum@st-tel.net.

Lions plan screenings at fair

The High Plains Lions Club will have its Mobile Screening Unit at the Thomas County Wellness Fair

from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Community College student union. There are five free screenings available: eye acuity, hearing, blood pressure, blood sugar and field of vision. No appointments are necessary. For information, call Sheryl Brenny at (785) 586-2384.

Brewster church to offer lunch

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Brewster will hold a soup-and-dessert lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the church, 217 Main. For home delivery in Brewster, call 694-2405. Donations will be accepted to support church projects and outreach in the Brewster area. For information, call Sharron Knox 694-2751.

Area writers coming to museum

Kansas authors will be on hand to chat and sell autographed books from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday,

Nov. 20, at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Area writers Ray Imhof, Larry Diltz, Jim Oliver, Nancy Sanders, Millie Horlacher and Gary Adrian will join out-of-town writers Evelyn Ward, Helene Landenberger, Angela Bates, Doris Johnson and others. Each has agreed to donate 20 percent of their book sales that day to the museum. Refreshments will be served. For information, call the museum at 460-4590, or e-mail museum@st-tel.net.



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