

Family

Deaths

Merlin Clay 'Bub' Tillett

Merlin Clay "Bub" Tillett, 83, Salina, former Colby police chief, died Saturday, March 19, 2011, at the Salina Regional Health Center.

He was born in Salina on June 14, 1927, to Burton E. and Daveda D. (Milleson) Tillett.

Growing up in Salina and Gypsum, he delivered the *Kansas City Star* as a teen and worked for the Union Pacific railroad before joining the Navy in 1944 at age 17.

He served during World War II aboard the USS Polana and the USS Philippine Sea as a boatswain's mate. After his discharge, he returned to Salina and the railroad, also working at Van's Conoco and the Cozy Inn.

In 1950, he married Wanda Beth Werries of Culver, and they celebrated their 60th anniversary on July 30, 2010. She died March 8, 2011.

On July 1, 1951, he joined the Salina Police Department as a patrolman, leaving as a captain in the traffic division in 1965. He became chief of police in Colby, serving until 1972. Returning to Salina, he was a long-haul driver for the Coca Cola Bottling Co., Blue Beacon International and Smoky Hill Construction until his retirement at age 75.

He was a past member of the Salina Moose Lodge, Colby Jaycees, Isis Shrine Temple, Kansas

Peace Officers Association and the Kansas Sheriff's Association and a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion. He enjoyed wood-

working, and had a passion for nice-looking cars and long road trips until his health began to fail. He and his wife moved to the Pinnacle Park Nursing Center last year.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; his step-mother, Nancy Frances Elliott Tillett; and siblings Wilfred "Bud," Bette, Leo "Buzz" and Rosemary Tillett.

Survivors include a sister, Jackie (Mike) Tillett-McBride, and three brothers, Ricki (Peggy) Tillett, Rodney Tillett and Rory (Michele) Tillett, all of Salina; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

The family plans private inurnment of Merlin and Wanda at the Franklin Cemetery in Tescott. Sharing of memories with the family and friends will be at 11:30 a.m., Friday, March 25, 2011, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall in Salina.

The family suggests memorials to the Men's Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1108 W. Crawford, Salina, Kan., 67401.

For information or to send an online condolence, go to www.carlsonfh.net.



Merlin Tillett

Colby natives plan to marry

Tesa Pivonka of LaCrosse and Les Green of Lawrence have announced their engagement.

The bride is the daughter of Arlene and Bruce Lindskog of Pomona. She graduated from Colby High School in 1989 and will graduate from Fort Hays State University in May with a Master of Science in health and human performance. She is working in cardiac rehabilitation at the Center for Health Improvement and for Fort Hays State University in disability services.

The groom is the son of Mariana and Jerry Thomas of Colby and the late Bernard Green. After graduating from Colby High in 1988, he served in the Army. He is a sales engineer and designer at Brown Industries in Lawrence.



Les Green and Tesa Pivonka

April class takes aim at business

Agritourism is a growing industry farmers, business owners and entrepreneurs can learn more about through classes held in Colby from 4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays from April 6 through May 4 at the Thomas County Office Complex conference room, 350 S. Range.

Classes will provide an overview of agritourism, including how rural enterprises can start a new agritourism business or incorporate agritourism into an existing business.

Topics include defining an agritourism business; financing; pricing a product or service; finding customers; and insurance and legal issues. Jan Jantzen, owner of Kansas Flint Hills Adventures, will be the lead instructor.

Registration for the course is \$75 for the first participant and \$50 for each additional person from the same family or business.

Register online or download a form at kansasagritourism.com.

Information is available from Becki Rhoades, Kansas Department of Commerce, at (785) 296-1847 or brhoades@kansascmerce.com.

We want your local news: e-mail to colby.editor@nwkansas.com

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

President Anita Thiel opened the March 16 meeting of the Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary with prayer, patriotic instruction and the flag salute.

The National Anthem was sung and prisoner of war and missing in action prayers were offered with a special prayer for hospitalized veterans. A poem, "Remembering our Women Veterans," was read, followed by roll call and approval of last month's minutes.

The president's message, general orders and e-mail from the district president were read. An e-mail from the district Americanism chairman requesting special prayers was read. Prayers were requested for the Marines "Dark Horse" 3rd Battalion in Afghanistan, which had lost nine members in four days of battle.

Veterans or veterans' families are asked to contact the auxiliary for help with special needs. Contact person is President Thiel at (785) 694-2216.

Community service reported volunteer time in January was 168 hours, with 587 miles traveled. February had 80 hours of volunteer time and 120 miles of travel.

The museum requested a poppy

display for a new exhibit.

The hospital chairman reported a \$509 value on boxes of items sent to the Fort Dodge Veterans Home and 12 bags of clothing taken to the Bee Thrifty store.

At Christmas, 1,631 pairs of socks for men and women veterans were collected from District 9 auxiliaries with 15,331 pairs collected from all Kansas auxiliaries.

Publicity chairman reported last month's news item was in the *Colby Free Press*.

Donations were made to: Operation Uplink, \$200; Veterans and Family Support \$200; Unmet Needs, \$50; Military Assistance Program, \$50; Cancer Aid and Research, \$232.

Patriotic Art winners were announced and prizes allowed. The winners, all from the Brewster school, were first place, Sheena Rall; second place, Shane Rice;

and third place, Amber Barrie.

The Charter was draped in memory of Past National President Jane Bingham and a donation for cancer research was given as a memorial.

The National Home prayer was offered and the meeting closed with ritual prayer.

The Ninth District convention will be at the Oakley Post on Sunday, April 3, with registration from 8 to 9 a.m., a memorial service at 9 a.m. and meeting to follow. Lunch will be served by the Oakley ladies.

The next meeting will be at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, at the post home.

— Hazel Duffey, secretary

Grass fire threat reduced

JOHNSON CITY (AP) — Authorities say the threat from a massive, wind-fueled grass fire in rural southwestern Kansas has been reduced.

Crews from more than a half-dozen counties and neighboring Colorado were brought in Tuesday to help fight the flames that burned an estimated 60 sparsely populated square miles in Stanton County.

No injuries were reported. There

were a few evacuations of rural homes but none in Johnson City, the county seat, or in the smaller town of Manter to the southwest.

The Kansas adjutant general's office reported Tuesday evening that the threat to those communities had been removed, and some mutual aid was deactivated shortly after 5 p.m.

The flames extended over an area about 12 miles long and 5 miles wide.

Corrections

A Page 1 story, "New attorney chosen here on first ballot," in the Monday, March 21, edition of the *Colby Free Press* misspelled the name of new County Attorney Kevin Berens. This was a reporting error.

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The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$7.10
Corn (bushel)	\$6.15
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.60
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.35

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Our Shining Star Never Forgotten

**We Love You Taterbug!!
Love, Dad & Mom**

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Colby Swim Club

Signups

Sunday, April 3rd at 4 p.m.

in the Student Union Multi purpose room

Fun Swim following sign-ups

For more information call:
Holly Lynn • 785-443-0603

Good Luck Colby Wrestlers!

Zach Griffin, 61 lbs. 6 & under; Keden Frahm, 49 lbs. 6 & under; Tyler Voss, 61 lbs. 8 & under; Hagan Booi, 88 lbs. 8 & under; Rathe Aschenbrenner, 64 lbs. 10 & under; Braiden Lynn, 64 lbs. 10 & under; Tucker Branum, 90 lbs. 10 & under; Tate Carney, 80 lbs. 12 & under; Travis Finley, 105 lbs. 12 & under; Brennan Ziegelmeier, 110 lbs. 12 & under; Brook Ziegelmeier, 100 lbs. 12 & under; Ben Mattchell, 130 lbs. 12 & under; Austin Hart, 190 lbs. 12 & under; Andrew Voss, 90 lbs. 14 & under; Brady Holzmeister, 105 lbs. 14 & under; Mason Slinger, 235 lbs. 14 & under; Dustin Reed, 119 lbs. High School; Beau Brown, 160 lbs. High School; Andrew Taylor, 165 lbs. High School; George Smollock, 189 lbs. High School; Zell Bieberle, 285 lbs. High School.

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