

State troopers return to duty

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press
Three Kansas state troopers are back on duty after a review of their involvement in a September shoot-out in the Colby area.
Lt. John Eichkorn with the Kansas Highway Patrol in Topeka said the officers, Lt. Greg Jirak and Troopers Terry Kummer and Mitch Nollette, had been placed on administrative leave after a Sept. 22 shoot-out and chase in Thomas County.
Gerald Neil Bryant II, 32, of Inyokern, Calif., led troopers on a chase through rural Thomas County after a traffic stop on I-70 near Colby that day.
He shots at troopers and officers from other agencies, including Thomas County Sheriff Tom Jones.
The chase ended when Bryant

was shot by Lt. Jirak and crashed his car on the westbound lanes of I-70 just east of the U.S. 83 overpass near Oakley.
He was airlifted to Via Christie/St. Francis Hospital in Wichita for treatment, then later returned to Thomas County.
Officers from the Thomas County Sheriff's Department, Colby Police and Logan and Gove county sheriff's and police departments joined the half-hour chase as it wound through the southeast corner of the county.
"Procedure generally is to put the trooper on paid administrative leave pending review of the situation," Eichkorn said.
After troopers are placed on leave, he said, a criminal review is done by the Kansas Bureau of In-

vestigation and an administrative review by the highway patrol's Professional Standards Unit.
Eichkorn said a support team is made available to the troopers. In the case of the September shoot-out, he said it was made available to all of the officers involved.
He said incidents such as shoot-outs don't happen very often and there is no set time on how long a trooper is on leave because it depends on factors like how long it takes to complete the review.
Human resources also makes sure a trooper is taken care of mentally and physically, he said.
"It's not a time that's joyous or thrilling," Eichkorn said. "It's very much a stressful situation. It can be very hard on a person that's involved in something like that."

Bryant was charged with five counts of attempted first degree murder for firing at troopers Kummer and Nollette, Sheriff Jones and deputies Rod Taylor and Jason Moses. He is being held in the Thomas County Jail on \$1 million bond.
A first appearance hearing, scheduled for Oct. 16 was postponed because Thomas County Attorney Allan Taylor asked for a continuance.
Bryant's passenger, Brian E. Berry, also of Inyokern, Calif., was caught trying to escape through a field during the chase.
Bryant stopped to let him out, and he told officers the driver had vowed not to be taken alive. Berry also is being held in the Thomas County Jail.

Sheriff talks about shoot out

Thomas County Sheriff Tom Jones said a chase last month wasn't the first time he's been shot at during his law enforcement career; it's happened three or four times over the years.
"It wasn't my first rodeo," he said. "Thank God it doesn't happen very often."
Jones said he was driving parallel to a car driven by the fugitive, Gerald Neil Bryant II, 32, of Inyokern, Calif., going in opposite

directions on County Road C, when the man took a shot at him.
"I certainly remember seeing the gun pointing in my direction," he said, adding that it was a .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol.
Jones said there was one shot for sure and others said there was another fired in his direction.
During the shooting, he said, he ducked down behind the wheel, kept driving, and didn't put his head back up until he was sure the coast

was clear. Jones said he was more angry after the incident than afraid.
He said despite his feelings, he and the other law enforcement officials at the site dealt with the situation — treating Bryant's injuries

and making sure everyone else was all right.
"And we did that," Jones said.
The sheriff said he was comfortable with the way the situation was handled and the results.

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Published in the Goodland Star-News on Friday, November 7, 2003.

In the Matter of the Estate of Erma J. Eggers, Deceased Case No. 03P39

NOTICE OF HEARING
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Raleigh Eggers, an heir of the decedent, Erma Eggers, praying that:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Sherman County, Kansas:

East Half (E/2) of Section Twenty-nine (29), Township Six (6) South, Range Thirty-seven (37), West of the 6th P.M., Sherman County, Kansas

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and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death. Further, that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before December 2, 2003, at 10:00 a.m., in the District Court, Sherman County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgement and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Raleigh Eggers
Petitioner

Zuspann & Zuspann, P.A.
1015 Center
P. O. Box 968
Goodland, Kansas 67735-0968
Phone: (785) 899-6555
Attorneys for Petitioner

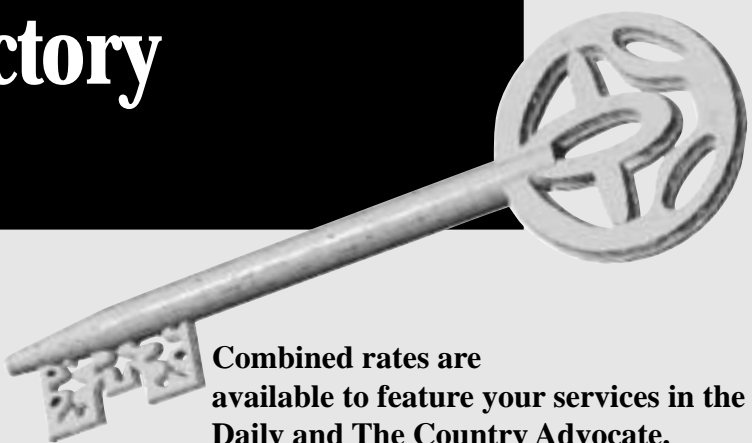
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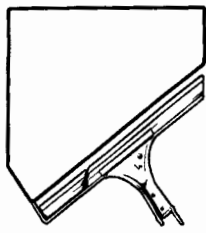
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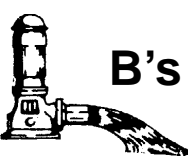
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