

Ambulance wreck in Colorado kills two

An ambulance rushing a pregnant Burlington woman to a Denver hospital Tuesday piled into a semitrailer truck about 4:30 p.m. on I-76 in northeast Colorado, killing her sister-in-law and a paramedic.

The sister-in-law, Vicki Thomas of North Platte, Neb., is the daughter of Darline Freytag and sister of Rhonda (Duane) Rice and Ronald Clark of Goodland.

The new mother, Kelsey Schlichenmayer, 43, is the daughter of Kathy and Gilbert Thomas of Goodland. She and her husband Mark farm north-east of Burlington.

Friends said Schlichenmayer had been staying with a brother, Brent Thomas, and his wife in North Platte to be near her doctor because of problems in the pregnancy.

Kelsey's problems worsened, so her doctor decided to send her to University Hospital in Denver.

The ambulance was traveling west on I-

76 16 miles west of Sterling when it hit the rear end of a semitrailer truck.

The ambulance came to rest facing north, and the truck went into the right shoulder, the Colorado State Patrol reported. Troopers had to close westbound I-76 at the crash site.

"The ambulance is completely demolished," said Bill Van Pelt, deputy coroner in Logan County, Colorado. "The whole front end is torn away. The compartment in back is intact, but everything is scattered and thrown all around. "It's a terrible sight."

The ambulance driver, Christopher Larusso, 22, Westminster, Colo., and Daniel Beza, 21, Centennial, Colo. were in the front, the patrol reported.

The air bags deployed and both men escaped with moderate injuries.

The two women in back with Schlichenmayer, Thomas and Karen Woods, 43, from Elizabeth, Colo., were

killed. Thomas was ejected from the ambulance even though she had been wearing a seatbelt, the patrol reported.

The driver of the semi, Plamen Zelyamov, 33, Chicago, and a passenger, Semir Bilyal, 30, Schiller Park, Ill., were not injured.

Kelsey was flown by Airlife helicopter to Swedish Medical Center in Denver, where she delivered a baby boy, Phillip Walter. Phillip was premature, weighs just 3 pounds, 2 ounces, and is in serious condition. Kelsey was in critical condition but improving, said the hospital. Wednesday afternoon her condition was upgraded to serious.

Her husband, through Public Relations Director Julie Lonborg of Swedish Medical Center, said he wanted to thank the people of Burlington and Goodland for their thoughts and prayers. He said he is focused on his wife's and son's recovery.

A fund is being set up at First National Bank in Goodland to help with the Schlichenmayer's expenses. Money can be

left at the bank or *The Goodland Star-News*.

Thomas was born May 16, 1970, in Sterling, the daughter of Dallas and Darline Borum Clark. She graduated from Wray, Colo., High School in 1988, then entered the U.S. Army, where she trained as an ultrasound technologist.

In 1988, she married Tyler Moore. They had two sons, Kalor and Kyle. She was stationed in the eastern U.S. After her discharge, she lived in Oklahoma and Kentucky before moving to North Platte in 1997.

On July 7, 2001, she married Brent Thomas in Goodland, and they had a daughter, Kelsey.

Mrs. Thomas was an ultrasound technologist for Great Plains Regional Medical Center and was a member of the Society for Vascular Ultrasound.

Friends said she was a caring and loving mother and enjoyed helping others and put her family first.

Survivors also include her husband, daughter and sons, all of North Platte, and

a brother, Shawn (Niki) Clark of North Platte.

Preceding her in death were her father; a step-father, Dale Freytag; and grandparents, Theodore and Lila Clark and Robert and Edwina Borum.

Services will be at 12:30 p.m. Mountain Time Monday, May 15, 2006, at the Harvest Christian Fellowship Church, 1501 S. Dewey St., North Platte, with Chaplain Terry Cook of the North Platte hospital officiating.

Burial will be at Fort McPherson National Cemetery in Nebraska with military honors. Visitation will be from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. today, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday at Adams and Swanson Funeral Home in North Platte, with the family receiving friends from 5-7 p.m. Sunday.

Memorials may be made to the family in care of the First National Bank, 201 N. Dewey St., North Platte, Neb. 69101. Condolences can be sent at www.adams-swanson.com.



Thomas



Among the almost 8,000 people at the Kansas Sampler Festival in Garden City Saturday was this little girl posing for her mother at a cut out of Annie Oakley in front of the Northwest Kansas tent. John H. Holiday portrayed by Marc Ferguson (right) of Montezuma told his story to an appreciative audience.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Kansas Sampler Festival shows things to do, see

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

Kansans had a chance over the weekend to find out about attractions in communities all over the state at the Kansas Sampler Festival at Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City.

Tents featured different regions of the state, southeast, south central, northwest, east, north central and southwest. In the northwest tent, representatives from Sherman County included Donna Price, director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Tiffani Kirk, newly hired director of the Sherman County Economic Development Council.

The tent featured a cutout of Buffalo Bill and Calamity Jane where people could put their faces in and have their picture taken.

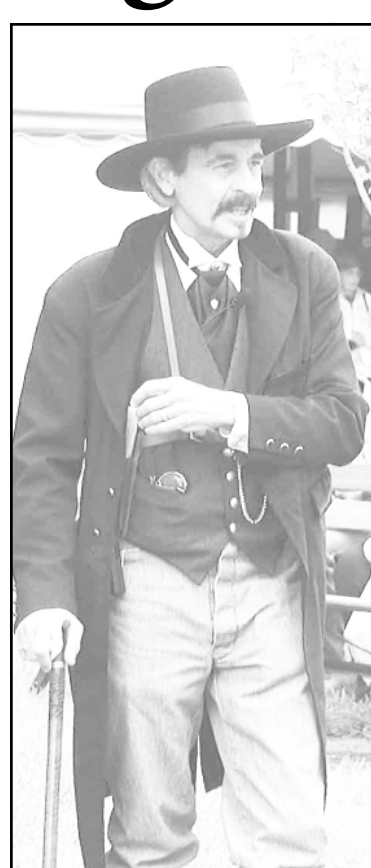
Displays from the area included the giant Van Gogh painting, the Kuhrt Ranch bed and breakfast northeast of Goodland, the Rattlesnake Roundup in Sharon Springs and Colby and Oakley.

The Sternberg Museum from Hays had cages with snakes for people to look at.

"Northwest Kansas was very well represented," Price said. "Smokey Hills Public Television spent 45 minutes in the tent on Sunday."

Also, Alan and Lynda Townsend were selling pinto and cranberry beans. Cranberry or borlotti or shell beans are creamy beige with red streaks with a nut-like flavor.

Price said they had 4,100 people



on Saturday and around 3,900 on Sunday. Kirk won an award for being enthusiastic.

The festival was started in 1990 by Milferd Penner and his daughter Marci as a book signing for her book, the "Kansas Weekend Guide," at their farm near Inman, Kan.. They had so many towns come that it became an annual event. In 1993, the Kansas Sampler Foundation was formed. The Penner farm was home to the festi-

val until 1997, when the event went on the road to Pratt, Ottawa, Independence, Newton and now Garden City. Each town hosts the festival for two years.

People parked their vehicles some distance away and were shuttled back and forth to the zoo in everything from busses to vans, a "trolley" from Dodge City and a limousine pickup. Inside the entrance, golf carts and carriages pulled by golf carts moved people to the area where the tents were.

The tent for the Southwest had a buffalo, Price said. There was plenty for people to do and eat, and three stages featured everything from clowns to period character re-enactors, square dancing and folk and rock music. Artists were doing paintings, sculptures and tying fishing flies. The Great Bend Zoo had a raptor exhibit with hawks and eagles.

A new tent had wine tasting from Kansas wineries. The wineries were Smokey Hill Vineyards and Winery from Lindsborg, Wyldewood Cellars Winery from Mulvane and Campbell Vineyards and Winery from Holton.

If people got hungry, there were food stands selling a bit of everything, including Mexican, oriental and buffalo.

The Kansas Sampler Festival will again be in Garden City in 2007 on May 5 and 6.

"It was wonderful," Price said, and we passed out over five cases of Ultimate Guides."

Man injured in I-70 accident

A Colorado man was taken to the hospital Tuesday, then flown on to Denver after a car driven by his wife rolled on I-70 east of Goodland.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Marilyn Rieb, 67, tried to pull into the left lane to pass a vehicle without realizing there was another car beside her.

When she tried to return to her lane, Trooper Joshua McQuitty said, she overcorrected, and her 1996 Toyota Camry went into the north ditch and rolled.

The accident happened about 3.7 miles east of Goodland around 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

Mrs. Rieb was not hurt, but Carl Rieb, 72, was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center and then flown to St. Anthony Central in Denver. He was listed in fair condition on Thursday.

Both were wearing seatbelts, Trooper McQuitty reported.

corrections

Due to a computer error by the Kansas Department of Motor Vehicles, it was incorrectly reported by the Goodland Police, and printed in *The Goodland Star-News* on Friday, May 5, that Tyler Henderson was arrested on April 23 for driving while suspended. Henderson's license is not suspended, and the police were acting on wrong information from the state.

Information accompanying photos of weeding at Pioneer Park in the Tuesday, May 9, *Goodland Star-*

News, included a wrong phone number to contact Annette Fairbanks. The correct numbers to reach her to volunteer to help at Pioneer Park are 890-7138 (office) or 890-7389 (home). This was a reporting error.

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure.

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