

Relatives puzzled by mishap

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News
Kansas Bureau of Investigation agents are still trying to figure out why a 19-year-old Indiana man ran from a car accident in Colorado on Friday — sparking a bizarre chase that ended with officers shooting the youth four times resulting in his death on I-70.

Bob Blecha, assistant director in charge of field investigation at the KBI, said three agents were in Sherman County this weekend and the investigation should be done by the end of the week. He said he couldn't release details, adding that the agents still had a few leads to follow up before the investigation is finished.

Blecha said the agents are looking into the background of Mark Christopher Palmer, trying to figure out why he acted so erratically and determining whether officers were right in shooting him. Meanwhile, Palmer's friends and family in his hometown of Carmel, Ind., are trying to cope with the young man's death and what went wrong.

Palmer's family was in Sherman County over the weekend to identify his body. A member of the family's church, who answered the phone at Palmer's father's home, said "he was a good kid." She said it's a hard time for the family.

"It's a very bad time and they are very preoccupied by things," she said, noting that church members are trying to help. There was an autopsy done in Topeka, but results aren't being released. Lt. John Eichkorn of the Kansas Highway Patrol said the results may be released after the investigation is done. Howard Hewitt, city editor at *The Daily Ledger*, the newspaper that serves Carmel, said the paper received an obituary today. It said Palmer was a member of the Grace Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis.

Ooey-gooley



Colby kindergarten students in Julie Ross' class designed and learned to carve pumpkins during class today. In addition, the students got to test all five senses — sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch — while doing the project. In describing touch, the students' answers ranged from gooey and gloppy to slimey, sticky and mushy. Pictured to the left of Ross are Madison Rogers and Abby Friesen with Paige Armbruster and Brady Colson at right. Ross and paraprofessional, Becky Quenzer (not pictured) supervised carving activities.

PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Epp gets broadcast recognition

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

A familiar voice to sports fans all over the Tri-State Area received some recognition from his peers.

Rich Epp, long-time northwest Kansas radio and television broadcaster, has again been recognized for excellence in sportscasting and received the coveted Hod Humiston Award from the Kansas Association of Broadcasters at their recent convention.

Epp, who received the Oscar Stauffer Sportscaster of the Year Award in 1982, has been the station manager at KLBV television in Colby since 1993 and has been covering sports in the area for the last 30 years.

He started as the sports director for KLOE radio and television in Goodland after graduating from Colby Community College in 1971.

Epp's broadcasts cover the gamut of sports — football, basketball, wrestling, baseball and track.

He has also provided the play-by-play for the Kansas Shrine Bowl.

Epp has hosted the live coverage of the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament and was part of the Wildcat Sports Network crew in 1989.

His voice can be heard on Friday nights in the fall, covering Colby High School Eagle football.

He has also covered high school basketball tournaments in Colorado and Illinois, in addition to Kansas.

Epp is also on the board of directors of the /Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, the Colby High School Booster Club and Colby Community College Booster Club.



Rich Epp

Trucking association names Graves as new president in early 2003

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The American Trucking Association, holding its national convention here through Wednesday, today named current Kansas Gov. Bill Graves to take over as its president and chief executive officer when he completes his gubernatorial term in early 2003. The announcement was made by the association's Chairman Duane Acklie.

In addition, Acklie said that William Canary, interim president and CEO since July 2, was named effective today as permanent president and CEO for a term ending on Jan. 13, 2003. Graves would take helm at the association the following day, Acklie said.

News of the Kansas governor coming on

board to head the American Trucking Association has been swirling around the Sunflower State since the weekend.

Gov. Graves was expected to share his decision with his fellow Kansans in a news conference, also today.

Following is an Associated Press story from Topeka filed earlier today about the Graves situation. Gov. Bill Graves faces questions about his future and whether he plans to take a job within the trucking industry.

An industry group, the American Trucking Associations, planned to name a new chief executive officer today in Nashville, where it

is holding its national convention. Graves, meanwhile, scheduled a Statehouse news conference, also today.

The Kansas City Star, in a story for today's editions, said Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer and three other top Republicans whom it did not name confirmed that Graves had accepted the ATA's top job — but would finish his term as governor. He will become the ATA's top official after leaving office in January 2003, the newspaper said.

"I think it's a perfect match," Sherrer told The Star. State Treasurer Tim Shallenburger on Monday told reporters he had heard Graves would take a job with a national trucking orga-

nization. Shallenburger is running for the Republican gubernatorial nomination and has suggested Graves would leave office before his term ends in January 2003 to boost a run by Sherrer.

But Don Brown, the governor's spokesman, and House Speaker Kent Glasscock, who is also running for governor, both said Graves intends to finish out his term. Glasscock, R-Manhattan, spoke with Graves on Monday and said they talked about the governor's future.

The comments by Brown and Glasscock did not preclude an announcement that Graves would take the ATA position after leaving office. The organization has had an interim CEO

since July 1.

In Nashville, ATA spokesman Mike Russell said only that an announcement about the group's new CEO would be made Tuesday between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. CST.

"That's all I can say," he said.

Neither Brown nor Glasscock would say whether Graves would get the ATA job.

"He is not leaving before the end of his term of office," Glasscock said. "He will have a life after politics and public service and it begins in January 2003."

Graves, 48, grew up as the heir to the family's trucking company, which his father built to be the largest in Kansas.

Briefly

Weather: Time for jackets

Much cooler weather is in store for the Colby region as the week moves along, says the National Weather Service. Tonight, cloudy, lows in the middle 40s and southwest winds 10-20 mph. Wednesday cloudy, highs in the upper 60s, very breezy with southwest winds 15-25 mph, with gusts to 35. Wednesday night, cloudy then becoming partly cloudy late, lows in the 30s. Thursday, mostly cloudy, highs only in the 50s. Friday, partly cloudy, lows in the upper 20s and highs in the 50s. Saturday, partly cloudy, lows in the upper 20s and highs in the upper 50s. Monday's high was 56 and the overnight low this morning was 31. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 54 degrees. The records for Oct. 30: 88 in 1950 and 4 in 1952, which remains the coldest October reading ever in Colby. (*The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.*)

Negotiations on agenda

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in the board room of Thomas Hall, to discuss negotiations.

Commissioners meet Wednesday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Wednesday to pay bills and conduct routine business. Larry Jumper, landfill supervisor, is on the agenda at 9 a.m.

Donations needed by Thursday

Citizens Medical Center Auxiliary is planning its second annual recycled holiday sales and is looking for donations of new or good used holiday items, said Carolyn Miller, one of the organizers. Donations can be left at 545 Woofter Ave. Thursday, Nov. 1. For those with questions or to make other arrangements, call 462-7777 or 462-6898. The actual sale will begin on Friday, Nov. 2 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 3, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 545 Woofter Ave.

World Community Day set

Church Women United in Colby will gather to worship and pray as part of the annual observance of World Community Day on Friday, Nov. 2, at the Colby Presbyterian Church. Coffee time is 9:30 a.m. with the service at 10 a.m. Offerings received on World Community Day support the ongoing mission and ministries of Church Women United in the work toward nurturing global families, one official said. Everyone is welcome.

Halloween escorts available

The Future Teachers Organization of Colby Community College will provide safe escort for groups of children on Halloween. Children grades K-5 are invited to meet in front of the Colby Grade School at 5:30 p.m. and they will walk from the school. No driving will be involved. Children will travel in groups of about 8-10 with two sponsors per group. Kids can be picked up at 6:30 p.m. in front of the grade school. Call Carolyn May at 462-3984.

Students to rake leaves

The Colby High School Service Club is planning a community-wide fall leaves clean-up day beginning the first weekend of October and continuing through until the second weekend of November, said Roni Dietz, adult advisor. "Residents interested in having students rake their yards are asked to call the school at 465-5300 and leave name, address and telephone number on my voice mail," she said.

Genesis gears up for holiday project

Genesis-Thomas County, which is the area food bank, is again planning to help families during the holiday season, said Marcy Wasson, chairperson of the Christmas basket project. Families in need can pick up forms at the Genesis-Thomas County office, 350 S. Range, Colby, or call, (785) 462-7930 for information or questions. All applications must be returned to the office by Friday, Nov. 2.

Do-si-do



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Sacred Heart School third graders Spencer Tubbs, Corbin Stephens, Sean Skiles and William Mick (clockwise from front) learned to "star right" in square dance classes Monday. Also pictured is Ashley Siruta.

