



COLBY FREE PRESS

Mommy and Me



CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

Rachel Ryan read to those in attendance at Mommy and Me, a program that meets each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. at the library in Oakley. Ryan started this program to give moms a chance to meet each

other and the kids an opportunity to learn how to play together. During the weekly get together, everyone participates in reading and learning activities and a play time.

Sept. 11 special event announced, unity encouraged

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

As part of a nationwide effort, and sponsored in part by the local Red Cross office, people in Colby and Thomas County are invited to commemorate Sept. 11 by attending a special event next Wednesday beginning at 9 a.m. in front of the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range, Colby.

With the anniversary of that tragic event only days away, the Thomas County American Red Cross chapter is hoping people will find the time outside of their busy schedules to unite in a spirit of remembering, supporting and preparing.

Mayor Warren Hixson will deliver opening remarks at 9 a.m., followed by singing from the local Sweet Adelines Chapter, which is among the many choruses worldwide taking part in "Sing Out for Peace," on that day.

In addition, Ron Evans, Thomas County Commissioner and retired U.S. Air Force officer, and Molly Oliver, with the American Red Cross, will also offer remarks.

Other highlights will include recognition of lives lost, planting of a memorial tree, presence by the local National Guard and balloon release.

"We will be giving red, white and blue ribbon pins to those that gather

and will have some at the local banks and Dillons Store for others to wear on that day," Oliver said.

Later in the day, the local Red Cross is asking that everyone will take part in turning on porch lights from 8 to 9 p.m. as a way of remembering those who died in the 9-11 tragedy, she said.

"We all have reacted to the events of Sept. 11 with great pain and sorrow," Oliver said. "Since that day, the world has changed a lot and we've changed with it coming together with purpose and hope."

The American Red Cross has also been a driving force in spreading the word that people across the nation take part in activities on Sept. 11 that will be a salute to the men and women who lent their physical and emotional strength, without regard for personal safety, after the tragic events that took place one year ago.

"We applaud our 55,575 volunteers dispatched from around the country who made a difference," one Red Cross official said.

"Your local Red Cross Chapter encourages you to join millions of people around the world in honoring those individuals who lost their lives on that tragic day and those they've left behind, whose lives are forever changed," Oliver said.

Illegal dumping concerns in the county again aired at meeting

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**
Colby Free Press

Illegal dumping continues to be a problem in Thomas County.

Another concerned resident appeared at Tuesday's county commission meeting to complain about people dumping trash all over the place instead of at the landfill.

Penny Fryback told the commissioners that on more than one occasion

old tires have been left in the middle of the road near her house.

Larry Jumper, landfill supervisor, said the illegal dumping has "definitely become a problem" and when people use the roadways rather than taking their trash to the dump, they are not thinking about their neighbors.

He said that usually some portion of time during each day is devoted to picking up after those who are not taking

care of their trash properly.

Currently, a person who is ticketed for littering would be fined \$109, said Thomas County Deputy Sheriff Jim Engel.

The maximum penalty that could be assessed would be if the person was charged with a Class C misdemeanor for the dumping.

They could face up to a \$500 fine and 30 days in the county jail, said

Magistrate Judge Rick Ress.

Commissioner Ron Evans said, "People wouldn't want things dumped in their driveway or yards, the same applies to those who take care of the county roads and township roads."

Jumper said there should be no reason for people to leave trash in the roadways because the landfill is open seven days a week.

He also encourages people to be

careful when driving to the landfill and make sure trash is not blowing out of their vehicle.

For most trash taken to the landfill, such as household waste, limbs and grass clippings, there is no fee. However, there is a small fee for items like tires, construction and demolition waste, grain dust, appliances and concrete.

People with inquiries about tipping

fees can contact Jumper at 462-8139.

The commissioners encourage the general public to notify authorities if they see any suspicious dumping in ditches or roadways.

People should write down tag numbers and the description of the vehicle to pass along to officers.

"We are just asking for cooperation from citizens to help us out and make the county look better," said Evans.

Middle East expert to speak

An expert on Middle East culture will be speaking at Frahm Theater on the campus of Colby Community College, Wednesday, Sept. 11, beginning at 7 p.m.

Dr. Robert Rook, an associate professor and chair of the department of History at Fort Hays State University, will be this year's first speaker in the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series, said Debbie Schwanke, public information director at the college.

Rook's lecture entitled, "Too Much

History, Too Little Time: America and the Middle East in a Global Context," will address Sept. 11, 2001 and America's long-standing relationships with the Middle East.

In his presentation, said Tom Moorhous, coordinator of the series, Rooks plans to approach that relationship considering the U.S. policies, history and culture within that global framework.

For questions about Rook's presentation or the lectures call 462-3984.

Mystery occurs on Interstate 70 near Colby

By **DARREL PATTILLO**
Colby Free Press

Although authorities were not able to say why, but an Oregon man panicked on Interstate-70 Sunday evening near Colby, triggering a manhunt that involved both the Thomas County Sheriff's Department and the Colby Police Department.

Cameron Bass, 24, was traveling

east on the interstate when Thomas County Deputy Jim Engel said, "he became paranoid after seeing a Highway Patrol car and pulled into the rest stop west of Colby."

Engel said that was all the passenger would say as to the reason Bass pulled into the rest area, leaving the female passenger, Christina Kovac, 19, in the vehicle, as he walked south until he

reached the farmhouse of a local law enforcement officer Penny Fryback.

The officer was preparing to take Bass back to his vehicle when he saw that the officer had a gun, at which point he panicked, and fled the area on foot. Deputies, with the assistance of Colby police, used a thermal-imaging device but couldn't find Bass.

Meanwhile, the car Bass was driv-

ing and the female were taken to the law enforcement center, where she was questioned and released.

"At 8 a.m. the next morning," Engel said, "Bass came to the law enforcement center to retrieve his vehicle."

"Since nothing was found in the vehicle, and Bass wasn't wanted for anything, we released his vehicle."

One-vehicle rollover accident sends five to hospital

By **DARREL PATTILLO**
Colby Free Press

A one-vehicle rollover north of Colby on Sunday morning critically injured one person, left three with minor hurts, and the 17-year-old female driver facing DUI and reckless driving

charges.

The accident occurred at 5:50 a.m. when the 1999 Pontiac Grand-Am driven by Brittany Fiedler of Colby rolled over into the north ditch after she lost control of the car while driving east on Thomas County road W three miles

north and one mile east of Colby.

Tracy Evans, 20, of Colby, was ejected from the vehicle and is reported to have suffered critical injuries.

After the accident, one of the passengers wandered away, possibly in shock, Thomas County Sheriff's

Deputy Jim Engel said, and was located in Colby.

All five occupants of the vehicle were taken to Citizens Medical Center in Colby by Thomas County ambulance.

In addition to Evans and Fiedler, the

others were Jonathan Finley, 19, of Goodland, Jennifer Hanna, 18, of Colby and Brandon Bolen, 18, of Goodland.

None of the occupants of the vehicle were wearing seatbelts, law enforcement authorities said.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers
Wednesday's high, 93
Low this morning, 60
Year ago today, 89 and 55
Temperature at 11:15 a.m. today, 80
Colby's 24-hour rainfall, 0.00
Oakley's 24-hour rainfall, 0.00
Soil temp at the 4-inch depth, 76
Records for Sept. 5, 108 in 1899 (all time August high for Colby), and 40 in 1962

The forecast
Look for today's temperature to top out at around 95. Tonight, clear, lows in the upper 60s, south winds 10-15 mph. Friday, sunny and breezy, highs again around 95, south winds 15-25, gusting to 35. Saturday, sunny, highs in the lower 90s. No precipitation mentioned. (Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)

Colby Water Usage
• Sept. 4 = 2.242 million gallons
Levels of Concern
Watch Level 3.5 million gallons
Warning Level 4.0 million gallons
Emergency Level 4.5 million gallons
(Three consecutive days)

Briefly

Arts Association plans first concert

The Steve Miller Cabaret Band will be performing in the Hoxie High School auditorium at 3 p.m., Sunday. The Sunday concert will be the first event of the 2002-03 schedule sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$5 for students and season tickets are still available, said Vicky Waldschmidt, media correspondent. This annual series of programs is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. For questions, call Waldschmidt at (785) 462-6620.

Singles dance scheduled Friday

The Colby Singles Group is sponsoring its monthly dance on Friday, Sept. 6, from 8 p.m. to midnight. Entertainment will be provided by Swingin' Country of Imperial, Neb. The event is open to all single people, alumni and guests. For information, call Don Birzer, 462-2127.

Scholarship offering at high school

The Colby High School Career Center recently announced a scholarship opening with Discover Card Tribute Awards. To be eligible for this offering, said Joni-Clark Leiker, counselor, students must be currently a junior in high school with a grade point

average of at least 2.75. In addition, applicants must excel in three out of four areas to include special talents, leadership, obstacles overcome and community service. The deadline for filing this scholarship application is Jan. 10, 2003. For questions, call 465-5300.

Community invited to play game

Everyone is invited to take part in a special game known as "Cashflow," on Monday, Sept. 9 beginning at 7 p.m. in the commons area of Colby High School. The event is being sponsored by Liz Strand, a math teacher at the school, along with students in her new Wallet Wisdom class. The purpose behind this special program, she said, is to help others learn more about raising their financial I.Q., what the rich teach their kids about money and how anyone can become rich and financially free even on a small salary. For questions, call Strand at 465-5300.

Commodity distribution set Monday

There is a limited amount of commodities left from the September distribution. In addition, eligible persons in the program can receive commodities again on Monday, Sept. 9, at the RSVP office in the Senior Progress Center. Distribution times, said Laura Withington, one of the coordinators, are from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with expected commodities to include tomato sauce, salmon,

applesauce and peaches. For information or to see if someone qualifies, call 462-6744.

Flea market sponsors needed

The Rexford Pride Organization is sponsoring its last Farmers' Flea Market of the years on Saturday, Sept. 7, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Booth costs are \$10 per space and anyone interested in participating as a vendor, call Evelyn Johnson, (785) 687-3925.

Auditions continue tonight

The Colby Community College drama department is continuing its auditions tonight beginning at 7 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community College campus. Auditions are open to students and the community, college officials said.

Fall festival planned Saturday

Everyone is invited to take part in the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce event, "Celebration on the High Plains Fall Festival," scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 7, at Southwind Plaza in Colby. Tickets for evening concerts are available at Farmers and Merchants Bank, KQLS/KXXX, Donelan's Jewelry, First National Bank, Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, Farmers State Bank of Oakley, Southwind Plaza and Dave's His Shop.

