



Accidents, injuries reported

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Overcorrecting or losing control contributed to three one-vehicle accidents in Thomas County during the first part of September.

The most recent accidents happened on Labor Day with the first reported at 12:14 p.m. on Interstate 70 by the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Traveling in the westbound lane, a 2002 Chevrolet truck driven by Andrew K. Choate, 37, of Gore, Okla., lost control and overturned the truck into the median about 11 miles west of Colby.

In addition to the driver being injured, four other passengers were taken to Citizens Medical Center in Colby with possible injuries. Those included Gail R. Choate, 34; Trent Choate, 13; Taylor Choate, 11; and Seth C. Roberts, 14, all of Gore, Okla.

Patrol officials said the driver, along with three other passengers were wearing seatbelts; however, Trent and Roberts, were not.

All were treated and released.

Later on Labor Day afternoon, a second accident in Thomas County involved a 2005 Yamaha motorcycle driven by Lawrence T. Murphy, 42, of Glastonbury, Conn. According to the police report, Murphy was diabetic and apparently lost control of the motorcycle while westbound on Interstate 70 about one mile west of Brewster at 3:15 p.m.

Murphy was taken by Thomas County Emergency Medical Services to Citizens Medical Center where he was later lifeflighted to Swedish Hospital in Denver. No condition report was available. Damage in both accidents was unknown, patrol officials said.

In the third mishap, which occurred last Sunday, Kristin Renee Theimer, 17, of Colby was injured when her 1999 Oldsmobile Alero overturned about six miles south of Colby on Kansas Highway 25 going north.

According to the Highway Patrol, the tires on the right side of Theimers' vehicle went off the roadway and when she tried to overcorrect the car overturned one and one-half times before landing in the west ditch facing south.

Theimer was taken to Citizens Medical Center where she was treated and later released. Damage to the Alero was estimated at \$500 and the report indicated she was not wearing a seatbelt.

Prepare for 'Celebration'



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Courtney Poe and Tom Leavitt used a jackhammer to put tent pylons in place at the Southwind Plaza parking lot this morning in preparation for the "Celebration on the High Plains" Saturday. The event will feature the Dodge Raminator, a patriotic salute and an evening concert featuring country group Trick Pony.

Fair board budget report receives praise

By **TISHA COX**

Colby Free Press

Thomas County Fair Board Secretary Audrey Hines gave the board a report on the budget at its Thursday night meeting at the fairgrounds.

Hines presented the profit/loss statement for the year to date. She said the net loss is \$7,490 and total income for the year, including advertising and all of the fair events, was \$130,000 and the actual expenses are \$137,400.

She said the increase was because utilities are higher this year and the expenses for the barbecue went up slightly. Another reason, Hines said, was the improvements made to the fairgrounds, including new siding on three barns and new campsite hookups.

"That's where the extra money has been spent," she said. "You have to do it or they'll fall apart. That's what the county gives us money for."

Hines said the county gave the fair board \$67,000 for its budget this year, \$60,000 of which it's already received, with \$7,000 more to come soon. She said that will help take care of the \$7,490 loss.

Also, Hines said the board has \$35,000 still in its account, so she said everything went well.

Board members were happy with the report.

"It looks like we did quite well again this year," said board member Darrel Dible. Board President Stan Strange said he felt they had a good year, and the improvements made at the fairgrounds didn't go unnoticed.

Dible said people did notice that three of the barns had new siding and Strange said the buildings had more traffic.

"That was amazing how many people talked about the barns," said board member Mark Anderson.

The board also discussed getting bids for a roof to go over the cement slab at the fairgrounds. Dible said he's looking at several different options for a roof and will come back to the board when he has an idea of what the price might be.

The board also decided to make a donation to the Thomas County Amusement Association. Strange said the carnival was integral to the success of the fair the past two years.

"If it weren't for them the past couple of years, I think we would have died," he said.

The board also went into executive session to discuss personnel issues.

In other business, the board approved:

- The Cub Scouts to use the fairgrounds for their jamboree on Oct. 23.
- The bills and financial report.

Manila envelope distribution causing concern here

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Police officials in Colby aren't sure why manila envelopes containing information regarding a local doctor are circulating, but some people receiving the mysterious letters aren't happy about it.

The police department has gotten calls about these envelopes (with no return address) while others affected have visited the law enforcement building to lodge complaints, said Randy Jones, police chief.

Jones said the information enclosed in the 8 x 10.5" manila envelope has several pages of what is already public information regarding Dr. Victor Hildyard and the alleged violations pending before the

Kansas State Board of Healing Arts. In addition to the pages in the petition, there is a newspaper article written on the same subject.

For those unfamiliar with the allegations, officials with the state's healing arts board said they received information citing Hildyard for wrongdoing.

Within the 26-page petition, there are 12 alleged violations, none of which are criminal, said Mark Stafford, general counsel for the board, during the time the petition was filed in August of 2004.

While some of the packets of in-

formation are being distributed through the U.S. mail or are being hand-delivered, the problem comes in when one or more people are dropping the information off on someone's yard, driveway or porch.

The first that Jones heard about this was last week when someone went to his office to file a complaint because the envelope had been thrown out on his property, which the victim told Jones is littering.

"This (envelope and information) holds no value to me," the complainant reported. "It's simply trash in my yard."

Discount prescription drug card effort fails

By **JOHN HANNA**

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' administration tried but failed to create a discount prescription drug card for uninsured Kansans, an official told legislators Thursday.

The governor's Office of Health Planning and Finance had hoped such a card would decrease drug costs for between 15,000 and 40,000 people, said Karen Braman, its deputy director.

The office solicited proposals from companies in May, but only

two responded, and one quickly dropped out, Braman said. An agreement with the other company could not be reached, and the office does not plan to try again, Braman said.

Braman outlined the office's efforts to create a drug card during testimony to the Legislative Budget Committee. She did not name the two companies.

"We found out it wasn't feasible," Braman said after the meeting.

In her testimony, Braman told the committee that her office will continue considering ways to give more

Kansans access to affordable prescription drugs.

And the committee's chairman, Sen. Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, said he's in favor of any serious attempt to reduce drug and other medical costs.

"I think they had good intentions," he said of the office's attempt.

According to figures released last month by the U.S. Census Bureau, an average of 10.9 percent of Kansans residents were uninsured from 2001-03.

Braman said her office wanted to

create cards with an annual enrollment fee of up to \$20 per household. People would use the cards at participating pharmacies to obtain discounts.

Companies managing the cards would negotiate discounts with manufacturers.

Braman said negotiations with the one remaining interested company continued in July and August.

However, it wanted the state to shoulder the cost of processing enrollments and wanted to charge pharmacies a transaction fee, she said.

Briefly

Commissioners meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include Emergency Preparedness Director John Lygeros with a grant update, and County Road Director Clair Schrock. The meeting is open to the public.

Hospice volunteer inservice scheduled

Hospice Services, Inc. is sponsoring the regularly scheduled Thomas County Hospice Volunteer Inservice in Colby at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at the Colby Presbyterian Church. The topic will be "Caring for the Caregiver." For information, call (785) 543-2900.

Reception for international students nears

Everyone is invited to a welcome reception for international students from Colby Community College and Colby High School from 7 to 9 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 14, said Connie Davis, one of the organizers. Colby College's International Students and Friends Organization is sponsoring the gathering, which will be a come-and-go reception at the First Presbyterian Church meeting room, 515 W. 4th St., Colby. For questions, call Davis at 462-7188.

Share sign-up underway

Heartland SHARE sign up continued through today at the State Farm office in Colby, with delivery on Saturday, Sept. 25 at Sacred Heart School gym at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call Gene Griffin at 460-3579.

LaLeche League meeting scheduled

There will be an informal meeting for all interested parents sponsored by the LaLeche League of Northwest Kansas from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday at 315 E. Cherry St., Colby, said Connie Davis, one of the coordinators. For questions, call Davis at 462-7188.

Celebration set for Sisters

The Sisters of St. Agnes will be celebrating 125 years of service in western Kansas, and to mark the occasion a Eucharistic Celebration will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday at Sacred Heart Church in Colby with Bishop George Fitzsimons as celebrant. A brunch and program will follow in the church basement. All are welcome to attend. Several of the Sisters who served Colby in various ministries will be present. Anybody in the community who worked with them in any capacity is invited to any or all of the celebration.

Colby
Selden
Jennings



90s through the weekend

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 50s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. **Saturday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 5 to 15 mph. **Saturday night...**Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 50s. South winds 5 to 15 mph. **Sunday...**Mostly sunny. Breezy. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 15 to 25 mph. **Sunday night...**Mostly clear. Breezy. Lows in the mid 50s. **Monday...**Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s.

The numbers

- Thursday's high, 92
- Low this morning, 56
- Records for Sept. 10, 102 in 1964 and 32 in 1898
- Year ago today, 89 and 60
- Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
- September total, 0.00
- Soil temperature, 74

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Water use

- Sept. 9 = (not available)

Water advisories

- Water **Watch** is 3.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.
- Water **Warning** is 4.0 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.
- Water **Emergency** is 4.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

