

Wreck puts end to girls' country ride

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

OAKLEY — An afternoon drive certainly ended up unlike two Oakley teens ever envisioned: their car hanging over the railing of a bridge and them being taken to the hospital in Oakley.

Asia Gardipee, 15, and her 15-year-old passenger, Ashley Cunningham, were southbound on County Road 30 at 8:40 a.m. on Wednesday, when Gardipee lost control of the 1989 Buick Park Avenue.

Thomas County Undersheriff Jason R. Moses said the car slid into

a bridge guardrail, went over the bridge front end first, and came to rest with the front bumper resting on the ground.

"Metal from the roof and passenger door was wrapped around the bridge railing holding the car vertical.

"Gardipee walked to a residence in the area and reported the accident," Moses said.

The Logan County Rescue Squad and Logan County Emergency Medical Service responded.

The Thomas County Sheriff's office is investigating.

Issues facing cattlemen to be aired

BREWSTER — The Kansas Cattlemen's Association is inviting anyone interested to attend an informational meeting in Hardtner. The meeting will focus on issues facing independent cattle producers and is open to the public, consumers and producers.

The meeting will be held at Sterling's Barn in Hardtner on

Monday, starting at 6:30 p.m. with social hour, followed by a hamburger fry and meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mike Schultz, the association's chief executive officer, will be the featured speaker for the meeting.

His presentation will highlight key industry topics such as the Canadian border issue, trade, marketing, membership, growth of KCA

and other pertinent topics to the American cattle industry.

"For those interested in the American cattle industry and rural communities, come and hear about the two organizations that work only for independent cattlemen, Kansas Cattlemen's Association and R-CALF USA," Schultz said. RSVP to 580-293-4564.

Around the State

Police: BTK has sent investigators at least three packages

WICHITA (AP) — The BTK serial killer has sent investigators at least three packages containing jewelry that may have been taken from his victims, police said Thursday.

Wichita police Lt. Ken Landwehr, commander of the BTK task force, told reporters that investigators are trying to determine whether any of the jewelry belonged to the victims.

"I still contend that this is our most challenging case, but I am very pleased with the ongoing dialogue through these letters," Landwehr said.

The BTK killer — the initials of the killer's self-coined nickname stand for "Bind, Torture, Kill" — has been linked to eight unsolved killings, committed between 1974 and 1986. He resurfaced in March by sending letters to media and police.

Landwehr said Thursday the FBI's behavior analysis unit has confirmed that two letters are authentic communications from BTK, including a letter dropped in a United Parcel Service Inc. box in October 2004.

Prosecutors: Kansas State professor stabbed ex-wife to death

LAWRENCE (AP) — A college professor, furious he could lose his daughter in a custody battle, bludgeoned and stabbed his ex-wife and left her bloodied body on her living room floor, prosecutors said at the opening of his first-degree murder trial.

But the defense countered that Thomas Murray was a peaceful, calm man, saddened by the end of his 18-year marriage and said no evidence connects him to the slaying of Carmin Ross-Murray.

"He was the easy target," said Robert Eye, one of the lawyers representing Murray, an English professor at Kansas State University.

Testimony began Thursday morning after opening statements, with officers involved in the investigation and the victim's mother among the first witnesses to take the stand.

During her remarks, Angela Wilson, the assistant Douglas County district attorney prosecuting the case, described a number of Internet searches she said Murray conducted in the weeks before Ross-Murray was slain at her home near Lawrence. Her body was found Nov. 14, 2003, and her former husband was charged with the crime late last year.

Among the things Wilson said

Murray typed into a search engine at his office computer in Manhattan were "how to murder someone and not get caught," "murder for hire," "how to kill someone quickly and quietly."

But defense attorneys said searches of Murray's home, car and office turned up no fibers, blood, hair or fingerprints that could connect him to the crime.

Kansas Parks Trust takes over Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

STRONG CITY (AP) — The Kansas Park Trust assumed ownership of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve on Thursday, taking over the nation's only privately held national park unit.

The 11,000-acre Flint Hills preserve had been owned for the past 11 years by the National Park Trust, a not-for-profit agency based in Washington.

Ownership will be transferred to

the Nature Conservancy, also based in Washington, under a separate agreement with the Kansas Park Trust, which will remain involved in promoting the preserve.

The Kansas trust was formed in 2004 by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum Baker, former Gov. Mike Hayden, television journalist Bill Kurtis and former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, who was also a U.S. House member from Kansas.

A \$4.8 million gift to the Nature Conservancy from the estate of a Wellington couple, Frank and Frances Horton, will retire debt and fund improvements.

The National Park Trust bought the former Z-Bar Ranch for \$4.7 million in 1994 in an effort to preserve part of the nation's only remaining tallgrass prairie ecosystem. The money came from Texas cattleman Eric Bass, who donated \$1 million to the trust and prepaid a 35-year grazing lease.

It's all about poems



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby Grade School first and second graders listened to Title Reading teacher Sally Toth read poems this morning during a combined activity. The students also presented poems and pictures they drew based on their readings. The students will be doing more of the same next week. The activity was started by Toth and fellow title teacher Jamie McClure.

Education plan continues to grow in size

TOPEKA (AP) — A Republican plan to increase spending on public schools over three years has grown more expensive, but members still haven't figured out how to pay for it. Education Committee members also haven't resolved how to distribute extra dollars.

The committee had hoped to finish its work Thursday but won't vote on a plan until at least next week.

The plan, drafted mainly by Republican senators, would phase in over three years a \$445 million increase in annual spending on education.

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STRIKE ZONE

League Bowling Results

February 10- King Pin League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Colby Automotive	159	93	1
Colby Bowl & Fun Center	141	111	2
Thunderballs	131	121	3
5 Pony Men	121	131	4
Orschelns	112	140	5
T - J's Tire	92	160	6

First high Individual game: Gordon Berry, 233
First high Individual series: Brent Menges, 647

February 14 - First Nighters League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Code Red	206	88	1
Schlick Construction	191	103	2
Out Cast of Oakley	187	107	3
Warrior Hunting Supplies	153	141	4
Coors	151	143	5
Colby Implement	147	147	6
Woofter Well & Pump	147	147	7
Frontier Equity	136	158	8
Colby Bowl	80	214	9

First high Individual game: Terry Overton, 238
First high Individual series: Alan Focke, 614

February 4 - Ten Pin League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Hurt Enterprises	17	3	1
Don's Electric	12	8	2
Classic Trojans	9	11	3
Lantern Park Manor	9	11	4
JJ Tools	9	11	5
Cal Williams	8.5	11.5	6
Colby Bowl	8.5	11.5	7
Comfort Inn	7	13	

First high Individual game: Deanna Carmen, 205
First high Individual series: Rebecca Koel, 556

January 30- King & Queen

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Benson - Sabatka	31	13	1
Brewer - Schwanke	24.5	19.5	2
Kern - Dale	23	21	3
Moeder - Lee	22.5	21.5	4
Barton - Donley	22	22	5
White - Gaede	22	22	6

Crocker - Lewis	21	23	7
Rosales - Gourley	19	25	8
Wark - Ryan	19	25	9
Norman - Gallentine	19	28	10

Men's First high Individual game: Alex Rosales, 240
Men's First high Individual series: Shawn Dale, 616
Women's First high Individual game: Tohna Benson, 179
Women's First high Individual series: Amy Gourley, 462

February 1 - Early Bird Ladies League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Bowlerettes	11	5	1
NW Vacuum	10	6	2
4 4 Fun	10	6	3
Jean's Rollers	7	9	4
Van's Merry Four	6	10	5
www. strike	4	12	6

First high Individual game: Dee Hovda, 202
First high Individual series: Dee Hovda, 507

February 2 - Ladies Nite Out

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Sunflower Bank	12.5	3.5	1
Twisters	10	6	2
Who-No's?	10	6	3
Strike-Outs	8	8	4
Camouflage Lawn Care	7	9	5
CMC	7	9	6
Lobo Liquor	7	9	7
Bottle Gallery	6.5	9.5	8
Straight Line	6	10	9
Colby Bowl	6	10	10

First high Individual game: Melanie Fortin, 214
First high Individual series: Lesley Wagoner, 560

February 2 - Powderpuff League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
The Whirlwinds	9	3	1
Weiser Insurance	7	5	2
Nightmares	7	5	3
Golden Harvest Seed	7	5	4
Farm Credit	4	8	5
Service Oil	2	10	6

First high Individual game: Monica Miller, 213
First high Individual series: Monica, Miller, 514

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TRUCK'S

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