

Family

Death

Dolores Dean Cullop Mayer

Dolores Dean Cullop Mayer, 101, died Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2005. She was a former resident of Brewster.

Mrs. Mayer was born May 25, 1904 in a tent in Buffalo. On Sept. 1, 1920, she married Rudolph Mayer. They were married 72 years.

They lived in Brewster many years and moved to Montrose, Colo. in 1981.

She is survived by three daughters, Fern Louise Melstrom of

Mesa, Ariz., Violet Joy Kramer and husband of Whittier, Calif. and Dorla Hunter and husband Robert Hunter of Ridgway, Colo.; 12 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren and 40 great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 2 at the Ridgway Community Church.

Memorials are suggested to Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado, P.O. Box 1804, Montrose, Colo. 81402.

Babies

Abraham Othelieus Villarreal

Jeannie Yanez and Elizandro L. Villarreal announce the birth of their son, Abraham Othelieus Villarreal on Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2005 at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. Abraham weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and is 20 3/4 inches long.

Grandparents are Janie Villarreal of Tulsa, Okla., Mary Yanez and Juan Yanez of Goodland and Juanita Villarreal of San Angelo, Texas.

Abraham was welcomed home by sibling Toni Villarreal.

Plants can be attractive target for mice in winter

MANHATTAN — If they can't work their way into a human home for winter, mice like to hide — especially where they're close to an emergency food supply.

"Deeply mulched roses are popular. Mice also like to hide in dead grass and weeds under windbreak trees. For these rodents, however, the mulch or vegetation next to an apple tree is the foyer to a five-star restaurant," said Ward Upham, horticulturist with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

Mice often leave landscape and orchard plantings alone until snow covers their other foods. Then they'll hone in, particularly on trees

with thin, succulent bark. This can include any sapling, Upham said.

"Damage also can be severe enough to kill fruit trees that are old enough to bear," he warned.

Mice often tunnel near the soil surface and feed on both lower trunk and roots. That causes damage. But if their bark chewing circles the plant's trunk (at ground level or below), that can kill. Whether tree or shrub, a girdled trunk interrupts the plant's flow of water and nutrients.

"To prevent this, you need to leave a space between vegetation or mulch and the trunks of ornamental and fruit plantings," Upham said. "Then you need to check it frequently for signs of mice."

"You also can check for mice by placing baited mouse traps in PVC or another type of pipe near vulnerable plantings. Insert each trap far enough into a pipe that pets can't reach it. Check your stations about once a week, and reset the traps, if necessary."

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Sheriff: Remember to designate a sober driver

Impaired driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. Nationally, more than 17,000 people died in alcohol-related highway crashes during 2003. Every 30 minutes, nearly 50 times a day, someone in America dies in an alcohol-related crash. Hundreds of thousands more are injured each year.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, about three in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their lives.

That's why the Colby High School Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) is joining with Thomas County law enforcement to remind everyone this holiday

season to always designate a sober driver before each holiday party or event involving alcohol.

"The holiday season is supposed to be a time for family, friends and festive celebrations, but it is unfortunately a time when we see a tragic jump in the number of alcohol-related highway fatalities between Thanksgiving and New Year's," said Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn. "That's why we're reminding everyone this holiday season, if you catch a buzz, catch a ride."

Designating a sober driver before the party begins is just one of many simple steps to remember to avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving, he said, while offer-

ing these other simple reminders for a safer holiday season:

- If you are not 21, it is not even legal for someone to drink, let alone drive.

- Don't even think of getting behind the wheel of a car if you've been out drinking — even one drink is too much.

- If you are impaired, call a friend or family member to come and get you.

- Remember — friends don't let friends drive drunk. Take the keys and never let a friend leave your sight if you think they are about to drive while impaired.

Baughn also said if anyone is hosting a party this holiday season, remind guests to plan ahead, always

offer alcohol-free beverages during the event, and make all sure all your guests leave with a sober driver.

Since 1981, every president of the United States has proclaimed December "National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month" to help underscore the public's commitment to prevent impaired driving and promoting the use of designated drivers and sober ride programs.

The month of December and the New Year's holiday are also often highlighted by the significant increases in state and local law enforcement efforts to combat impaired driving such as the use of sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols.

"Driving impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is simply not worth the risk," Baughn said. "The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be really significant and not the way you want to spend your holiday season."

So remember this holiday season, if you are of legal age to "catch a buzz, then catch a ride."

Eastern Star holds cookie exchange

Colby Chapter #442, Order of the Eastern Star, held their last meeting of the year, Monday, Dec. 19 at the Masonic Hall.

The meeting was opened in form with Mary Molstad, Worthy Matron, and Harold Leffman, Associate Patron, presiding in the east.

The pledge of allegiance was given and "The Star-Spangled Banner" was sung. the Worthy Matron welcomed all present with a Christmas greeting.

A short business meeting was conducted by the Worthy Matron. It was reported the stuffed animal toys

were delivered to the hospitals in Colby and Oakley. the charter was draped in living memory of sister Alice Harrison.

The next meeting will be a turkey and noodle dinner at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 2 preceding the meeting at 7:30 p.m. All members are invited to attend.

The meeting closed in form and members adjourned to the kitchen to make plates of cookies for their shut-in members. They were delivered on Tuesday. A cookie exchange was held among the members and refreshments of cookies and coffee were served.


New Year's dance planned

The Shooting Stars Singles Square Dance Club of Hays will hold a New Year's Eve dance from 9 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, Dec. 31 at Reed Center, 317 W. 13th St. in Hays.

Mike Turner will call the squares and Ray Moran will que the rounds. Everyone, including singles and

couples are welcome. The event will include a New Year's celebration and breakfast.

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