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STEVE HAYNES/Colby Free Press



Fencing blocks 83

A crew from Colby rushed to Selden today to clean up U.S. 83 after a semitrailer rig loaded with fence panels and stock tanks for Orscheln stores overturned. Terry Cox of Butch's Body Shop (above) surveyed the mess, trying to decide what to move next. His dad, Butch Cox, talked with state Trooper Andy Schippers of Colby (left), who said the driver, Melvo A. Mendoza, 44, Grand Island, Neb., was southbound when his rig went off the right side. He overcorrected, and the trailer overturned across both lanes. Sheridan County deputies and flagmen from the state Department of Transportation directed traffic, through the city park on the north and on the old highway into town to the south. The wreck happened about 8 a.m., he said, adding that the driver told him he may have dozed off. Mendoza was cited for failure to maintain a single lane.

Free Press says 'goodbye' to ad manager

By Patty Decker

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Advertising Manager Crystal Rucker worked her last day Friday after almost 10 years with the *Colby Free Press* and Jasmine Stewart, a veteran advertising executive, took her place today.

"I enjoyed working at the newspaper, meeting new people and helping our businesses in their advertising needs," Rucker said, "but it was time to move on."

She said she accepted the deputy clerk's position with Logan County and will work with Pat Schippers, county clerk.

"Crystal was a strong reason for the success of the *Colby Free Press* during the past several years," said Publisher John VanNostrand.

During her years at the news-

paper, Rucker said, she has seen many changes.

"When I started this job in January of 1999," she said, "the technology was a lot different than it is today."

Ads were made with paper clip art rather than computer graphics, she said. "Once we were using pagination, efficiency and clarity of ads improved even more," she said. Rucker was born and raised in Winona. Following high school, she moved to Alva, Okla., but returned to Winona in October 1999.

"My family is in this area and we wanted to live closer to them," she said.

When she moved back, she worked at Mitten's Truck Stop and two months later was asked to join the newspaper team.

Rucker and her husband Melvin have two children: Eric, 12, and Aaron, 10.

Her parents are George and Judy Collins of Page City. She also has two sisters and a brother: Tenille of St. Francis, Gary of Russell Springs and Niki of Hays.

"I appreciated the advertisers I served and will miss them," she

Continuing the tradition

Jasmine Stewart accepted the advertising manager's position following Crystal Rucker's resignation last week, but said it's bittersweet. "Crystal was the best," she said.

"She was an excellent mentor, excellent in training people and was open minded about ideas and trying new things."

Stewart said she enjoyed working with Rucker so much that she returned to the Free Press after leaving one year ago to return to school.

"This is my second time here," Stewart said. "I was employed full-time in advertising

said. "Everyone here at the newspaper office will miss Crystal,"

about one year ago, but decided to finish my education in business."

When the time came to look for employment again, Stewart said, she was excited to learn a job was available at the paper.

Stewart worked part time while continuing her education at Colby Community College until Rucker resigned.

She said she is looking forward to the challenge of her new job and striving to help businesses in their advertising needs. Like her predecessor, Stewart has a strong background in business and more than four years experience in newspaper advertising.

"Our goal is to assist businesses in increasing their sales and I look forward to carrying on the tradition Crystal started many years ago about putting the customer first," she said.

VanNostrand said, "and we wish her well in her future endeavors."

Electrical accident details few

By Jan Katz Ackerman

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Company officials are still not talking about a power line accident which claimed the life of a utility worker and injured two others just east of Colby on Wednesday.

Jesse Resendiz, marketing communications manager for PAR Electrical Contractors, Inc. of Kansas City, Mo., said until an investigation by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is completed, few details are being released about the death of Jerrel C. Bingesser, 24, of Council Grove. Bingesser was living in Hoxie at the time of his death. His funeral was Saturday morning in Council Grove.

Reba Reid, communications director for Quanta Services, the parent company of PAR Electrical Contractors, said the crew on which Bingesser was working was performing routine maintenance on a power pole and were replacing a wood pole about 1 1/2 mile east of Colby when the accident occurred.

Reid said until the federal agency completes its investigation and a report is issued, the names of the two other workers is not being released.

Brent Bokelman, Kansas City, is project manager working out of the temporary office in Hoxie. He

said the federal agency in charge of the investigation was on site late last week.

"Occupational Safety and Health Administration has been out and will be back this week to interview me and other crew members," Bokelman said.

PAR crew members working out of Hoxie were back to the equipment site, located about one mile west of Hoxie, this morning. Bokelman said if the rain holds off, crews would return to work today.

"If Mother Nature lets us," Bokelman said.

"We will be back at work (today). We have lots of work to do in the Colby area."

PAR is one of the largest outside plant electrical contracting companies in North America. The company has more than 2,500 employees.

Based in Kansas City, Mo., PAR has permanent offices across the nation as well as temporary offices near its work sites. PAR is a subsidiary company to Houston, Texas-based Quanta Services, one of the leading providers of specialized contracting services in the electric power, telecommunications, broadband cable and gas pipeline industries in America. Quanta Services has 13,000 employees, with major offices in 40 states, and field and support offices in all 50 states and Canada.

Registration underway at area schools

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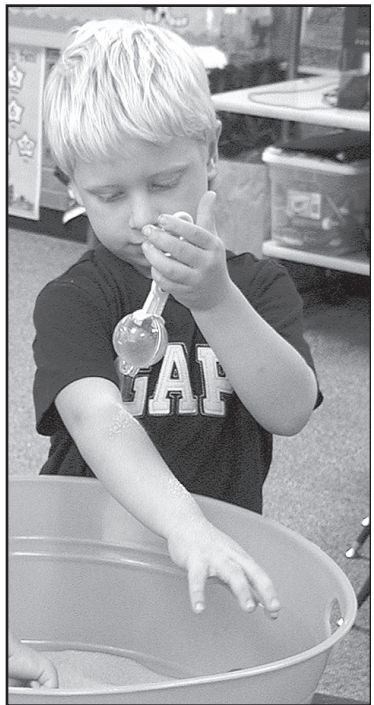
The new school year will begin Thursday, Aug. 21, for Colby public schools, Heartland Christian School, Sacred Heart School and Golden Plains schools.

Sacred Heart School will be holding enrollment for students entering preschool-5th grade today from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the school. Lunch, tuition and registration fees will be due at this time. Kindergarten through 5th grade students will have their first day Thursday, Aug. 21, and preschool will begin the following Monday, Aug. 25. For any questions, call (785) 460-2813.

Colby Community College will be holding registration next Monday, with new students in the morning and returning, transfer and part-time students registering between 3 and 5 p.m.

Dorms will open Sunday at 10 a.m. and a barbecue for all students will begin at 5 p.m. that evening.

The college will also be holding its annual Party in the Park for all students next Monday from noon



MICHELLE MYERS/Colby Free Press

Colin Carroll enjoyed playing in Sharon Shirley's preschool room during enrollment today at Sacred Heart School in Colby.

to 1:30 p.m. Classes will begin next Tuesday. For information, call (785) 462-3984.

Board meeting Tuesday

A special Colby School board meeting is planned at 7 p.m., Tuesday, at the Colby Community Building, 285 E. 5th St. The meeting will include members of the Colby City Council and City Manager Carolyn Armstrong. The public is welcome. For questions, call 460-5000.

Food order deadline today

Prairie Land Food (formerly known as Share) is taking August food orders through today. The program offers lower prices on some food items as a way to reward people for volunteering. This month's menu is bacon, crispy popcorn shrimp, lead bratwurst, breaded chicken breast filets, breakfast turkey sausage, six to eight different fresh fruit and vegetables. Other specials can also be ordered by calling Gene

Griffin, 460-3579 or Mary Schroeder, 462-7525.

Free physicals Thursday

The Family Center for Health Care in Colby is offering free school physicals to Colby students from 5 to 6 p.m., Thursday, and out-of-town students from 6 to 7 p.m. For questions, call (785) 462-6184.

Football meeting slated

A parent's meeting for Colby Middle School

students playing football is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wednesday, in the school cafeteria. Equipment will be handed out, said Todd Murdock, head coach. For questions, call 460-5200.

Craft fair planned

The 35th annual Hansen Arts and Crafts Fair will be held from 10-4 p.m., Sept. 20, at the Hansen Plaza Square on Main Street in Logan. For information, call (785) 689-4846.

