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Monday accident claims life on K-25

A prominent Grinnell businessman died Monday evening after his vehicle and another collided while he was trying to pass at an intersection on K-25 north of Colby.

Douglas Beckman, 46, owner of the Grinnell Furniture Store, was taken to Citizens Medical Center in Colby with severe injuries, the Kansas Highway Patrol reported. He was transferred to Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, where he died about 9 p.m.

The patrol said Beckman was northbound in a 2004 Buick sport utility about 1:30 p.m. when he tried to pass a 1997 GMC truck about six miles north of Colby. The Buick was in the left lane to pass when the truck turned left, striking the Buick in the passenger door.

The driver of the truck, Brian Brown, 47, and a passenger, Michael Dennis, 27, both of Colby,

were not injured. The patrol said no one was wearing a seat belt.

Both vehicles were taken to Butch's Body Shop in Colby.

The Thomas County Sheriff's Office, Colby Police Department, Colby Fire Department and Thomas County Emergency Medical Services responded to the call.

Mr. Beckman was born April 24, 1973, in Oakley, the son of Durwood G. and Thelma Ann (Racette) Beckman.

On June 15, 1985, he married Melanie Ribordy in Grainfield. He was a member of St. Agnes Catholic Church in Grainfield and president of Grinnell Cowpaddy Golf.

He was preceded in death by his father.

He is survived by his wife, of the home; his mother, Oakley; three sons, Brandon, Alex and Austin Beckman, of the home; a daughter, Tanya Becker, Gardner; six brothers, Reg Beckman,

Norton; Mike Beckman, Grinnell; Tom Beckman, Ellinwood; and Joe, Paul and Chris Beckman, Oakley; and six sisters, LaVonne Dingey, Atwood; Coleen Reams, Hilton Head Island, S.C.; Marsha Brockman, Leavenworth; Sandy Beckman, Ness City; Barb Tuck, Raytown, Mo.; and Michele Howell, Holyrood.

A funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Grinnell, with Father Michael Elan officiating and burial in Immaculate Conception Cemetery there.

Visitation will be from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday at the church parish center. A Rosary and wake service will begin at 8 p.m.

The family suggests memorials for the children in care of the State Bank, 106 S. Adams, Grinnell, Kan., 67738.

College approves budget

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansan.com

The Colby Community College board approved a \$10,544,874 budget for 2009-2010 year at a public meeting on Monday at Thomas Hall on campus.

The school's fiscal year began on July 1 and will end on June 30. The budget includes spending \$205,000 on adult education, \$6,000 on adult supplemental education and \$1,740,000 on auxiliary enterprises.

Alan Waites, vice president of business affairs and chief financial officer at the college, said the money for auxiliary enterprise covers operation of the book store, food services and dormitories. Adult education expenses include instructional supplies, faculty salaries and equipment, he said.

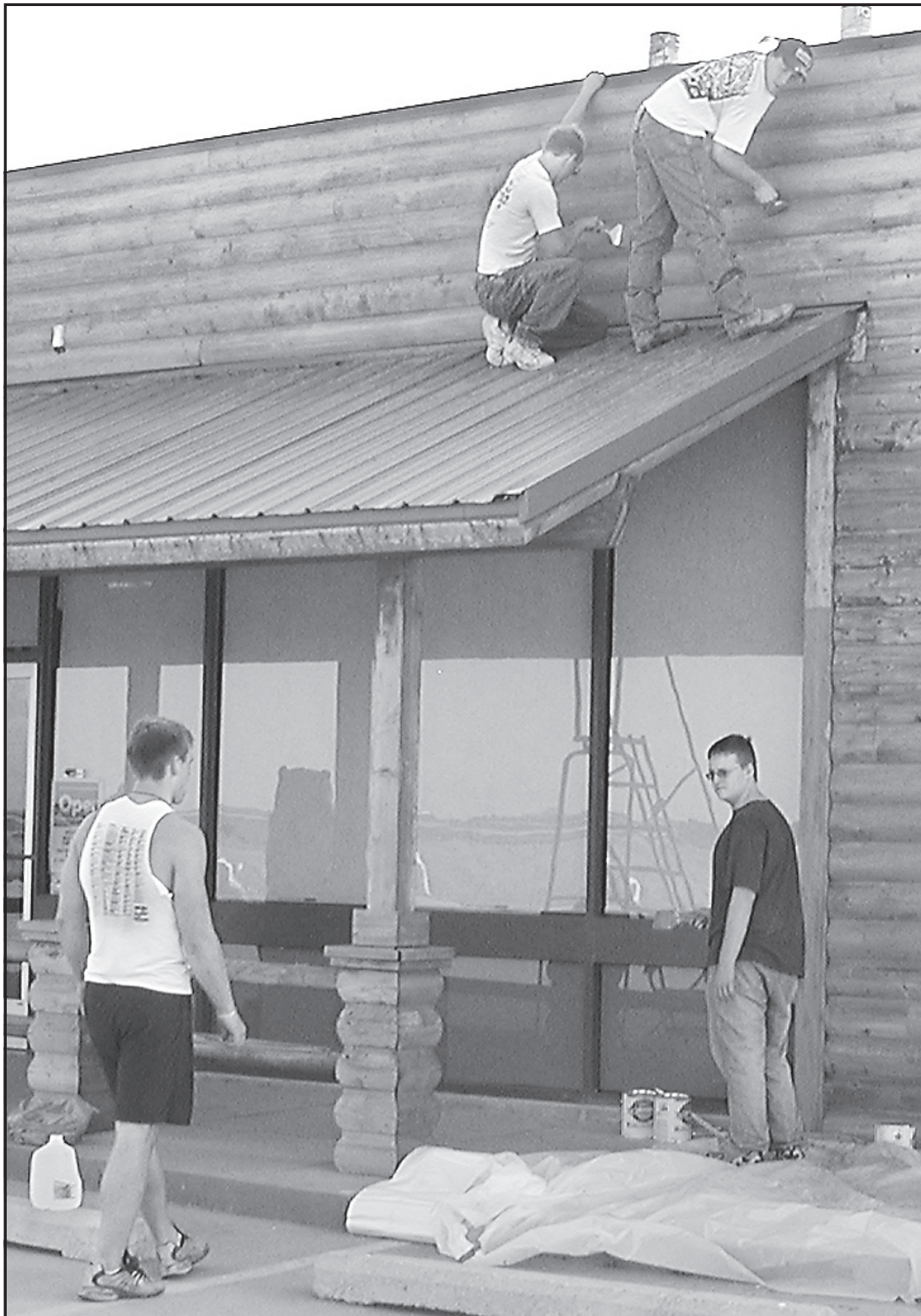
The property tax will raise \$2,695,908 with a levy of 33.28 mills. The 2009 mill levy was 34.52, said Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms.

Waites said this represents the money the college will get from

county taxpayers to help pay for operations. He said the college has not received any money from the state.

For every \$1,000 of a home's assessed value, property owners will pay about \$33.28 in taxes to the college, said Waites. For example a person with a home assessed at \$10,000 would pay about \$332.80 in taxes to the college. That same home would be worth about \$86,900 on the open market, said George Overton, Thomas County deputy appraiser.

Working for the team



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Seven wrestlers and two coaches from the Colby High team re-stained the walls of the Quilt Cabin on Tuesday. Team members (from left) Tanner Kriss, Kaid Wark, Clayton Applehans and Leighton Koel were part of a crew 'bought' at an auction fund raiser that will help the team pay for overnight stays and meals at wrestling tournaments during the year.

Book sale at the library



MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

There are still lots of great finds at the Pioneer Memorial Library's book sale, as Patrick Geibler found Tuesday morning. He had quite a collection of half-price items as he checked out with library employee Mara Dee Fulwider.

District talks cuts with public

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkansan.com

Parents asked whether their children would be safe crossing busy streets as the Colby School District drops most in-town bus service during two community meetings Monday and Tuesday held to explain district budget cuts.

About 15 people, including parents, faculty and staff, attended the first night, with about 10 the second night. Bussing was a big concern, and several people asked about safety with more kids crossing in traffic.

Superintendent Terrell Harrison said the district will have staff members posted as crossing guards at problem intersections around the schools, including Fourth Street and Range Avenue.

Two new loading zones have been established, one at a parking lot by the grade school and the other on Garfield Avenue east of the school complex. These will be reserved for pick-up and drop-off before and after school times.

Harrison said school release times have been staggered to reduce congestion, and parents with students of different ages will be told to wait for each student at the youngest one's pick-up area. Harrison said the district will have more information for parents at enrollment on Thursday and Friday.

Some areas in the city limits are more than 2 1/2 miles from one building or another, Harrison said, and those students will still be eligible for a bus

ride.

Harrison began both meetings with a short presentation on the state's economic situation and budget cuts, followed by a question-and-answer session. State revenue projections are low and actual revenues have been lower still, she said, forcing the Legislature and Gov. Mark Parkinson to slash the budget and delay payment to schools for some programs, including special education.

"Kansas is facing the worst budget crisis in decades," she said.

Harrison said the state has cut \$550 million in general-fund expenditures, \$125.5 million of that from public schools. Base state aid was cut by \$215 per student, she said, special education has been cut and professional development, or teacher training, money was eliminated.

"Our district has lost over half a million dollars," Harrison said.

The district budgeted for an estimated 929 students for coming year, she said, noting that they usually plan on a drop of 2 to 4 percent per year. Business Manager Jo DeYoung said that when she started with the district in 1994, it had 1,340 students.

To compound the problem, Harrison said, a group of school districts sued the state, claiming they were not getting enough money to do their jobs. They won the suit, and all districts got more money in 2005 and each year after that.

The Colby district had planned on the additional

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Briefly

Logo needed for 125th bash

The Prairie Museum of Art and History and the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a logo contest for Thomas County's 125th Anniversary. Entries should include the theme for the celebration: "The Spirit of the Prairie Lives on." They may be submitted on an 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper to the museum or the Chamber office by mail or in person by Tuesday, Sept. 15. For information, call the museum at 460-4590 or the Chamber at 460-3401.

Yearbooks available at school

Colby High School yearbooks for the 2008-2009 school year will be available for pickup during enrollment, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday at the high school. After that, they will be available in the jour-

nalism room on Thursday, Aug. 20. Yearbooks may be purchased for \$50 during enrollment. For information, call sponsor Donna Henry at 460-5300.

City to trim trees Friday

City crews will be trimming trees from 7 a.m. to noon Friday on School and Garfield Avenues south of Eighth Street. Trees will be trimmed to 13 feet, 6 inches over streets and alleys and 8 feet over sidewalk. Residents are asked to move vehicles parked under low-hanging branches. For information, call City Hall at 460-4410.

School registration Thursday

Enrollment for all returning students, from kindergarten to seniors, will be from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday at Colby High School. New student enroll-

ment will be at 8 a.m. Friday in each school. The first day of athletic practice will be on Monday, Aug. 17, with times set by each team. The first day of classes will be Thursday, Aug. 20. The district has 2008 diplomas available for pick-up at the administration office. For information, call 460-5000.

Dance planned for Friday

There will be a singles and married couples dance from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Friday in the Community Building. This is a free dance for Janet Phelps' 75th birthday. Please, no gifts. For information, call Lue Duffey (785) 855-2341.

Sacred Heart enrollment Monday

Sacred Heart School will hold enrollment for all students in preschool through fifth grade from 8 a.m.

to 3 p.m. Monday at the school, 1150 W. Sixth St. For information, call the school at 460-2813.

Rexford enrollment next week

Golden Plains School District enrollment will be from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, and Friday, Aug. 14. Pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students will register at the Selden School, while middle and high school students will register at the Rexford building. The first day of the school will be Wednesday, Aug. 26. For information, call Tammy Shaw at (785) 386-4560.



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