



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## No charges yet filed against pair

By **PATTY DECKER**  
*Free Press Editor*

The search continues for a man and woman involved in a series of crimes that started more than one week ago in Wausau, Wis. and escalated into north-west Kansas and Thomas County.

Charges are pending in Thomas County on the two fugitives who, at this time, are being referred to as John and Jane Doe, said Tom Jones, sheriff.

Paperwork on the couple was sent to the Thomas County Attorney's office on Monday in connection with crimes ranging from eluding police officers in a high speed chase on Wednesday, accosting a teen-age girl at knifepoint, theft and more.

Allan Taylor, county attorney, said today that his office is still receiving information and continues to review the case. As a result, no formal charges have been filed with the courts as yet.

Although, authorities have the identity of the male suspect, they are withholding that information at this time so as not to jeopardize the investigation, Jones said. However, once charges are filed by the county attorney, a warrant can be issued and all information on the man will be made available on the National Crime Information Center.

This will be helpful to authorities in that all agencies across the United States will have access to this information because of the warrant and could expedite capture.

Capt. Diane Krebsbach, investigative division in Wausau, said Tuesday that their office is working cooperatively with Kansas authorities to determine the identity of the female.

"Our preliminary information suggests that these two people were not from here and we do have a theory," she said. "We believe we know where they might have come from and how they got here."

In their investigation, she said, there was no evidence that the couple had stolen any other vehicles prior to taking the pickup based on the fact that no abandoned or other cars were located in the area.

"No charges have been filed here," Krebsbach said, "but the case is still open."

Wausau is a city of about 35,000 people in Marathon County, located in the middle of Wisconsin. According to statistical information, Wausau is part of a metropolitan area with two other sister cities, Weston and Schofield, and together the three have a population of 85,000. Marathon County is Wisconsin's largest county by area with a population of 240,000.

Following the pickup theft on Sunday, Aug. 5, the couple was reported on a gas skip out of Grinnell on Wednesday. Thomas County authorities spotted the vehicle later on I-70 and started a chase which ended when the man and woman drove off the highway, through a fence and into a cornfield. They then accosted a teen-ager at knifepoint, stole her vehicle and later stole another vehicle, a white Jeep Cherokee, in Hoxie.

## All eyes and ears as school nears



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

**ABOVE:** Jordan Sharp, a Colby High School incoming freshman, listened intently during the special orientation night held Tuesday at the school. **LEFT:** Sherry Mead and her son, Adam, a ninth grader, were among more than 80 students and parents attending the two-hour session. According to Bryan Bullington, principal, the purpose of the orientation is to acclimate students to the high school environment. "It's a new era for you," he told the students, "and a big transition from middle school." Students were familiarized with procedures in the lunchroom, office area, career center, student services, and locations of their classes. All students at Colby Public Schools will begin classes on Wednesday, Aug. 22.

## College okays contracts on five new faculty members

By **MAXINE NELSON**  
*Colby Free Press*

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees approved contracts for five new faculty members and one staff member at the Monday night's meeting.

The five include:

- Michael Thompson, who will teach criminal justice. He has a bachelor's degree and a juris doctorate from Oklahoma, and has taught in Oklahoma.
- Andie Trantham will teach radio. She has an associates of arts degree from Colby Community College, where she was a presidential scholar; and a bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University.
- Sandra Murrell will teach equine science/horse show team. Her degree is from Texas A&M where she has ex-

perience with artificial insemination and embryo implants.

• Krista Schoenfeld will teach behavioral science. She has a bachelor's degree from Panhandle (Okla.) A&M, and a master's degree from West Alabama.

• Gina Chvatal will be the volleyball coach/instructor. She was an All American for Colby Community College, and has been volleyball coach at Atwood.

Additionally, Scott Murray was hired as a computer tech to work with the college's 380-400 computers. He has worked for the college in the past.

In other business:

• The board accepted resignations from Joan Jilka and Melinda Fikan. Jilka's resignation as of Aug. 1 falls within the provisions of liquidated damages according to the master

agreement for employment, and the situation was referred to committee. 'Liquidated damages' refers to imposing a fine because of damages to the college because of a late resignation and having to find someone else to fulfill a contract. Jilka was a physical education instructor.

Fikan has accepted employment with the Manpower Program of the Kansas Department of Health and Human Resources in Colby.

• The board held a budget hearing on the 2002 budget, and accepted it as published when no one appeared to protest.

• The board accepted vehicle bids to replace three vehicles. They plan to replace three vehicles each year, but replaced four this year because one was totaled, and insurance money was available. Bids for \$11,999 each were

accepted from Frontier Auto for two 2001 Chevy Malibus, rejecting a bid for \$13,499 for a 2001 Dodge Intrepid. The board accepted bids from Tubbs and Sons of \$12,601.04 and \$12,382.59 for two Ford Taurus 4-door sedans, rejecting bids of \$12,824.33 and \$12,387.59 for similar vehicles. The latter had a scratched windshield. Specifications were that the vehicles had to be 2000 or 2001 models with less than 25,000 miles on them.

The college financed \$2,200,000 for building projects in 1996 through certificates of participation. The outstanding debt at this time is \$1,840,000. If this debt were refinanced at a lower interest rate, it would save money, the board was told. David Shute of Ransom had brought financing alternatives and a draft time table of events for the certificates of partici-

ipation to the July 16 meeting. At that time, the board authorized Ransom to serve as financial advisor and work with bankers and investors for the best deal. Haas brought several bids from lending institutions with estimated marketing rates at 2.7 percent up to 4.8 percent but said the top two contenders were Piper Jaffray, and Edward Jones.

He recommended Edward Jones over Piper Jaffray, due to a difference in variable interest. The board decided to go with Edward Jones, which will begin selling immediately. The board accepted the Edward Jones proposal with anticipated present value savings in excess of \$115,000.

The board went into closed session to discuss negotiations and decided to make a proposal concerning health insurance to the Faculty Alliance.

## Landfill financing aired at the county commission meeting

By **MAXINE NELSON**  
*Colby Free Press*

Brian Staats of Adams Brown Beran and Ball Chartered, appeared Monday at the Thomas County Commissioners' meeting to discuss options for financing the additional pit for the landfill. This is a project that is mandated by the

federal and state governments, the commissioners were told.

The commissioners ruled out using general obligation bonds because such bonds can be petitioned and brought to a vote of the people, and the work has to be done and paid for soon.

Staats said if they used revenue

bonds they would have to adjust landfill fees to pay back the bonds. Ron Evans, commission chair, said they did not want to charge that much.

Staats suggested they might want to issue temporary notes and renew them until paid. Evans said the county has already started work on the new land-

fill pit and will be having bills coming due soon which must be paid.

Register of Deeds Denny Burke and Maybelle Moore of the appraiser's office discussed personnel with the commissioners, who then went into executive session for 10 minutes, and took no action upon returning to open meet-

ing. After transacting other business on the agenda, they went into another executive session, and decided to hire Moore for a vacancy arising in the office of the register of deeds due to the retirement of Patsy Ziegelmeier.

The next scheduled meeting of the commission is Monday at 9 a.m.

## Colby graduate part of European concert tour earlier this summer

By **MAXINE NELSON**  
*Colby Free Press*

Colleen Maison, daughter of Cleo and Keela Case of Colby, returned recently from a 17-day concert tour in Eastern Europe. Maison is a 1960 graduate of Colby High School, graduating in the same class as Sam Ramey, world-renowned opera singer.

Her music teacher in Colby was Miss Kay Patterson, although she credits her parents for inspiring her musical abilities.

"I was singing when I was a little

kid," she said. "I used to stand on the school bus and sing. It was Mom who inspired me. She would play the piano, and I would sing 'la-la-la' to her notes. Mom and dad made sure we had voice lessons and piano lessons while I was in school. My dad



C. Maison

would set me on the piano bench and urge me to practice."

Maison works as school secretary for a school for at-risk students in Camarillo, Calif., and has summer vacation time to take part in concert tours. She sings soprano in the Gold Coast Concert Chorus in Ventura County, Calif.

"Music has always been a big part of my life," she said. "It helps keep my sanity." She has multiple sclerosis, and says music helps keep the stress level down.

Maison was one of 70 chorus members of the Gold Coast Concert Chorus, a community chorus in Ventura County and neighboring counties which has over 100 members. Seventy chorus members and 33 friends performed seven concerts in Budapest, Hungary; Vienna, Austria; Prague, Czech Republic; Leipzig and Berlin, Germany this summer.

"What a thrill to walk where Mozart, Handel and Bach walked; sing in the cathedrals where they performed their masterpieces," she said. "It is an unbe-

lievable experience to sing with the accompaniment of pipe organs that were played by these masters."

The last city on the tour was Berlin. The group visited the remaining portion of the 'wall.' While at the site, the city tour guide explained what it was like to grow up in East Berlin, and how she felt the day the wall came down and she could finally go into West Berlin without the fear of being shot.

"As we stood there looking at the cold concrete wall, it was only natural to begin singing *America the Beauti-*

ful. How very lucky we are to live in America," Maison said.

The Gold Coast Concert Chorus performs four major concerts each year in Ventura County, Calif., and is directed by Kenneth Helms.

Helms is also the choir director at the Church of The Foothills in Ventura where Maison is a member and sings in the church choir.

Maison attended the University of Kansas for two years. She then married and has two daughters, Keela Lee, and Lissa, and a grandson Dallas, age 8.

## Briefly

### Weather: Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms continue to appear in the Colby area forecast for the next couple of days, according to the National Weather Service. Tonight, look for partly cloudy conditions, some thunderstorms, low temperatures in the upper 50s and light westerly winds. Thursday, partly sunny, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, highs in the mid-80s and southeast winds 5-15 mph. Thursday night and Friday, cloudy, thunderstorms, lows in the lower 60s and highs in the 80s. Colby's high Tuesday was 91 and the overnight low this

morning was 61. The city received 0.24 inches of rain in Tuesday's thunderstorm, bringing the total for the month to 0.29 inches.

The records for Aug. 15: 105 in 1935 and 49 in 1979. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Big photo exhibit Sunday

The Friends of Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby are

having their "Day in the Life of Thomas County" photo exhibit on Sunday at the library.

All photography participants are encouraged to come at 1 p.m. and the general public is invited to attend between 2 and 4 p.m. The winning photos were taken at various locations in Thomas County on May 2. Three grand prize winners were chosen along with 100 other photographs for display. This exhibit is free and everyone is invited to attend. The library is located at 375 West 4th Street. For more information, contact the library at 462-4470.

### Food distribution set

Commodities will be distributed from 2-3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20, at the Senior Progress Center in Colby. Expected commodities are rice cereal, corn, peas, beef stew, cranberries, instant milk and applesauce. Eligible persons may receive them according to the following income guidelines, which took effect July 1: household size — one, \$905; two, \$1,219; three \$1,533; four, \$1,848; five, \$2,162; six, \$2,476; seven \$2,790; eight, \$3,104. For additional family members, add \$315.

