



COLBY FREE PRESS

Couple on-the-run nabbed in Texas

They were stopped in Colby on Aug. 8; held local girl at knifepoint

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Texas proved to be the end of the line for a couple who led police on a high-speed chase through Thomas County, held a 17-year-old rural Colby girl at knifepoint, and allegedly stole many vehicles along the way, while eluding authorities for two months.

Kristopher Aaron Lambert, 21, and his companion, 23-year-old Tina Janice Pearce, both of Rankin County, Mississippi, were caught on Monday afternoon in Angelton, Tex. (south of Houston) when police officers were



T. Pearce



K. Lambert

called to a motel on a domestic disturbance, said C.D. Hopper, investigator

with the Thomas County Sheriff's Office.

Authorities in Angelton said that Lambert ran when officers arrived at the motel, broke into several houses and was alleged to have assaulted many residents before being brought down by a retired police officer in his yard. He then surrendered to police without further incident, Hopper said.

Pearce was arrested at the motel and could be extradited back to Thomas County within days. As for Lambert, police arrested him on charges of being a fugitive from justice, and aggra-

vated assault and burglary in association with Monday's incident. He is currently in jail at the Brazoria County Jail in Angelton.

Hopper said that extradition papers are being filed today with the Thomas County Attorney's office for both Lambert and Pearce.

Charges in Thomas County stem from the Wednesday, Aug. 8 incident in which the couple was charged with aggravated burglary, aggravated assault, kidnapping, one count each of felony theft and misdemeanor theft and two counts of misdemeanor criminal

damage to property.

The incident in Thomas County started at 11:30 a.m. when the couple was suspected to be involved in a gas skip from Grinnell. The chase then ensued when Deputy Ken Patton attempted to stop the couple.

Lambert and Pearce managed to elude Patton by driving off the road, through a fence and into a corn field. While deputies, Colby police and state troopers, along with a plane from the Colby Municipal Airport searched for the two suspects, they were busy ditching the alleged stolen Mazda pickup

and escaping in a 1998 Escort after holding a young girl hostage for nearly 30 minutes. The following day, the couple allegedly stole another vehicle from Hoxie Grain Co., a white Jeep Cherokee, which was later recovered in Tremonton, Utah, on Aug. 23. Another vehicle was then taken from Tremonton and officials in Ogden, Utah, suspected it was again the work of Lambert and Pearce.

Lambert's capture on Monday was good news for local authorities since he had been listed as one of Kansas' most wanted.

Traffic flow restricted on Capitol grounds

TOPEKA (AP) — The state is restricting the traffic flow on the Capitol grounds again and has added security personnel in the wake of military strikes in Afghanistan.

Sawhorses of wood and metal went up Monday to prevent vehicles from driving through arches under the north and south Statehouse steps. The barriers were designed to force traffic around the steps and away from the building.

Joyce Glasscock, secretary of administration, said Monday that she ordered the barriers put up and hoped to have them replaced with larger barriers, perhaps made of concrete, by Tuesday or Wednesday.

The Kansas Highway Patrol, which oversees the Capitol Police, added officers to the Statehouse and nearby state office buildings.

The patrol's spokesman, Lt. John Eichkorn, declined to discuss the details but said the number of officers inside the Capitol and their patrols around the building increased.

"I think all of us have to exercise some degree of additional common sense and caution, given what's going on the world," Gov. Bill Graves told reporters.

At other public sites around Kansas, little seemed to have changed because of U.S. and British air attacks on military sites and terrorist training camps.

Some officials said their agencies weren't taking additional precautions because they have been on alert since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

"We have been on a heightened awareness for some time," said Joy Moser, spokeswoman for the Kansas

Adjutant General's Department, which oversees operations of the Kansas National Guard and the state's Division of Emergency Management.

Security at the Capitol still wasn't as tight as it was during the week after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Then, access to the Capitol grounds for vehicles was restricted to one entrance, and vehicles couldn't go under the steps.

In addition, access to the building was reduced to the east entrance only.

Barriers similar to the ones now in place went up shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks but came down again about a week later.

Joe Fritton, director of facilities management, said they were supposed to have been put back up but weren't by mistake.

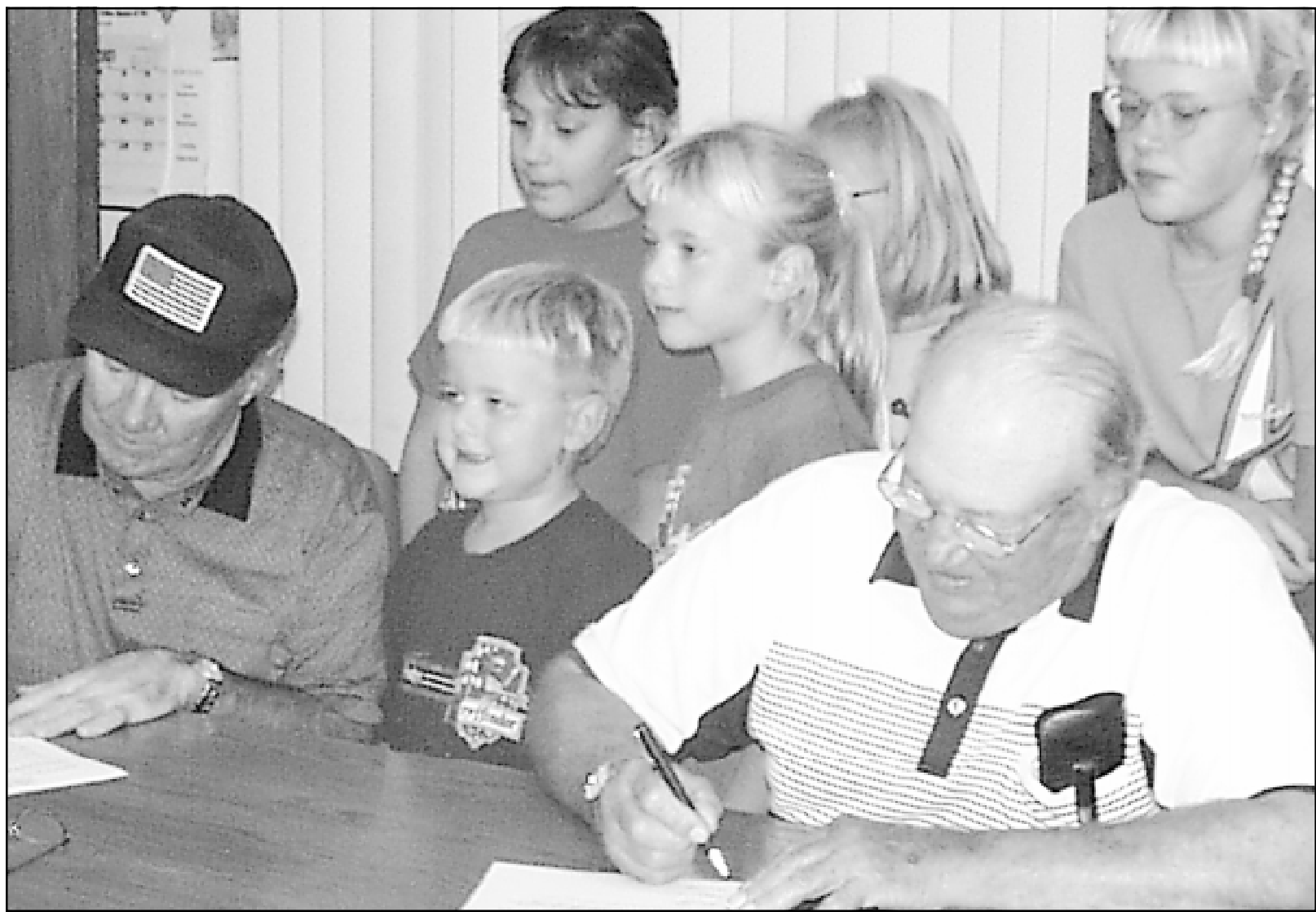
After the attacks, the state also increased the number of Capitol Police officers in the Statehouse, and Fritton said the increased presence would remain.

Glasscock said she wants the barriers under the steps to remain in place until the state decides how to move traffic on an off the Capitol grounds permanently.

Graves said: "It's difficult to protect every place against every conceivable act of terrorism, but we would be not doing our jobs if we didn't attempt to do some of the obvious, commonsense sorts of things.

"Obviously, limiting some access to some areas of state facilities — for instance, archways — probably is a good, prudent thing to do."

In many ways, business continued as usual at the Statehouse.



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Thomas County Commissioners signed a proclamation Monday at the courthouse supporting 4-H clubs during National 4-H Week as mem-

bers of the Abilene Hustlers look on. Many organizations have planned activities throughout the week in celebration of 4-H.

County vacates streets adjacent to Mingo

By **MAXINE NELSON**

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Commissioners approved a resolution Monday morning vacating some streets on farmland adjacent to Mingo. At the request of Elmer Zerr, engineering consultant, they resolved to vacate Benson Avenue, Byars Avenue, Belle Avenue and Davis Avenue east of the east side of Jensen Street in Mingo.

The streets had been platted, but never developed, Zerr said. He brought the request on behalf of Zeller Farms which owns and farms the land.

The Thomas County Extension Agents Dennis Chandler and D'Ette Scholtz brought their quarterly reports.

Scholtz thanked the commissioners for participating in the raising of the 4-H flag in honor of 4-H week earlier in the morning. The flag was raised by the Colby Comets Club. The commissioners signed a resolution proclaiming 4-H week in the afternoon.

She said Thomas County is considering whether to become part of a six-

county block in northwest Kansas which will share one agriculture agent, and one family and consumer sciences agent. Thomas County is the only county in the block with two agents. Some of the counties only have one, and some have no agents, she said.

She reported inviting agents to the Extension's annual meeting at 9 a.m. Friday, Oct. 26, at the Ramada Inn. She said Karen Blakesly will give a presentation at 11 a.m. on Oct. 23 at the Thomas County Office Complex. Blakesly is a "rapid response person" with Kansas State University and answers questions the agents can't answer. She will talk about some of the unusual questions she has been asked.

Chandler said the subsurface drip irrigation field day was successful. Bob Luck planted soybeans this year, using drip irrigation, and will plant corn next year.

Eight of the 12 Master Gardener candidates have met the requirement of 40 hours of donated time to the community. The 12 have donated a total of 510 hours. At an estimated of \$14.30 an hour, the time equals \$7,293 that Master Gardeners have contributed to the

area. In other business:

- The commissioners passed a resolution approving fees set by the Northwest Kansas Local Environmental Protection Group Board for licenses for septic tank contractors and cleaners, and well and sewer inspections.

The procedures deal with installation or modification of private wastewater systems in the area to comply with county codes. The resolution also deals with updating some administrative procedures. The request for the resolution was signed by Michael Balt-hazor, program director of the Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group in Hill City. He will be handling the business of the Colby office since Dale Brockhausen, the former director, has moved.

- Maybelle Moore, deputy register of deeds, reported on a state health plan seminar she had attended in Hays. She said it was a brainstorming session, and they mostly talked about grants for uninsured people.

She said she learned that Colby is in Region 9, which has a lower than average uninsured rate, 9.4 percent of residents under 65 lack coverage. This

figure combines below-average uninsured rates for adults, and the state's second-lowest uninsured rates for children; 11.3 percent of adults and 4.8 percent of children did not have insurance.

Both public and individually purchased insurance plans were important in covering children in the northwest counties.

Medicaid, SCHIP or HealthWave covers nearly one in every six children; individually purchased insurance covers nearly one in every five children, the commissioners were told.

- The commissioners received a certificate of completion from the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing for the McCarty Dairy. All the paper work has been done.

- The road department gave the following September work report: Sealing began on County Road 391 with six miles south of Brewster, and three miles north of Brewster completed; a section of 391 north was bladed and patched and old Highway 24 and County Road 391 south were hand patched.

Gov. Graves opposes Douglas County split

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Bill Graves opposes splitting Douglas County between two congressional districts, as some of his fellow Republicans have proposed.

Graves suggested Monday that Douglas County, which includes the city of Lawrence and the University of Kansas, be moved to the 2nd Congressional District of eastern Kansas. It now is in the 3rd District, which is centered on the state's portion of the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Last week, Republicans on the Legislature's Special Committee on Redistricting drafted a plan to keep the university in the 3rd District, but put

much of Lawrence in the 2nd. The GOP members then used their majority to make sure the committee forwarded the proposal to the 2002 Legislature, which convenes in January.

Graves said legislators haven't asked for his opinion, though he will have to sign off on any plan for it to be enacted.

He said he doesn't support a split of Lawrence or Douglas County.

The state redraws the boundaries of its congressional districts every 10 years to account for shifts in population. The goal is to make districts equal in population, and the 3rd District has to lose about 61,000 residents.

Briefly

Weather: Not much change

Not much change is expected in the Colby region's weather now through Sunday, says the National Weather Service, except the winds will be decreasing. Tonight, cloudy with a 30 percent chance for showers, then clearing, with lows in the lower 40s and north winds 20-30 mph, decreasing to 10-20 mph late. Wednesday, sunny, highs around 60 with northwest winds 10-20 mph. Wednesday night, partly cloudy, lows in the middle 30s. Thursday through Sunday, partly cloudy, lows in the lower 30s and highs in the upper 50s, with the exception of Thursday when the mercury is expected to climb to 70. There is an outside chance for shower activity on Friday. Colby's high on

Monday was 84 and the overnight low this morning was 42. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 65 degrees. The records for Oct. 9: 91 in 1928 and 24 in 1970. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

Holiday items needed for sale

Citizens Medical Center Auxiliary is planning its second annual recycled holiday sales and is looking for donations of new or good used holiday items, said Carolyn Miller, one of the organizers. Donations can be left at 545 Woolfer Ave. between Saturday, Oct. 27 and Thursday, Nov. 1. For those

with questions or to make other arrangements, call 462-7777 or 462-6898. The actual sale will begin on Friday, Nov. 2 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 3, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 545 Woolfer Ave.

Props needed for play

The Colby Community College drama department is searching for props for its play, *Heaven Can Wait*. "We are looking for old boxing or training equipment (preferably from the 1930s-40s), a 1930s style radio, an old saxophone and a furniture piece that could be used as a small bar," said Deb Bickner, one of the organizers.

If anyone has any of these items and would be willing to

loan them, call Bickner at the college, 462-3984, ext. 300.

Tootsie Roll Drive scheduled

The Colby Knights of Columbus will hold their annual Tootsie Roll Fund Drive on Oct. 12-13-14.

Proceeds will go to Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas.

Cemetery donations sought

Donations are still being sought for the Beulah Cemetery archway, said Dale Deaver, cemetery board member. Those wanting to contribute to the \$1,800 project can send donations to: Dale Deaver, Box 43, Levant, Kan., 67743.

