



COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

Terrorism legislation proposed

TOPEKA (AP) — A state senator wants to broaden the definitions and penalties for terrorist acts because he said it would better protect Kansans from attacks on lives and property.

Sen. David Adkins, R-Leawood, outlined his proposal Thursday for the Kansas Anti-Terrorism Act of 2002, which include giving law enforcement greater powers to investigate and prosecute terrorists.

"I think we have to recognize that America is a nation at war right now," Adkins said. "It's a new kind of war."

"And a war that requires every level of government to array its resources to effectively address the risk posed by terrorist activity."

He said the state's agriculture industry and Wolf Creek nuclear power plant were two of the more obvious terrorist targets, but that the battleground could be considered anywhere in the state.

Among his proposals are the establishment of Sept. 11 as "Patriot Day" and the creation of the State Domestic Security Council, to include the governor, attorney general, adjutant general and health officials.

Adkins said the changes in the criminal code would give law enforcement the necessary tools to investigate, prevent and prosecute acts of terrorism.

He admitted that the proposal would need refinement.

The proposals are separate from the work of the Legislature's Special Committee on Kansas Security, which has been reviewing security measures since Sept. 11. The committee will meet Monday and Tuesday before making recommendations to the Legislature after it convenes Jan. 14.

What career are you interested in?



Area high school students were introduced to career and educational opportunities at a youth rally held at Colby High School on Thursday. Colby High School students Deke Elliott, Sean Nudson, Adam Mead and Tanner Glad looked over a computer processing mockup with

Goodland Technical College student Kevin Warta, also a Colby native. Along with Colby, more than 600 students representing Oakley, Goodland, Tri-Plains, Atwood, and Grinnell were also attending. The theme of the rally was, Directions for the Future.

JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Blood drive has special theme here

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Thomas County American Red

Cross is sponsoring a blood drive next Wednesday in the Colby High School gymnasium.

The drive will carry a special theme to "Unite for Life" in honor of those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 tragedy.

Along with this being the first blood drive of the new year, the local effort is being coordinated by two new people.

Jackie Stephens and Jo Frahm of Colby recently agreed to chair future blood drives following Bev Biel's announcement that after more than a decade she was stepping down from the position.

"We are encouraging all eligible donors to attend this drive from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the school," Stephens said this week.

Eligibility requires that a donor be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 lbs. and be in general good health.

This particular drive also hopes to raise awareness of the importance of being prepared for the next need, whatever that might be, Frahm said.

National Red Cross officials said that although tragedies do not happen every day, the need for blood does.

Few people, one regional coordinator said, realize blood is perishable and cannot be stored indefinitely. Blood centers function more as pipelines than banks and there is a steady need for donors.

The Central Plains Region, which takes in the Colby area, needs to collect 450 pints of blood each weekday in order to supply more than 100 hospitals serving more than two million residents in most of Kansas and northern Oklahoma.

Both Frahm and Stephens are asking that donors who would like to make an appointment ahead of time should call 1-800-448-3543. For questions, donors can also call Stephens at 462-8122 or Frahm at 462-0282.



J. Stephens



J. Frahm

Year-end review recalls loss of three businesses by fire

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The business economy was looking brighter in the late summer of 2001 with the addition of new businesses or others relocating to Colby and Thomas County. There was also sad news when three downtown businesses were destroyed by fire and as the year continued, things got even worse before they would get better when news hit on Sept. 11 that terrorists had attacked the World Trade Center in New York City and Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Among the more positive changes,

Cellular One moved from its downtown location in Colby to L-S Plaza, next to Wal-Mart Shopping Center on South Range. Not long after that, the new Sears store opened its doors next to Cellular One.

Then in early August, sad news hit when Hutfles Construction and Northwest Kansas Communications would be the first of three buildings destroyed by fires.

Located on Fourth Street, that first fire was believed to have started in a pickup in Hutfles' shop. As a result of the fire, a neighboring building, P&D

Auto Repair had damage to its outside walls, but was still operational.

Within weeks following the first fire; however, a second fire occurred at P & D when employees there tried to remove a gas tank from a pickup and it inadvertently fell over destroying that building as well.

The lack of a carnival at the Thomas County Fair didn't appear to deter people from attending many of the attractions throughout the first week in August. Many fair board members noted in fact that, "the crowds were fantastic."

As the month of August continued, many young people in the county started preparing for the first day of school with enrollment numbers up slightly at Colby Public Schools.

For students at Colby Elementary School, fall classes also brought with it a new principal. Terrel S. Harrison, who replaced Becky Holtwick, came to the area from Paola where she had taught fourth grade.

Colby Community College also had good news with the announcement that its dorms were filled to capacity. It was the first time in many years this had

happened with 264 students housed.

The Thomas County Sheriff's office had its hands full in August when a Mississippi couple wreaked havoc in the area.

The pair accosted a young, rural Colby girl, stole a vehicle, and eluded authorities in a high-speed chase here. The two then slipped away, but were finally arrested more than two months later in Texas.

Editor's note: Highlights from the year 2001 will conclude in the Monday edition with events from October, November and December.

U.S. planes attack compound where al-Qaida thought to be

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some of Osama bin Laden's terrorist forces may have been trying to regroup at a base in Afghanistan before the United States bombed it, military officials said.

In the first U.S. bombing since Dec. 28, warplanes on Thursday struck a military compound in eastern Afghanistan. Pentagon officials have said they worry that remnants of the al-Qaida network may be trying to reassemble.

The search for bin Laden, whom the

United States holds responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, continues by land, sea and air.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the Pentagon will continue pursuing bin Laden and his top lieutenants, as well as Mullah Mohammed Omar and other Taliban leaders. The military campaign in Afghanistan will not be over until they are found, Rumsfeld said.

"We intend to find them and we intend to capture or kill them," Rumsfeld

told a Pentagon news conference Thursday.

"Our real goal is to see that people are not committing terrorist acts," he added later. Rumsfeld repeatedly said the U.S. military campaign against al-Qaida has been effective, even while acknowledging that it has not met President Bush's stated goal of bringing top terrorist leaders to justice.

Rumsfeld said the military campaign has made it harder for al-Qaida to raise money, to communicate among

its members, to travel inside and outside Afghanistan, and to train its members in terrorist techniques.

"We've disrupted any number of training camps, and it does take training to become a polished, successful murderer or mass murderer," Rumsfeld said. "You just don't walk out of grade school with that kind of knowledge; you need to practice and be taught by experts."

Details of Thursday's attack were sketchy. Defense officials said four B-

1B aircraft and three F/A-18s dropped about 100 bombs on the compound in eastern Afghanistan near Khowst, which included a training facility and a cave complex. Also taking part was at least one AC-130, a special operations aircraft that delivers a withering barrage of cannon fire and howitzer shells. An official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the undetermined number of al-Qaida fighters at the compound appeared to be regrouping either to resume fighting or to slip

across the nearby border into Pakistan.

U.S. cruise missiles struck the same compound in August 1998 in response to terrorist attacks on U.S. embassies in Africa, Myers said. It also was struck last fall.

"It has been a place where the al-Qaida goes to regroup," said Gen. Richard Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He declined to describe in detail what triggered Thursday's attack except to say "activity" had been detected there.

Briefly

Weather: Light snow likely

Snow chances for the Colby region tonight remain at 30 percent, the National Weather Service said in its forecast late this morning. Lows tonight are expected to be in the lower 20s, northwest winds 10-20 mph and any snow should be light. Saturday, cloudy early, then becoming partly sunny with highs 35-40 and northwest winds 10-20 mph. Saturday night, clear, lows 20-25. Sunday, mostly sunny with highs in the upper 40s and Monday, partly cloudy, lows in the middle 20s and highs in the lower 50s. Colby's high Thursday was 53 and the low this morning was +7. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 26 degrees. The records for Jan. 4: 70 in 1956 and -24 in 1959. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Lab work begins Saturday

Lab work for this year's Wellness Fair will be from 6 to 10 a.m., Saturday and again at the same time on Sunday, Jan. 12. All testing will take place at Citizens Medical Center, which will offer lipid profile and glucose tests, a complete blood count, and prostate specific antigen test (PSA). Those planning to be tested will be charged \$5 for the wellness fair registration. Discounted fees for the tests range from \$17 to \$35, depending on the tests taken. In addition,

participants should fast for 10 to 12 hours prior to these tests. For information, call Jeanene Brown, 462-4850.

Control burn here Saturday

The Colby Fire Department will be conducting training and a control burn in the house at the corner of 4th and Sterling Saturday, beginning at 8 a.m. After the training, they will burn down the structure if weather conditions permit. This will require that the fire department block French and Sterling Streets at 4th and 5th through traffic. If you park vehicles on these streets, it is requested you move them from those locations as it will be difficult for you to do so once fire equipment is in place, said fire department officials. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the department at 462-4454.

'Meals on Wheels' needs volunteers

The Meals on Wheels program is in need of volunteers to deliver on Saturdays or Sundays during the odd months of 2002. "While the program is always looking for people to help at other times as well," said Jeanene Brown, one of the coordinators, "we particularly need volunteers to help us on either one of those days during the odd months." Now in its 31st year, Citizens Medical Center prepares the meals at a cost of \$2.50 and the volunteers deliver them to those homebound or otherwise unable to prepare meals on their

own, she said. Meals on Wheels delivers an average of 23 meals per day, she said. Anyone who might be able to help in delivery is asked to call Brown at 462-4850.

College meeting rescheduled

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will not meet Monday, Jan. 7. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 22. The Jan. 7 meeting was canceled because the college is not in session. The Jan. 22 meeting would normally be on Monday, Jan. 21, but that is Martin Luther King Day and the college will not be in session.

Singles dance tonight

The Colby Singles Club will hold their first dance of the new year tonight from 8 p.m. to midnight, said Don Birzer, coordinator. The dance is open to all single people and alumni with entertainment provided by Montana Express of Kearney, Neb. For details, call 462-2127.

Busy agenda for fair board

The Thomas County Free Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at the Thomas County 4-H Building, to conduct business and make plans for the coming fair. Audrey Hines will be welcomed as the new fair board secretary. The agenda includes: Rosalie Seemann will talk

about Genesis; Brent Wiedeman, Farmers & Merchants Bank, will discuss sponsorship of the free barbecue; Thomas County Commissioners will conduct election of 2002 officers; Thomas County Extension agent will report; and reports will be heard from various committees for the coming fair. Other items under consideration will be the bill from the Colby Free Press from the 2001 fair, confirmation of the parade grand marshal, audit contract, and estimated cost of 2002 premiums. The meeting is open to the public.

Landfill report planned Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday in the commissioners room of the courthouse. They will open bids for asphalt at 9 a.m. Larry Jumper, landfill supervisor, will bring end of the year totals and information on the new year at 9:30 a.m. Thomas County Health Nurse Kathy Ryan will discuss personnel at 10 a.m.

'Coffee House Night' Saturday

The Community Awareness Team is sponsoring "Coffee House Night" at the City Limits conference room, Saturday, from 8-11 p.m. There will be an open microphone for poetry reading and acoustic music, and refreshments and desserts will be available. Everything is free. Admission for students is at least one tobacco ad to be used in making tobacco prevention collages.

