



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Colby man faces multiple charges in district court

By PATTY DECKER  
Free Press Editor

A Colby man was bound over in the District Court of Thomas County to face multiple felony counts of endangering a child, criminal restraint, battery, aggravated assault, along with one count of burglary and two counts of theft.

Anthony Allen Poage, 21, appeared before Thomas County District Magistrate Judge Rick Riss on Tuesday who ruled that he be arraigned next month to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty to the charges filed.

The preliminary hearing stemmed from two incidents with the first involving a burglary and theft at an apartment complex in the 100 block of E. 5th St. in September of 2001.

According to the complaint, which was filed by Thomas County Attorney Allan Taylor, Poage was alleged to have stolen various musical equipment items, along with collectible items totaling about \$5,000.

In addition, the burglary count alleges Poage entered the home in order to commit the thefts.

Along with the burglary and theft ruling, Poage will also be facing three

counts of endangering a child for his alleged part in placing three young people in a situation that endangered their life, body and health, the complaint read.

There are also three criminal restraint charges and battery charges alleging that Poage restrained the three young people and physically accosted them in "a rude, insulting or angry manner."

The two other felony counts involving aggravated assault, noted at the hearing, alleged that Poage willfully and intentionally placed two of the three youths in harms way by threatening them with a knife.

Poage is currently out on a \$25,000 bond.

The preliminary hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6.

The Colby Police Department was first alerted to the situation in September after a call came in to the law enforcement center on a burglary. During the Colby Police Department's investigation, there were two suspects named in the burglary and theft. Along with Poage, Brian Smith, 21, also of Colby, was charged with burglary and theft at that time.

## Battle of the bands



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Reed Shoaff, left, and Paul Schrick, along with the rest of the Colby Middle School band, took in some last minute practice before band competition at the Frahm Theatre at Colby Community College this

morning. The competition involved instrumental and vocal groups from all over northwest Kansas, said Cathy Cash, middle school band teacher.

## Democrats see nothing good in House redistricting plan

TOPEKA (AP) — Facing the possibility that their House minority will shrink even further, some Democrats say they see nothing good in a redistricting map their party accepted as its "least worst" option.

Eight incumbents — seven of them Democrats — are paired off in four districts on a map awaiting House debate. The GOP holds a 79-46 majority in the 125-seat House.

Legislators are redrawing congressional, legislative and State Board of Education districts to account for shifts in population as shown in the 2000 census.

House Republicans point out that at the committee stage, Democrats were

permitted to choose between two proposed maps that varied in the number and location of Democrat-held districts that would be collapsed.

"We gave a great deal of ground when we didn't have to give anything," Rep. Doug Mays, R-Topeka, a member of the House Redistricting Committee, said Tuesday.

Republicans put one condition on their endorsement of the bill containing the final proposed map. Rep. Laura McClure, D-Osborne, had to promise not to run for a sixth term if she were put in the same district as Rep. Dan Johnson, R-Hays.

McClure agreed. The map puts her and Johnson in a redrawn 110th Dis-

trict in northwest Kansas.

"I made a promise to Dan not to run against him," McClure said. "Some ask why I did — because it's a good map, the best one so far."

Johnson said he was surprised by McClure's concession and plans to seek re-election whatever is decided.

"I didn't ask for it; I didn't expect it; she said she wouldn't run and I took her word," Johnson said.

Rep. Dennis McKinney, D-Greensburg, is paired in the redrawn 116th District with Rep. Alan Goering, D-Medicine Lodge.

Goering replaced Richard Alldritt, D-Harper, who retired before the session began.

"The Republicans made it clear that we were negotiating with the understanding that the major pain would be taken by the minority party," McKinney said.

Goering calls the bill blatantly political.

"I see it as an anti-rural, anti-Democrat, antidemocratic map that shows a lack of respect for the voters," Goering said.

Republicans acknowledge having used their numerical advantage but said they negotiated with Democrats in the hope of getting some bipartisan cooperation in the House.

"It got to a point where we had two maps that were acceptable to the ma-

jority party, so we deferred to the minority party to decide where the ultimate collapse would be," said House Redistricting Chairman Michael O'Neal, R-Hutchinson.

Rep. Troy Findley, D-Lawrence, a member of the committee, said that Democrats accepted the "least worst" of the final two maps they looked at.

However, Rep. Bruce Larkin, D-Baileyville, summed up the choice differently: "You can kill your daughter, or you can kill your son — you decide."

Larkin would be in the new 63rd District with Rep. Jerry Henry, D-Cummings.

Henry said: "I think all legislators realize fairness is something we al-

ways have to work on. If some members believe they weren't treated fairly, it may impact issues down the road."

In the only urban district that would be consolidated, Democratic Reps. Broderick Henderson and Doug Spangler, both of Kansas City, would be placed in the new 35th District. Spangler has announced he is retiring at the end of the session.

Henderson said he was happy with his district but isn't pleased with the overall map.

"It's something we're going to have to live with for the next 10 years," said Henderson.

"But, when you're the minority party you don't have the votes."

## City of Colby reaching out via website

By MAXINE NELSON  
Colby Free Press

The City of Colby's website has recently been revised and is updated daily as needed, said Mike Albers, the city's technology director. Albers, along with Jerry Bieker, public works director, and Bieker's secretary, Lavon Wagoner, take care of the updating. The address of the website is <http://cityofcolby.com/>

The first version of the website went on line late last year, Albers said, and the company, Civics Plus of Manhattan, has a new beta version now which makes it much easier to update.

The site lists Colby Community Building events, the Colby Recreation activity schedule, and links to city government and community resources. The city council minutes are available in the archives, as well as rate information for all utilities, applications for job openings, and other information, he said.

"We are trying to put any pertinent information that comes up —

like we had a street closure for water repair — and civic works on the front page. Job openings are listed, and the applicant can download the form and return it to the city," he said.

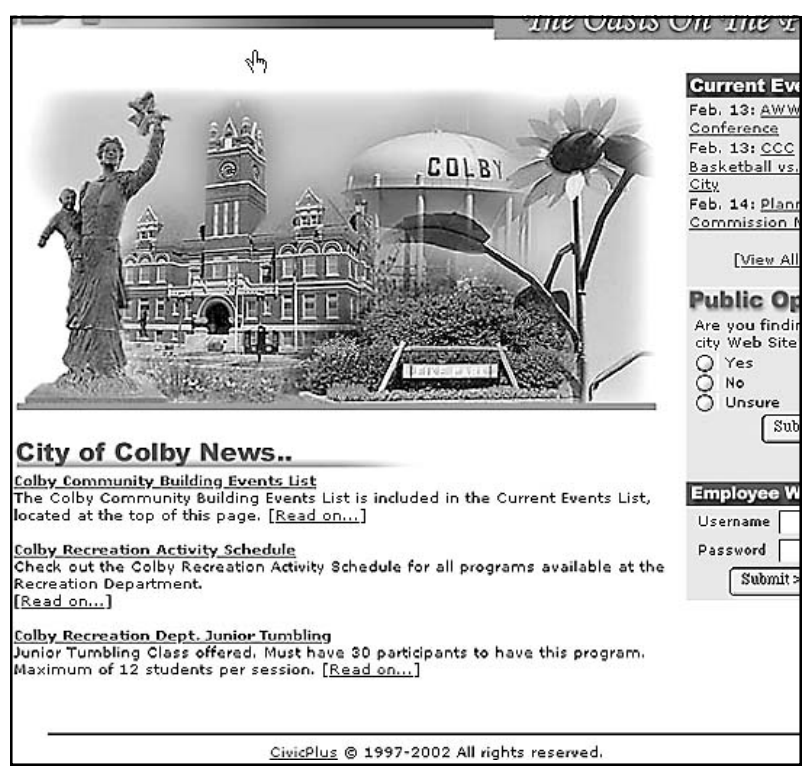
The City Recreation Department schedule is also listed, and people can download the forms and send them in, saving themselves a trip, he said.

The website also has links to all city departments, including Pioneer Memorial Library.

"What many people don't know is they can access the library card catalog online," Albers said. "They need to go to the bottom left on the city website to the Pioneer Memorial Library link. From there go down towards the bottom on the left to 'Library Card Catalog' to check online what is available at the library."

Albers said he has received comments from people all over the country, saying how much they appreciate the website.

"It's just a way to give people an easy way to get information about the city and its happenings," he said.



Above is what the homepage for the City of Colby's new, improved website looks like.

## Senate redistricting map disappoints Stan Clark

Sen. Kerr believes he has enough votes to pass bill

TOPEKA (AP) — Senate President Dave Kerr believes a redistricting bill he supports has enough votes to pass.

The bill, redrawing the 40 Senate districts, awaited debate in the Senate, where Republicans have a 30-10 majority.

"We have well over 21 votes," Kerr, R-Hutchinson, said Tuesday. "I don't foresee any problems."

But not all Republicans favor the bill, endorsed earlier this week by the Senate Reapportionment Committee.

As he left a Republican meeting on the plan Tuesday, Sen. Stan Clark of Oakley said he was disappointed. The bill puts Clark and Democratic Sen. Janis Lee of Kensington in the same northwest Kansas district.

Clark and Lee last week presented a plan preserving both of their districts,

but the committee ignored that proposal.

"Dave Kerr is showing his lack of interest in rural Kansas," Lee said.

Rural-urban balance has been a major concern as legislators redraw district lines to reflect shifts in population as shown in the 2000 census.

"The key issue is the population shift and the growth in Johnson County, which this map recognizes," Kerr said.

Lee said the plan she and Clark devised would be offered as an amendment.

"The chances aren't great, but we will wait until the vote is counted," she said.

Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley said he wanted the debate postponed until Thursday.

"It would give members a little more time to prepare amendments," said Hensley, D-Topeka.

But Senate Majority Leader Lana Oleen, R-Manhattan, said the debate would take place Wednesday "unless there is a computer glitch."

## Briefly

### Weather: On the 'somey' side

Some clouds, some flurries, some sun, some wind — something for everyone is the outlook for the Colby region for the next couple of days, according to the National Weather Service. Tonight, increasing cloud cover, lows 20-25 and south winds 10-20 mph. Thursday, cloudy, flurries very early, breezy, highs in the lower 50s and north winds 15-25 mph. Thursday night, breezy, cloudy with flurries early, then becoming clear, lows in the middle teens. Friday, sunny, highs in the lower 40s. Saturday, partly cloudy, lows in the lower 20s and highs in the upper 50s. Colby's high Tuesday was 44 and the overnight low this morning was 14. Precipitation remains at 0.19 inches for the month

and snowfall at 2.5 inches. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 32 degrees. Today's high is expected to top out at around 53 degrees. The records for Feb. 13: 79 in 1962 and —20 in 1905. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Commodity distribution announced

USDA Commodities will be distributed from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18, at the Senior Progress Center in Colby. Eligible persons may receive them according to income guidelines. Expected commodities are cranberry juice, tomato sauce, peas, potato flakes, peanut butter, or-

ange juice, beef stew and canned potatoes. For information contact the RSVP office at 462-6744.

### 'Preserving Documents' is topic

Chris Moore of the Prairie Museum of Art and History will speak on "How to Preserve Your Documents" to the Family History Genealogy Group on Sunday at Pioneer Memorial Library. The group will meet from 3:30-5 p.m. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Bring questions for sharing.

### College to host job fair in April

Colby Community College will host a job fair for health

care workers from noon to 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union on campus. "We are encouraging all health care workers and students to attend this job fair," said Tina Schrick, nursing instructor at the college. "We will have a large number of potential employers from across the state of Kansas." For information or questions, call Julie Horney at 462-4788.

### Parenting workshop scheduled

Karen Berry, High Plains Mental Health area consultant, will be presenting a workshop on parenting and working with children on Sunday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Colby United Methodist Church. The workshop is free.

