



COLBY  
FREE PRESS

# Resident charged, released

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

A Thomas County woman was charged with unlawful use of a credit card while working at a local motel and in another unrelated incident could face 15 counts of forgery.

Lisa Marie Cintora, 32, who was living in Levant, but last week moved to Colby, was arrested and booked last Friday by the Colby Police Department for an alleged unlawful use of a credit card to purchase a computer system. She was arraigned Friday as well and released on a \$10,000 bond. A preliminary hearing has not yet been scheduled.

Gary Shull, investigator with the Colby Police Department, said the credit card incident was first reported to authorities here on June 17 when a group of people from the Shelbina Missouri Christian Church, Shelbina, Mo., told authorities that they stayed at the Super 8 Motel in Colby on Thursday, May 30, and paid the bill using a credit card.

"A spokesperson with the church group then called police to say that in checking their credit card invoice it was discovered that a computer had been purchased from Dell Computers and shipped to Levant," he said.

As police officials here began the task of tracing and checking into shipments around that timeframe, the sheriff's department was also aware of the investigation.

Although not suspecting that one case would have anything to do with the other, a sheriff's deputy who was searching a house in Levant on a suspected forgery allegation on June 21 noticed a Dell computer system visible at the residence.

After alerting the police to this possible connection, Shull said, the city police themselves requested a warrant that same day. Within five days, the Dell computer system, which consisted of a monitor, hard drive, printer and keyboard was seized last Friday at Cintora's new residence in Colby and she formally charged with unlawful use of the credit card and theft.

The amount charged to the credit card company was \$1,600, which Shull said has since been taken off the church group's bill by the credit card company.

As for the pending charges of forgery, the sheriff's office is currently completing paperwork that will be forwarded to the Thomas County attorney's office. While few details were released about the forgery, it was noted that Cintora is alleged to have used checks illegally that belonged to her former husband, Manuel Cintora of Houston.

Lisa Marie Cintora, 32, who was living in Levant, but recently moved to Colby during the investigation, was first served a warrant by the sheriff's office in Levant on Friday, June 21. The warrant allowed law enforcement officials to search her home where it was discovered she allegedly was using checks that illegally belonged to her former husband, Manuel Cintora, Houston.

## Getting ready



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Bryce Arnberger (right) listens attentively to Levi Schlick explain how the rocket fireworks work on Sunday at the Big Brother/Big Sister's firework stand next to the Dillons parking lot. In the background was Breck Arnberger looking at some items as well. The Colby Police Department is reminding everyone that is is illegal to possess or discharge fireworks within the city limits. "We have had complaints during the evening this past weekend of fireworks being discharged illegally," said Gary Shull, police investigator today. "It is very, very dry and citations will be given as in year's past for illegal usage in the city."

# How much will Kansans feel the bite of tax package?

By **JOHN HANNA**  
*Associated Press Writer*

**BETO JUNCTION (AP)** — Kirk Williams had braced himself for a hectic Monday. His business faced a triple whammy of bad news.

His company operates the Beto Junction Travel Plaza at the junction of Interstate 35 and U.S. 75 in Coffey County, a place where truckers and travelers stop for meals, snacks, supplies, gasoline and diesel fuel.

Increases in the state's taxes on sales, cigarettes and gasoline were taking effect Monday.

Williams already faced a 30 percent

increase in health insurance costs for his 100 employees.

"It's just that all the little things begin to add up," he said.

The state's 2003 fiscal year started Monday, and as is typical for each July 1, a flurry of new laws took effect. Some were the changes wrought by a \$252 million package of tax increases that legislators approved in May, others by a plan for financing highway projects.

The questions for those legislators and other state officials are how much Kansans will feel the bite from the tax increases and how they'll respond in

the Aug. 6 primary and Nov. 5 general elections.

But they're more than political questions. With the state's budget problems likely to linger into next year, the next governor and Legislature will be getting a sense of what the acceptable options are for their constituents.

"I think there's a general understanding that there was some kind of budget problem in Topeka," said House Taxation Committee Chairman John Edmonds, R-Great Bend. "They'll hear about that from all perspectives."

On Monday, the sales tax increased to 5.3 percent from 4.9 percent, and the

cigarette tax jumped by 46 cents a pack, to 70 cents from 24 cents.

Motor fuels taxes increased 2 cents a gallon, to 23 cents for gasoline and 25 cents for diesel.

The sales and cigarette tax increases were part of a package designed to shore up general government programs.

That package also included a doubling of fees corporations pay for the right to do business in Kansas, to a maximum of \$5,000; reimposition of a tax on the property inherited by nephews, nieces and non-relatives; and elimination of a sales tax exemption for

custom computer software purchases.

The gasoline tax increase was designed to raise money for highway projects. That plan also increased vehicle registration fees by \$5 for most cars, light trucks and sport utility vehicles. Conservative Republicans who voted against tax increases warned that many Kansans, already feeling the pinch of a slow economy, would not be happy.

"I've had neighbors who are just watching every penny," said conservative Sen. Robert Tyson, R-Parker. "I've had people call me and say, 'What is government thinking?'"

# Weed problem surfaces again at county meeting

## County fair expenses cause concern

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**  
*Colby Free Press*

Once again Thomas County Commissioners were faced with the public's concern over noxious weeds and prairie dogs in their end of the month meeting on Friday, and made a plea to residents to do their part.

After concern was raised over the past month to the amount of bindweed, other noxious weeds, and prairie dogs in the county, commissioners talked with citizen Paul Baird about control.

Baird visited the commissioners in their June 17 meeting to ask their plans for controlling the abundance of noxious weed in the county and within the city of Colby itself. He told them at that time that he had heard Sherman County has plans to fund the project to eradicate the problem.

The commissioners contacted Sherman County to verify their plan. No such plan was in the works, the commissioners said.

"Landowners are supposed to take care of their own land. People have to take care of their bindweed and noxious weed on their property," said Commissioner Ron Evans in a plea to Thomas Countians.

Liability becomes a concern when the county sprays property both in town and in the county. The ability to control weeds in alleyways can present drift issues onto private property.

"The amount of money needed to get a real control of the situation as well as liability is everyone's concern," said Commissioner Glen Kersenbrock.

The commissioners made clear the point that harming other non-noxious plant life could create an even bigger issue than already exists.

Baird pointed out that the fairgrounds and the landfill are both the responsibility of the county, but both still had bindweed problems. The commissioners assured Baird and residents that efforts are being made at those locations to control noxious weeds.

The spreading from location to location by mowers, graders, animals, and other machinery causes people who don't currently have a problem to obtain them from neighbors not taking care of their property.

"People need to take a little pride in their places," said Baird.

The commissioners agreed and remind people that by taking care of their property and being responsible, fingers will not have to be formally pointed at citizens not doing their part.

In other business:

- Audrey Hines presented the budget to the commissioners and showed how the expenses of the fair have consistently increased over the past several years. Each year the commissioners budget \$67,000 for the fair. This year, the fair board is asking the commissioners to set aside \$73,000.

Commissioner Glen Kersenbrock said, "We will take it under consideration, but it is not high on our totem pole to raise your appropriation."

Commissioner Duane Dawes encouraged the fair board to raise expenses at the fair to cover the increase in their own expenses.

Hines told the commissioners that there was some concern that Sheriff Tom Jones would not cover the \$3,800 security bill for the fair. Jones told the fair board at their June meeting that it was not in his budget.

The commissioners said that only \$1,000 of that amount was for the actual security. The other \$2,800 was for other payroll of workers and judges. Hines said she would check into it.

- A two-year lease was signed with Philip Finley for the Household and Hazardous waste building on Fourth Street. The agreement is for \$350 a month.

- The commissioners discussed the fair parade and their concern for the safety of children. Parents are encouraged to watch their small children and young kids who are either in the parade or watching the parade.

- The annual meeting for Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development will be held in Colby this Aug. 14-16. The commissioners voted to make a \$250 donation to help with the expenses of the event.

## Briefly

### How about a cool-down?

The forecast for the Colby area through Wednesday calls for a little bit of a cool-down, according to the National Weather Service, especially after 100 and 101-degree weekend readings. Tonight, mostly clear, but becoming cloudy and foggy late with lows in the upper 60s to near 70, and south winds 10-20 mph. Tuesday, the clouds and fog will move out early, bringing sunshine and highs around 90, with south winds 10-15 mph, becoming east early in the afternoon. Tuesday night, partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for showers and thunderstorms, with lows near 65. Wednesday, partly sunny with a 20 percent chance for showers and thunderstorms, with highs in the upper 80s. Wednesday night, partly cloudy, a 30 percent chance for rain and thunderstorms, lows in the lower 60s. Colby's high Saturday was 100 and Sunday's high was 101. The overnight low this morning was 64. June's precipitation for Colby was 1.42 inches, while at Mingo the official precipitation report for June was 0.81 inches, according to Willie Engelhardt. The records for July 1: 106 in 1963 and 47 in 1989. *(Temperatures and precipitation are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

### One-vehicle accident fatal

Forty-one year old Jeffrey Rhea of Oakley died Sunday

afternoon when the car he was a passenger in rolled over on U.S. 40, two miles east of Monument. William Cook, 46, also of Oakley, who was the driver lost control of the 1975 Dodge car after it went into a ditch. No other details on the driver were available at presstime. A spokesperson with the Kansas Highway Patrol said today, the car rolled 1 1/2 times before coming to rest on its wheels. Oakley rescue crews had to use the Jaws of Life to remove the two occupants, officials said. (See funeral information on p. 3)

### Fireworks display Thursday

The Kiwanis Club of Thomas County is sponsoring the annual 4th of July community fireworks display. The event will be held at the Thomas County Fairgrounds next Thursday at 10:15 p.m. In addition, anyone who would be interested in assisting the club to raise funds for this year's event are still encouraged to send donations to the organization. All contributions can be mailed to Kiwanis Club of Thomas County, P.O. Box 501, Colby, Kan., 67701.

### College board meets today

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will hold their regular meeting on Monday beginning at 5 p.m. in the board room of Thomas Hall on campus. The board

will elect its 2002-03 officers and Kansas Association of Community Colleges and Technical Schools representative; will consider approval of depositories and authorized signatures, along with a lease agreement with Norton County Hospital. In addition, the board plans to discuss retainer for legal services, academic systems math student licenses, and the budget.

### City council meets Tuesday

The Colby City Council will meet Tuesday, July 2, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers for its regular meeting. The council plans to talk about roof repairs at the community building; will discuss a letter from the Kansas Department of Transportation on the viaduct removal project; consider a request to amend Colby Municipal Airport Manager Mark Ostmeyer's contract; and approval of a resolution reconfirming support for regional strategic plan and reapproving the county as a Kansas Enterprise Zone.

### No newspaper Thursday

The Colby Free Press will not publish a newspaper on Thursday, July 4, so that employees can spend the day with family in observance of Independence Day. The office will also be closed that day, but will reopen on Friday at 8 a.m. For questions, call 462-3963.

## Pool problem fixed

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

The Colby Municipal Swimming Pool was temporarily closed late Saturday afternoon after a waterline blew apart, said officials today at the city's public works department.

The problem, officials said, occurred when a strap holding the waterline that goes to the filter pit slipped out of the valve, causing flooding in the main pump area and shutting down and the pumps which filter the water. Everything was back to normal later that day, but the pool did not reopen until Sunday.

Although the problem has been resolved and the main pump has been rewired, it still could be necessary to switch out that equipment with a spare, according to city officials.

In the event that becomes necessary, city officials said there shouldn't be any need to close the facility during those repairs. The municipal swimming pool is open Monday through Wednesday from 1 to 6 p.m.; Thursday from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. and family night is 5 to 8 p.m.

