



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Gracious hosts



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Colby High School was the host for the regional Student Council Conference today. Twenty schools and more than 200 students met at the high school to discuss ideas and improve student council ability to promote activities for students. ABOVE: STUCO members (left to right) Whitney Adams, Clarissa Unger and Sam Wolf manned the check-in table at the conference, while sophomore Josh Cersovsky in the blond wig participated in Opposite Day, part of the high school's Homecoming celebration.

Two alleged abductors stopped at wrong place

Apparently in need of gas, they pulled stolen car into truck stop where cops were meeting

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

Law enforcement officials attending a routine meeting in Oakley were interrupted Wednesday as the gathering turned into an on-the-job training session, which resulted in the arrest of two men.

During the noon hour on Wednesday, the Colby Law Enforcement Center received a call from a woman saying she had been abducted earlier in the morning in Colorado, and had just fled from her captors while they were getting take-out from Taco John's, said Colby police investigator Gary Shull.

The 24-year-old Brighton, Colo. woman was left in the car while the two alleged kidnappers went into the restaurant. She got out of the vehicle and ran to the Colby Corner Phillips 66 convenience store where she called police.

The woman reported to police that her captors had abducted her that morning in Brighton and were armed with a handgun. She said they were

driving a 1999 or 2000 blue Dodge car with Colorado license plates.

She reported that the men had sexually assaulted her on I-70 between Brewster and Colby and that shots had been fired from the handgun during her captivity. She told officers that no one was injured as the result of gunfire.

Shull said officers responded to the area, but the men had already fled when they returned to their car and noticed the woman had escaped.

A radio broadcast was aired to Oakley since their original destination was Dodge City according to the woman.

Thirteen law enforcement officers from eight northwest Kansas agencies including police, sheriff and highway patrol, were attending a meeting at Mittens Truck Stop and Restaurant in Oakley, when they were interrupted with the announcement that the alleged kidnappers had left Colby and could possibly be heading in the Oakley direction.

Shull said the first officer has just

pulled out of the truck stop when the blue Neon, driven by the alleged kidnappers, pulled off of the interstate directly in front of Mittens.

"Immediately there were nine police cruisers surrounding the suspect's car," said Shull.

As a result, two Hispanic males were taken into custody and transported to the Oakley City Jail. Later in the afternoon, the two were transferred to the Thomas County Jail.

Shull said that the car was reported stolen from Evans, Colo., the license plate was stolen from Greeley, Colo., and the handgun was reported stolen from Dallas, Texas.

Local law enforcement contacted authorities in Brighton, who were not aware of the abduction. Neither the identities of the two men nor the charges pending against them, were being released by authorities at press time today due to the investigation which continues by the Kansas Highway Patrol and Thomas County Sheriff's Office.

Dome's sculpture heading to Colby

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

Ad Astra, the controversial capitol dome sculpture, will be on display in Colby on Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot at the Thomas County Office Complex on Range Avenue.

The sculpture of a native Kansas warrior that will soon be mounted atop the Kansas Capitol, begins a two-week journey across the state on Friday as it makes its way to Topeka.

The statue will be in Goodland from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday at 1121 Main, and in Oakley at 313 Center from 1:30 to 3 p.m., also Saturday.

The casting and finish work for "Ad Astra," the 20-foot bronze created by Salina artist Richard Bergen,

will be completed on Friday at a foundry in Loveland, Colo., said Lori Bergen, the artist's daughter who is handling the tour arrangements.

Other weekend stops include Garden City, Dodge City and Great Bend.

"We wanted to give Kansans across the state a chance to see the sculpture up close before it goes on the dome," Bergen told the Free Press. "I hope people will come out and show their support, make a donation, buy a brick or a T-shirt."

Richard Bergen and his son Rich are accompanying the sculpture on its travels around the state.

The Kansas Arts Commission selected Bergen's design for a capitol dome sculpture in 1988. All of the money raised so far for the approxi-

mately \$1 million project, which includes the 20-foot bronze sculpture for the dome, a smaller sculpture for the plaza and the entire capitol grounds plaza area, has come from private donations, Lori Bergen said.

She said that a lot of the money was raised from brick sales for the plaza area. She said all \$250 bricks in fields one and two on the plaza have been sold, but that \$125 bricks to be placed in field three and four are still available.

"We will need help with our fund raising," she told the Free Press. "People have been more supportive these past few weeks as they've realized this is really going to happen."

The sculpture is scheduled to be placed on the capitol dome Oct. 7.

Defeated candidates back in race

TOPEKA (AP) — Two moderate Republican incumbents revived interest in State Board of Education races by refusing to concede their seats after losing primary races to more conservative challengers.

Sonny Rundell, of Syracuse, and Val DeFever, of Independence, are write-in candidates for the Nov. 5 general election.

Rundell lost in the 5th District of western and north-central Kansas, to Connie Morris, of St. Francis, who gave up a teaching job to run. She wants the state to stop educating the children of illegal immigrants and has drawn criticism from educators and Hispanic activists, who note the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled such a policy unconstitutional.

Defeating DeFever in the 9th District of southeast and central Kansas was Iris Van Meter, a grandmother and former substitute teacher from Thayer. While her backers say a fiscally conservative message carried her to victory, DeFever supporters say Van Meter deliberately ran a stealth campaign.

DeFever announced her write-in bid Tuesday. Rundell began his effort last week.

If one or both incumbents are successful, they will preserve a majority for a coalition of Democrats and moderate Republicans installed only two years ago following a furor over evolution. If not, the board could end up with a 5-5 split.

"The candidates who won the Republican primary are extremely controversial, so it's not surprising that write-in candidates have emerged," said state GOP Chairman Mark Parkinson.

Both Rundell and DeFever said supporters strongly encouraged them to continue fighting, despite the primary results. There were no Democratic, minor party or independent candidates in either district.

Morris and Van Meter said they welcome the continued challenges, though both believe voters have already spoken.

But DeFever said she received hundreds of encouraging phone calls and e-mails.

"When that kind of outpouring happens, you have to listen," DeFever said.

Board members serve four-year terms, and half of the 10 stand for election every two years. In 2000, board races attracted national attention.

In 1999, a 6-4 conservative majority approved new testing standards that didn't treat learning about evolution as essential to an adequate science education. Perceived as an attack on teaching the theory, the decision horrified many scientists and made Kansas the butt of international ridicule.

But evolution wasn't as prominent an issue this year, and, outside of Morris' comments on illegal immigrants, board races received little attention.

Two other incumbents won primaries and face no general election opposition. They are Democrat Janet Waugh, of Kansas City, in the 1st District, and conservative Republican John Bacon, of Olathe, in the 3rd.

In the 7th District in south-central Kansas, Republican Ken Willard, a Nickerson school board member, faces Democrat Duane Anstine.

New logo for Wichita State

WICHITA (AP) — Different logo, same mascot. When Wichita State redesigned its athletic insignia, some Shockers fans might have feared that their beloved WuShock would be altered as well.

But WuShock — who underwent a transformation to a more muscular physique four years ago — was on hand Tuesday to unveil the school's new-look logo.

The name of the university, in a

three-dimensional typeface, stands out boldly in the middle of the new shield-shaped logo, with "Shockers" printed below. It is the first time Wichita State has had a logo that spells out its name and nickname — the key consideration for Shocker athletic director Jim Schaus.

"When you don't have 'Wichita State Shockers,' you don't promote your city or your university or your athletic department," Schaus said.

Briefly

Eagle Pep Rally tonight

This year's Homecoming Pep Rally/Bonfire/Football Jersey Auction will be held tonight at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. All Colby Eagle fans are encouraged to attend. A special football jersey auction will take place, where fans will be able to bid for orange Eagle jerseys to wear during the day on Friday and to the game Friday night. The rally gets underway at 8:30 p.m.

'C' team game postponed

The Colby High School 'C' team football game with Atwood, scheduled for tonight (Thursday) has been postponed until Saturday, Oct. 12 at 10 a.m. at Dennen Field.

Water restrictions lifted

At the Sept. 17 Colby City Council meeting, the governing board lifted the water restrictions for the city effective Friday, Sept. 20. "The utility committee asks that we all continue to conserve water whenever possible and that we make every effort to not waste water," a city spokesperson said.

Book Fair dates announced

A Scholastic Book Fair will be held next Monday and Tuesday at the Colby Grade School, room 107. Monday's hours are from 5-9 p.m. and on Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Sorosis Club and Colby PTO are sponsoring the fair with proceeds to community projects and Colby Grade School.

Post Polio meeting to be held

Anyone who is interested in post polio syndrome is invited to a meeting at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22, at Pioneer Memorial Library. A video, Recent Advances in Treating Post Polio Syndrome by Dr. Susan Perlman, UCLS Post Polio Clinic, will be shown. The video is of Dr. Perlman's presentation at the Post Polio Symposium in San Diego on June 23, 2002. Everyone is invited who has had polio, or even what was diagnosed as a bad case of flu, and who is experiencing fatigue, unexplained weakness, or depression.

After harvest festival to be held

The social problems class at Colby Community College will

sponsor the annual After Harvest Festival on Thursday, Sept. 26, beginning at 3 p.m. The festival will be held in the Community Building Activities Room and is for all those who are 55 years and older. Activities will include bingo at 3 p.m., a dinner at 5:30 p.m., and a dance from 6:45-8:45 p.m. No reservations are required. Participants are asked to bring a salad or dessert. For information, contact Larry Koon at 462-3984, ext. 341.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters host event

Big Brothers and Big Sisters is hosting Big For A Day, on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Those interested in taking part in the day need to register before hand. For information or to register, call 462-9125.

Irrigation installation field day set

A subsurface drip irrigation installation demonstration field day will be held on Monday, Sept. 23 at the Jim Franz farm. The farm is located 7 miles south on K-25 to Mingo Road, then 3 miles east on Mingo Road and 1 mile north. The demonstration will start at 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Wednesday's high, 70
Low this morning, 52
Year ago today, 86 and 47
Temperature at 11:30 a.m. today, 62

Colby's 24-hour rainfall, 0.00
Oakley's 24-hour rainfall, 0.00
Soil temp at the 4-inch depth, 68
Records for Sept. 19, 103 in 1920 and 31 in 1971

The forecast

Today's high should settle in the middle 60s. Tonight, clear, lows in the lower 40s, northwest winds 10-20 mph. Friday, sunny, highs in the upper 70s, west winds up to 15 mph. Friday night, partly cloudy, lows in the middle 40s. Saturday, partly sunny, highs in the middle 70s. (Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)

Colby Water Usage

•Sept. 18-1.810 million gallons
Levels of Concern
Watch Level 3.5 million gallons
Warning Level 4.0 million gallons

Emergency Level 4.5 million gallons
(Three consecutive days)

