



COLBY FREE PRESS

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New type of drug is seized here

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Colby police officials seized a new type of drug Saturday night after stopping a car with Colorado license plates at the Willow St. and Range Ave. intersection for failing to stop at the stop sign, said Randy Jones, police chief.

The driver, Mahamed Sufi, 30, and Fuad A. Ahmed, 21, were arrested after authorities found what they believe to be the new type of controlled substance known as 'Khat.'

"The officer was given consent to search the vehicle after noticing that Sufi appeared to be nervous," Jones said today, "and found the about 22.3 pounds of the substance."

According to Jones, Khat is a 10 to 20 foot flowering evergreen shrub or small tree that is native to East Africa and Southern Arabia.

"Chewed in moderation, Khat alleviates fatigue and reduces appetite," he said. "Compulsive use of the drug could result in manic behavior with grandiose delusions or a paranoid type of illness, sometimes accompanied by hallucinations."

As of press time, both Sufi and Ahmed were in custody at the Thomas County jail with charges pending. The Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency and Immigration and Naturalization Services had been contacted.

Prior to the arrest, Gary Shull, investigator with the Colby Police Department, said that two officers had received training only recently on the drug, Khat, which helped in identifying the drug found.

"To my knowledge," Shull added, "this is the first time we have seen Khat in Colby." He also said that the substance is being flown to one of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation's labs today for testing.

No other details were available as to the make of the vehicle, the time of the incident or specific charges and arraignment.

Gas prices up all over the nation

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP) — Gas prices rose nearly one and a half cents per gallon over the past two weeks, an industry analyst said Sunday.

The average weighted price for gas nationwide, including all grades and taxes, was about \$1.52 per gallon, according to the Lundberg Survey of 8,000 stations nationwide. Gas cost just over \$1.50 a gallon on Jan. 10, the date of the last Lundberg Survey.

Contributing to the price rise was the continuing oil production strike in Venezuela, a fear of war against Iraq, the intense cold weather on America's East Coast, which is prompting some refiners to produce more heating oil, and the addition of a costlier gasoline additive in California, Trilby Lundberg said

More fun than the Super Bowl



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

The Colby Community Building was rocking and rolling this past weekend with capacity crowds in attendance to see the 18th annual Orange and Black Basketball Classic. The crowd got even rowdier when Colby High School's Elvis the Eagle threw

T-shirts (one can be seen in the top left of the photo) into the stands. The Colby Lady Eagles successfully defended their title, and the boys took third. The Hays High Indian boys defeated Beloit to take the first-place trophy. Details on page 8.

With Sebelius in governor's chair

Kansas abortion foes are shifting focus

By JOHN HANNA

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — With abortion rights supporter Kathleen Sebelius in the governor's office, abortion foes have revised their legislative agenda.

Their top priority this year is a bill to establish minimum health and safety standards for clinics, and they hope Sebelius might sign it.

Abortion opponents describe their clinic regulation proposal as a public health measure, but they'll have to overcome skepticism about their motives from the abortion rights activists who are likely to be influential with the new Democratic governor.

"Where's the line between protecting safety and harassment?" said Rep. Paul Davis, D-Lawrence, an abortion rights supporter. "I'm not sure where that line is."

Anti-abortion activists generally view the state's abortion law as permissive, even given U.S. Supreme Court rulings that limit how states can restrict the procedure.

The Kansas law guarantees a woman's right to the procedure until the fetus can survive outside the womb. A woman must receive a booklet with information about fetal development and the risk of abortion procedures, however, and must wait eight hours before undergoing an abortion.

The law says a minor who seeks

an abortion must inform a parent or guardian first, but it allows courts to waive the requirement, and abortion foes say other loopholes greatly weaken the notification provisions.

Kansas law also bans late-term abortions except when a woman's life is in danger or she would suffer irreparable harm to health by carrying a pregnancy to term.

However, a conflicting provision on a specific procedure, identified as "partial-birth" abortion, permits that single method to preserve a woman's mental health. Abortion rights advocates say the mental health exception must apply to all late-term procedures to be constitutional; abortion foes disagree.

When he took office in 1995, Gov. Bill Graves tried to avoid being identified with either side. But during his eight years, abortion opponents came to view him as hostile to their cause.

Last year, abortion opponents pursued changes in the parental notification law, a clinic regulation measure and even a bill to create a "Choose Life" license plate, the proceeds of which would have financed adoption efforts.

Anti-abortion activists had little doubt about where Sebelius stood when she ran for governor last year.

As a Kansas House member, she was architect in 1992 of the language guaranteeing a woman's right to abortion through most of a pregnancy and opposed what restrictions the law contains.

In 1990, she voted in favor of a proposal to permit taxpayer-financed abortions.

Yet Kansans for Life, the state's largest anti-abortion group, still hopes it can persuade her to sign a clinic regulation bill.

"This is an excellent bill to reach common ground," said Kathy Ostrowski, the group's legislative director. "It's an evolution: How do you assist citizens faced with crisis pregnancies?"

Last year, the House approved a clinic regulation bill, but it died without a vote in the Senate.

That measure would have required each abortion provider to retain a licensed physician as a medical director, make sure a nurse was present when a patient was examined and have a nurse or physician assistant monitor patients until they are discharged.

Clinics also would have had to have life support systems and equipment for reviving patients.

Abortion opponents argue that without such a bill, Kansans have to file civil lawsuits against doctors —

after an injury or death has occurred — to set standards for abortion clinics.

"There's more state oversight of veterinary clinics in Kansas than abortion clinics," said Mary Kay Culp, Kansans for Life's executive director.

Abortion rights supporters, of course, dispute Culp's assertions and others by anti-abortion activists that abortion is less safe than advertised.

For example, abortion rights lobbyist Barbara Holzmark said she became an activist after being impressed by the cleanliness and patient treatment at a Planned Parenthood clinic.

Holzmark and other abortion rights supporters are suspicious of clinic regulation proposals because they focus on abortion providers.

"Are there not problems someone might see in any surgery?" said Carla Mahany, another abortion rights lobbyist. "We call them targeted regulations against abortion providers."

Sebelius tried to avoid the issue of abortion during her campaign as she sought support from some Republicans and conservative Democrats. She promised not to seek any legislation.

But she may have to deal with the issue anyway, if abortion foes are successful on a clinic regulation bill.

An AP News Analysis

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Sunday's high, 33
Low this morning, 10
Soil temperature, 32
Year ago today, 62 and 29
Precipitation for month: 0.00
Records for this date: 73 in 1982, -15 in 1963

The forecast

Tonight, clear, lows lower 30s, south winds becoming northwest late 10-15 mph. Tuesday, sunny early then becoming cloudy, highs upper 40s, north winds 10-20 mph. Tuesday night, partly cloudy, lows in the lower 20s. Wednesday, cloudy, highs in the mid 40s.

Briefly

Friday is 'shadow day' for kids

Second through fifth grade students at Colby Grade School will be job shadowing in area businesses on Friday, from the opening of that business until 10:45 a.m., said Terrel Harrison, principal. Parents will ask the business to give approval on a permission slip, which will need to be returned to the grade school office.

Dog training classes Thursday

Dog training classes will be offered beginning at 8 p.m., Thursday, at the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds, said Carrie Bredemeier, coordinator. Those interested will need proof of current vaccinations from a licensed veterinarian. The class fee is \$50, which will be required on the first night of training. This class, she said, will teach discipline and other basic techniques.

Rotary Club plans soup supper

The Colby Rotary Club is sponsoring its annual soup sup-

per from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18, during the Colby-Goodland basketball game at the Colby Community Building. The cost is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 12 and under. Tickets will be available at the door or from any Rotary Club member. All proceeds go toward Rotary projects that benefit the community.

Booster Club on the hunt

The Colby Booster Club is looking for any school group or team interested in earning extra money for their group, to work at its concession stand during home wrestling matches and basketball games, said Shawn Stephens with the club. In the event there is no school or team response, the club will extend the offer to church youth groups and other organizations. If interested, call Stephens at 462-6929.

Play auditions are Tuesday

Auditions for the Colby Community College spring production "Angel Street" and the college's touring children's

show will be held Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center on the campus. Actors interested in "Angel Street" are asked to prepare a one- to two-minute monologue. Those interested in the children's tour will read from the script. For questions, call Walter Yuhre at 462-3984, ext. 783.

Deadline extended for program

There's still time to register for the Master Gardener Program scheduled to begin in February. This program is sponsored by K-State Research and Extension and will certify participants in horticulture and related areas, said D'Ette Scholtz, extension agent. For information or to pick up a registration form, call the Thomas County Extension Office.

Landfill hours are posted

The Thomas County landfill is on its winter hours, which are: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.

Red Cross blood drive Wednesday

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

With nearly 2,500 pints of blood needed every week to help hospital patients in the Central Plains Region, blood drives are vital, said Thomas County American Red Cross blood drive coordinators, Jackie Stephens and Jo Frahm.

In response to the need, there will be a drive in Colby on Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Colby Comfort Inn.

The requirements for those wanting to donate blood are that they be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in general good health.

"Most medications will not defer people from donating blood," Stephens said. While all types of blood are needed, there is a particular call for O-positive and O-negative.

In offering some statistics about blood donors, Stephens offered the following information. For example, there are about 500 blood donors needed each week in order to supply hospitals with blood for patients. The Central Plains Region encompasses the majority of Kansas and the upper portion of Oklahoma.

Additionally, the American Red Cross can break down each blood donation into three separate components — platelets, plasma and red cells — so that one blood donation can save three different patients.

Other facts noted that someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion every two seconds; that the Red Cross supplies about one-half of the nation's blood supply; and that one trauma patient can require the blood of 50 donors or more.

The average adult has 10 to 12 pints of blood and a newborn baby has about one cup of blood in its body.

"We are urging everyone to share the miracle and help save lives by donating this week," Frahm said.

For questions or other details, call Stephens, 462-8122, or Frahm, 462-2082.

Martha Stewart estimates loss at \$400 million

NEW YORK (AP) — Domesticity maven Martha Stewart estimates she has lost \$400 million because of the federal investigation into her ImClone stock trade, she told *The New Yorker* magazine.

The story by writer Jeffrey Toobin, which reaches newsstands today, is based on Stewart's first lengthy media interview on the subject since news broke last June that federal prosecutors were investigating her sale of ImClone System Inc. shares.

She told Toobin that the losses have been mostly in the decline in value of her more than 30 million shares in her multimedia company, but also in legal fees and lost business opportunities.

Stewart noted that her image has suffered and said she's "puzzled by the public's delight" in her troubles.

