



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Former hospital pharmacist gets year's probation

A Citizens Medical Center official says, 'He got off easy'

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Robert B. Schroeder, rural Colby, managed to reach a plea bargain agreement in a hearing last Wednesday. He pled guilty to two misdemeanor charges of theft.

According to Thomas County court documents, Schroeder, a former part-time pharmacist at Citizens Medical Center was arrested Dec. 20, 2001 and later charged with two counts of felony burglary, two counts of felony narcotics possession and two counts of misdemeanor theft.

At the hearing, Thomas County District Court Judge Rick Ress sentenced Schroeder to two years in the Thomas County jail and a \$5,000 fine. The jail sentence was suspended and Schroeder was placed on probation for one year. He must complete 200 hours of community service, pay \$3,892.22 in restitution to Citizen's Medical Center and undergo an alcohol and drug evaluation at the Thomas County Alcohol Drug Abuse Council.

Schroeder also can't reapply for his pharmacy license until 2005.

Kansas Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Susan Linn confirmed Schroeder's license has been suspended and she wanted to let people know that it will be some time before he is able to reapply.

"He will not be practicing any time soon as a pharmacist," she said. And if he wants to reapply for

his license, he will have to meet some conditions.

"If he wants his license back he has to show he has gained the public trust again," Linn said.

Schroeder's attorney, Donald Hoffman of Hays, said both sides agreed to a plea bargain.

"I don't believe either side got what it wanted but it was resolved," Hoffman said. "That's the way plea bargains work. I would say that both parties wanted to resolve it without the need for a jury trial."

He also said he didn't know if there was any truth to the fact that Citizens Medical Center's pharmacy director John Icke and Kevan Trenkle, interim hospital administrator, were given only 15 minutes' notice about the hearing.

However, Trenkle said today that Icke was notified approximately 15 minutes before the hearing and in turn let Trenkle know about it on his way out the door.

"I wasn't even notified," Trenkle said.

Hoffman said he knew about the hearing two weeks in advance because the judge contacted him about when it could be held.

Trenkle also said the original plea presented to the hospital was different than the plea that went to hearing.

"I believe the probation was longer and we requested more on the license," he said. "So yes, he got off easy."

Colby students en route to national competition

Several Colby students are en route to Orlando, Fla., to attend the Technology Student Association national competition, June 25-29.

The delegation includes, from Colby Middle School, Bryan Brewer, Courtney Ress, Katie

Strange, Henry Lamm and Curtis Fulwider. From Colby High School are Curt Beringer, Joel Meyers and Valerie Donelan.

Advisors are Lamoreaux Fulwider, middle school, and Don Balluch, high school.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Billy Jackson and Tyler DeWaal of Provo, Utah, were in Colby Friday as they continued their 3,000 mile cross country trek to raise awareness on human rights issues abroad. Jackson said Colby was their half-way point.

Running their message across country

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Colby was the half-way point for two young men who are running more than 3,000 miles cross country to increase awareness on human rights issues.

Billy Jackson and Tyler DeWaal, 23, from Provo, Utah, started their journey at the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco on April 26 and will conclude their trip at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Aug. 9.

The two said they are not athletes and running 30 to 35 miles a day has been tough, but not as tough as it is for those suffering in foreign countries.

"We want to make a difference and change lives for the better," Jackson said, "by clothing the naked and feeding the hungry and administering relief to the sick and afflicted."

Prior to taking their 3,000 mile journey, Jackson and DeWaal created *The Relief Alliance* in 1998 while freshmen at Brigham Young University and after they both saw the first-hand struggles of people in some countries over-

seas. Jackson said he spent many years living in India and living overseas gave him the opportunity to travel throughout Southeast Asia where he witnessed other situations where people suffered.

"My father was a doctor who worked at American embassies as a government employee overseas and through his job we spent time in Australia, South Africa, Singapore, India, Poland and Ethiopia," Jackson said.

DeWaal also traveled abroad with his father being an international banker.

"I spent 16 years overseas and primarily in Asian countries," he said. "Both Billy and I have seen so many human rights violations in so many places."

The two talked about seeing corpses lying on the roads while driving to school or hearing about the brutality and torture from those who have lived it first-hand.

After completing their high school education, the two met one another while at Brigham Young University. Having shared similar childhood experiences, they both decided they could no longer sit

back and do nothing.

"We started the organization and coordinated the run as a way to make a small difference in the lives of the oppressed and less fortunate," DeWaal said.

Jackson said they have four major goals to accomplish by running across the continental United States. Those include sponsoring 300 Tibetan refugee orphans for a high school education; building a school in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to benefit elementary school aged street children; financially benefit a program for children rescued from the child sex industry and to raise awareness of human rights situations worldwide and specifically in Tibet.

They believe the first three goals will be accomplished thanks to help from Rotary International who has pledged to donate four to one on any contributions made from the "Trans-America Run for Dignity and Human Rights."

"We also want everyone to know that any money donated to this cause will go back 100 percent to all programs and projects," Jackson said. "We are on a very tight budget

with our 3,000 mile journey." In fact, the two rely heavily on the generosity of the towns where they stop for the night.

In Colby, the two men said they were grateful for all the help they received.

"Colby is the friendliest town in America," Jackson said, "and we know because we have walked all the way here from San Francisco."

In offering thanks, he and DeWaal both said that Quality Inn and Jay Hawk, manager, gave them lodging for the night, Sonic provided lunch; and the Colby Theatre gave free movie tickets.

"Our gratitude goes out to the Oasis on the Plains" they said, adding that they will not soon forget all the kindnesses and the people here.

For those wanting to make a donation online the address is: <http://www.ReliefAlliance.org> or write to: Relief Alliance, 442 W. 1780 North, Orem, Utah 84057.

After leaving Colby on Saturday, the two men were headed for Hoxie and at 30 miles a day anticipate being in Topeka by Tuesday, July 1.

Supreme Court ruling impacts Colby library

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

A ruling handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday will have an effect on Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby and its patrons.

The court upheld a 2000 law mandating public libraries install filters on public computers to filter out pornographic materials.

"We've actually had a policy in place in our library since we started having public computers," said Librarian JoAnne Sunderman. "We've always had a really strong policy against pornography."

There are seven computers in the

library used for public Internet access. Sunderman said computers in the children's room are for games and don't have access to the Web.

Cost is a consideration but another concern is censorship.

Certain subjects, such as disease, art or agriculture may be denied access because of the filters.

However, at the request of a patron, the filter can be turned off if it is denying access to a legitimate site.

"We will install filters to comply with the law," she said. "In a way, it's a really difficult call. 'I'm sorry we have to put filters on them (com-

puters)."

People researching breast cancer or farmers looking up rape seed might find themselves dealing with blocked access to a web site.

"They really block more than pornography," she said.

The government hasn't said how libraries will pay for the software or set a time limit for them to comply.

Sunderman said the library's board of trustees was careful when it crafted the library's Internet policy.

Patrons younger than 18 have to have a waiver signed by their parents to use the computers for

Internet access. Adults must also read and sign a waiver stating they understand the library rules and will abide by them.

The policy for children, she said, requires parents to be responsible for what their kids do.

Librarians will check a computer's history if they believe a patron has visited an inappropriate site. They clear the histories after use anyway to save memory.

"A filter should take care of that," Sunderman said. "They don't take care of pictures."

Leslie Bell, director of the Northwest Kansas Library System, said

the organization will back up its libraries by providing information.

There are several kinds of filters available. She said some used keywords to block sites and others block specific sites, but it depends on the product.

"It's not full-proof," Bell said. "It gives a false sense of security. I think it causes a problem. That's the difficulty with filters."

She added the law has been in limbo for several years and Monday's ruling came as a surprise.

"I wasn't prepared for a decision Monday," Bell said. "It was kind of unexpected."

Briefly

College board meets Thursday

A special meeting of the Colby Community College board of trustees will be held at 5 p.m., Thursday, in the board room of Thomas Hall. Items on the agenda include software license, along with service and maintenance agreement, lease financing considerations and payment of claims. The meeting is open.

City adjusts trash schedule

The City of Colby Sanitation Department will not be operating on Friday, July 4, in observance of the Independence holiday, said Gerry Bieker, public works director. Friday's residential grass and trash will be picked up on Thursday, July 3 along with the regular residential solid waste route. For questions, call 462-4420.

Queen, princess contestants wanted

The Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess Contest

is taking entries for the event on Friday, July 25. Queens ages 17-23 and princesses 10-16 years old by Jan. 1, 2003 are eligible.

Contestants must also be a resident of northwest Kansas, said Marie Skolout, one of the coordinators. Contestants will be judged in horsemanship, interview, speech and modeling.

A trophy saddle will be awarded to the queen, along with belt buckles for the queen and princess. Prizes will be awarded for horsemanship, ticket sales and people's choice award. The 2003 Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess will be crowned on Tuesday, July 29, at the PRCA Rodeo.

For information or entry form, call Skolout at (785) 586-2228.

Trophy sponsors wanted

The Thomas County Extension Office is looking for businesses and individuals to sponsor 4-H trophies for this year's county fair, said D'Ette Sholtz, county extension agent. Each trophy is \$8, she said. For questions call (785) 462-4582.

Share delivery date noted

Heartland Share delivery is scheduled for Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Colby Sacred Heart School gymnasium.

As an added bonus this month is those ordering Share and a special of the month will have an opportunity to win a barbecue grill. Questions to 460-3579.

Football camp registration notice

June 30 is the deadline to register for the Colby Eagle Football Camp, according to camp director Brad Wildeman. For questions, call 462-7815.

The viaduct story

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Very pleasant

Thomas, Logan Counties
Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows near 50. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming west late and decreasing to 5 mph. Thursday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph. Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows near 50. Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 80s. Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 50s.

By the numbers
Monday's high, 99
Tuesday's high, 97
Low this morning, 53
Year ago today, 100 and 63
Records for the date, 110 in 1971, all-time high; 44 in 1958
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.03
June's precipitation to date, 2.65
Year's precipitation to date, 9.00
2002's precipitation to date, 4.04

Water Usage/Colby
June 24 = 2.808 million gallons

