



COLBY FREE PRESS

Burglary closes business

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A Colby business specializing in supplies for weightlifters has closed indefinitely following a burglary reported sometime between 5 p.m. on Friday and 2:40 a.m. on Saturday, said Gary Shull, investigator with the police department.

"The burglary occurred when a person or persons entered the rear door by force at the No Pazzing Zone store located at 377 N. Franklin Ave.," he said.

By Sunday, co-owner Chase Kough, was already removing the signage from the storefront windows and likely may not reopen since most of his inventory was stolen.

Kough, told police that about 1,200 items were taken with 600 of those items being large five-pound jugs in quantities of one and two gallons. Specifically, the jugs contained name brand items such as Opti-Pro, MET, Rx and Pro Complex.

The store, Shull said, caters to body builders and the items stolen were protein-type supplements and other related health aids.

"We assume the vehicle (used in the burglary) was probably a van, box truck, or enclosed trailer," he said.

The Colby Police Department encourages anyone who might have seen unusual activity during the time of the burglary to call them at 462-4460.

In addition to suspicious behavior the night of the burglary, Shull said that this type of product is not available within a 100-mile radius of Colby.

"Therefore if anyone becomes aware of someone with a large quantity of this type of product, we would like to hear from them," he said.



Back to the 90s

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 60s. South wind around 10 mph.
Thursday...Partly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 60s. **Friday...**Partly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s.
Friday night...Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and possibly a thunderstorm...mainly in the evening. Lows in the upper 60s. Chance of rain 20 percent.
Saturday...Partly cloudy. A slight chance of showers during the night and possibly a thunderstorm...mainly in the evening. Highs in the mid 90s.

By the numbers

Monday's high, 85
Tuesday's high, 90
Low this morning, 57
Year ago today, 100 and 65
Records for the date, 109 in 1935 and 43 in 1971
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.25
Month's precipitation, 0.42
Year's precipitation to date, 11.29
2002's precipitation to date, 5.67

Water Usage/Colby

July 28 = 3.717 million gallons
July 29 = 3.064 million gallons
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other figures from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Riders take a spin on the Paratrooper at the Thomas County Free Fair carnival Tuesday night. Lightning caused the carnival to shut down early but will be open for business again tonight from 7-11 p.m. The carnival will run through each night of the fair, from 7-11 p.m. Thursday and from 7 p.m.-midnight on Friday and Saturday.

Rain... among visitors to the county fair

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Right on schedule. That best describes the start of the Thomas County Fair and the expected rain that generally visits during fair week.

Tuesday night's rain left 0.25 inches in the gauge at the Northwest Research-Extension Center.

The fair is in full swing and so far, according to organizers, everything is meeting expectations.

Kerry Wark, chairman of the Thomas County Amusement Association, said the first night of the carnival came off without a hitch, despite having to shut down at 9:30 p.m. because of lightning.

"Everything went well," he said. "I thought everything went

really smooth."

The carnival was well-staffed and all of the game booths were manned. The rides were also going almost non-stop until the weather change moved in.

"I thought the turnout was good," Wark said. "They (the rides) were running full and there were full lines.

"I thought it was a good crowd."

So far, the Zipper and Tilt-A-Whirl are proving to be the favorite rides. Wark said the Tilt-A-Whirl is the ride that loads and unloads the quickest. He said after the fair, the committee could use help taking things down and cleaning up.

Volunteers are welcome to come help take down booths and tents on Sunday at 1 p.m. Wark said they could also use help taking down the rides but that won't happen until

next week.

The first night of the fair and rodeo also went according to plan.

Audrey Hines, fair board secretary/treasurer, said the turnout for the first night of the rodeo was slightly above that of last year with 680 adult tickets sold and 135 children's tickets.

"It went real well Tuesday night," she said. "Things went smooth and there were no problems."

Hines also wanted to remind people that the free barbecue is today at 5:30 p.m. She said preparations are going "great."

She also said the board wants to encourage people to make a donation to the Wall of Support. Anyone making a donation will have their name up on the wall all week.

By college trustees

Computer system update okayed

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Colby Community College will have a new mainframe installed by this time next year.

The new mainframe, the system that operates the college's vast computer network, will replace the current one, which the trustees were told, is outdated..

The board approved the issuance of certificates of participation from Gold Capital for a total of \$525,000 with an interest rate of 2.7 percent for the new system.

Gold Capital of Wichita had the lowest bid and BankWest had the next lowest.

The cost will cover the purchase of new software and a new mainframe.

Mikel Ary, college president, said it will help the school stay competitive with recruitment by better allowing students to communicate with the college. "That's a very important area for us," he said.

Proceeds from the sale of the certificates will pay for the new equipment.

The school will pay back the certificates over five years at a rate of \$110,000-\$115,000 a year.

Ken Johnson, dean of fiscal affairs at the college, said the first payment will be due next August and will fall under the next budget year. The board also approved the lease purchase agreement necessary to finish the purchase of the mainframe package.

They also approved a maintenance agreement with Jenzabar to maintain the current mainframe until the new one can be installed.

Colby College

Mill levy increase part of budget plan

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees approved Aug. 15 as the date for its annual budget hearing.

The public hearing will be at 5 p.m. in the board room of Thomas Hall on the college campus. The proposed budget for the 2003-2004 year is \$11,737,028.

The school will be facing shortfalls in state funding because the state has cut funding in some areas and also because enrollment is down.

Ken Johnson, dean of fiscal affairs, said the school will lose \$427,000 in state funding. The bulk of the loss, he said, is \$375,000 and is the result of the legislature's decision to cut back on funding post-secondary education.

The college will lose another \$32,000 it used to get from the state in taxes.

To make up for some of the losses, Johnson said the board is considering raising the mill levy from 26.86 last year to 32.45 for the coming fiscal year. The proposed 5.59 mill increase could raise more than \$400,000 for the school.

"We've done everything we could to keep it as low as possible," said Mikel Ary, college president.

He said the school has been working since last year to cut costs because it has lost approximately \$675,000 in state funding over the past two years. "We've done a series of things," he said.

Ary said about \$180,000 in de-

partmental spending has been cut for the year and so has non-essential travel.

Capital spending has also been deferred. Ary said the school didn't buy any cars last year for the motor pool but will probably purchase one new vehicle this year.

However, the most significant measure the college has taken is raising tuition.

There was a \$5 per credit hour increase last year and there will be a \$6 per credit hour increase this year.

Ary said it's the most tuition has been raised at the school in a long time. The most it had ever been raised before in back-to-back years was \$2 per credit hour. "It is a big deal," he said.

Also, a technology fee of \$5 per student per semester is being instituted.

Ary said some community colleges have no tech fees. He said Colby College wanted to make theirs similar to Dodge City Community College, which charges a flat fee per semester.

He also said the decision was made not to fill three positions but the content areas will be covered by other instructors who are doubling up.

Ary said every option has been explored to maintain a high level of services while cutting costs.

Another area the school will try to make up for lost revenues is getting students to take a full course load of 15 to 16 hours a semester instead of 13 to 14.

Class seeks students

Applicants are being sought for the Leadership Thomas County program.

Anyone wishing to participate and did not receive an application, call 460-3401, 460-7643 or stop by the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce office at 350 S. Range.

Applicants can nominate themselves or a business may nominate an employee. The program is seven

months long, beginning in October and ending in April. Ten adult members will be selected for the program with emphasis on learning leadership capacities.

Alumni will be happy to discuss their experience with those interested. Names of alumni are available at the chamber office.

Completed applications are due by Aug. 22. The 2003-2004 class will be announced on Sept. 19.

Thomas County Fair SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Today, 3-9 p.m. - *Antique Tractor Show & Shine display*
4 p.m. - *Farm Bureau Assoc. Pedal Tractor Pull Regist.*
5 -6:45 p.m. - *Pedal Tractor Pull*
5:30 p.m. - *Free Barbecue* - come and enjoy!

8 p.m. - *PRCA Rodeo*
Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - *4-H Dairy, Bucket Calf & Breeding Livestock Show*
8 p.m. - *Demolition Derby*

Friday, 9 a.m. - *4-H Round Robin*
3:00 p.m. - *Buyers's Appreciation BBQ* - *4-H Livestock Sale*
7 p.m. - *Thomas Co. Fair Races*

Saturday, 10 a.m. - *Parade. The parade will start south on Franklin to 5th St., east on 5th to Lake Ave., south on Lake to 2nd St., west on 2nd St. to Franklin Ave., south on Franklin to Cedar St., and west on Cedar to the fairgrounds.*
Make "Fair Week — Family Week"

Briefly

Commissioners meet Thursday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. on Thursday at the courthouse for their end of month meeting. Items on the agenda include a report from IBM representative Phillip Powell, Brian Staats of Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball on the 2002 audit and an update on county road work.

Fire department fund raiser set

The Colby Fire Department is looking at ways to raise money for a matching grant to fund public fire prevention and education, said Rick Dickman, assistant fire chief. In helping toward that aim, he said, the department is giving away a Phoenix gas barbecue, 50 lbs. of meat, two Little Audrey gift sets and Craftsman barbecue accessories in exchange for donations.

The four items will be given away the first night of the Thomas County fair races, Friday, Aug. 1. For questions, call

Dickman at 462-4454 or any firefighter.

Sacred Heart to enroll

Sacred Heart School enrollment will be Tuesday, Aug. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call 462-2813.

Mud volleyball tourney planned

The Colby Jaycees are planning a co-ed mud volleyball tournament on Saturday, Aug. 9, beginning with registration at 9 a.m. There will be no pre-registration and the event is open to those 21 years and older. The tournament will be held behind the Jaycee Center located just southwest of the Colby Animal Clinic, 810 E. 4th St. For questions, call 462-7781.

Railroad club open during fair

The Northwest Kansas Model Railroad Club will be open again this year during fair time, said John Donelan, club member. Visitors are welcome to stop by their display from now through Friday, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Colby School

District's administration building, 210 S. Range. Anyone planning to view the model trains are asked to enter through the fire exit on the west end of the building.

Colby schools enrollment set

Enrollment for students returning to Colby Public Schools is Tuesday, Aug. 5, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the commons area of Colby High School.

Information packets will be mailed next week and school officials ask that if someone doesn't receive it to call 460-5000. Enrollment for new students is Wednesday, Aug. 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the respective buildings.

Forms available for Nine-Run-Run

The Thomas County Emergency Medical Service is hosting its 8th annual Nine-Run-Run and the second annual Nine-Ride-Ride events on Saturday, Aug. 2, at Fike Park. This year's event will help raise money for ambulance equipment, organizers said, and registration will begin at 6 a.m. for bikers and 7 a.m. for the runners on the day of the run.

