



COLBY FREE PRESS

Woman faces 11 charges

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A Levant woman was charged Wednesday with burglary and theft after allegedly entering the homes of acquaintances in the area for the purpose of stealing prescription drugs.



Boardman

Kimberly Anne Boardman, 32, who was a teacher at Colby High School, had her first appearance on Wednesday in Thomas County District Court.

As a result of the appearance, a preliminary hearing was set for Tuesday, June 15.

The 11 charges of either burglary, theft or possession of narcotics date back to February of 2004 when many co-workers and others who knew Boardman came forward after discovering that she allegedly was going into homes with the common ploy of depriving them of prescription medications, said Gary Shull, police investigator.

Colby police arrested Boardman on Feb. 13 following an initial investigation that she had taken medications from a home in the 1100 block of LaHacienda Drive and the 600 block of North School Avenue. "The investigation further concluded that Ms. Boardman was alleged to have been responsible for a Monday, Feb. 2 home invasion in the 800 block of East Eighth Street," he said.

Allan Taylor, Thomas County Attorney, filed three counts of burglary, three counts of theft, four counts of being in possession of a narcotic drug and one count of being in possession of a depressant.

The drugs listed in the complaints included morphine sulfate pills, oxycodone, phenteramine (a stimulant), hydrocodone, and endocet with varying amounts missing from those houses.

The other charges of theft and burglary involved the three houses already mentioned. Information regarding bail was unavailable today.

Tree talk



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby High School students Collin Bielser and Derek Elliott watched Jordan Sharp plant a tree north of the school's parking lot Wednesday. The students, members of the school's science club, planted trees as part of a school beautification project, said Roni Dietz, the club's sponsor.

Medicare program questions addressed

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Questions about the government's new Medicare prescription drug program were answered Wednesday during a program at the Senior Progress Center in Colby.



Clingsmith

Glenna Clingsmith, information and assistance coordinator with the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging addressed the topic and how it works.

She said it's a program that will make prescription drug discount cards available to people on Medicare, which is the government's federal medical insurance plan that covers people 65 and over. Those enrolling in the program will get a 10 to 25 percent discount on their prescription drugs.

"They are voluntary," she said. "It's not something you have to do. They are only temporary and last until 2006."

Thirty companies have qualified for the program and it will require an annual fee of up to \$30 a year.

People can start enrolling in the program in May and might be able to use the discount cards as early as June.

"Not all pharmacists are going to accept the Medicare discount cards," she said.

To find out what discount cards will cover their medications they should log onto the Medicare Web site at <http://www.medicare.gov> or call 1-800-Medicare.

They then have to supply basic information, such as zip code, monthly income and medications they take.

Clingsmith said 200 categories of drugs are covered but only one medication is available in each of those categories.

She said people will need to try to find a discount card that covers the greatest number of their medications and then check with their pharmacist to see if they will accept the card.

Also, for people with lower income, there is a \$600 credit available to help pay for prescriptions.

Clingsmith said a single person must have an income of \$1,047 or less per month and \$1,405 or less for a couple to qualify for the credit. While the credit lasts, it will pay for prescriptions and the only out-of-pocket expense is a small co-pay. Also, the yearly fee will be waived for people who get the credit.

When the credit runs out, the discount program becomes available.

"It's good news and it's bad news," she said, adding one drawback is that companies can change the drugs covered and the weekly price without notification.

Clingsmith also said information on the program is available by calling her at the Area Agency on Aging at 1-800-432-7422.

Former President Bill Clinton to speak at KU in May

LAWRENCE (AP) — Former Kansas Senator Bob Dole has invited the man who defeated him in the 1996 presidential election to deliver the first lecture in a new series that bears Dole's name.

Former President Bill Clinton

will speak at 2:15 p.m. May 21 at the Lied Center at the University of Kansas, the school announced Wednesday.

Last summer, the university dedicated the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics. Its purpose is to serve as a

research center for the study of politics, and to document the life and career of Dole. He attended the University of Kansas but didn't graduate, having joined the Army and gone off to fight in World War II. "I cannot think of a more appro-

priate person to inaugurate the Dole Lecture than President Clinton," Dole said in a news release. "It sets entirely the right tone in terms of having the institute embody non-partisan public service."

Dole and Clinton co-chaired the

fund-raising campaign for the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund, benefiting family members of victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. They also served together on the World War II Memorial project.

School finance debate still in limbo in Senate

TOPEKA (AP) — Senators are still searching for a school finance plan.

Informal polls of Senate Republicans indicated Wednesday that no proposal had enough support for passage, the chamber's GOP leadership said. All plans under consideration relied on varied mixes of sales and income tax increases to provide more money for school districts.

"Today was not a banner day," Senate President Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson, said after his chamber ended the first day of the wrap-up session Wednesday without hashing out a strategy.

Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka, advocated a \$92 million plan funded by higher taxes on sales and income.

A second proposal — ready in the event the Hensley plan failed — was drafted by Senate Education Committee Chairman Dwayne Umbarger, costing about \$80 million, also raised from higher sales

and income taxes.

"We've looked at all the options and they all remain options," said Kerr, who still expected agreement on a school finance plan and adjournment of the 2004 session by Saturday night.

Umbarger said he preferred to have the Senate establish a stance on school funding before trying to negotiate with the House.

As for Hensley's plan, Umbarger said, "It's sure better than nothing, and that's what we've got."

Before legislators began a long recess April 2, the House approved two school finance plans while the Senate rejected six and approved none. Any money appropriated in the wrap-up session would be in addition to the \$2.77 billion worth of state aid to districts contained in a new budget that Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has already signed.

One of the House-passed bills would provide districts an additional \$28 million for bilingual education and other targeted programs.

Congratulations!



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Sheila and Kenton Krehbiel exchanged greetings with Cathy Gordon at a reception Wednesday at Colby Community College honoring the couple's service to the school and community. The Krehbiels are this year's honorary associate degree recipients to be presented at the college's commencement in May.

Briefly

Tree plantings Friday

The Colby Tree Board will have a tree planting ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday at Fike Park in observance of National Arbor Day. Doug Baker's fifth grade class from Colby Grade School received a grant from the Thomas County Community Foundation to plant park trees. Following the park ceremony, a tree honoring the 150th anniversary of Kansas as a territory will be planted at Thomas County Office Complex.

Bake sale planned Saturday

Heartland Christian School in Colby is sponsoring a bake sale from 9:30 a.m. until sold out, on Saturday, at Dillons. Proceeds will help defray yearbook costs for school families, said Shannon Myers. For questions, call her at 462-2467.

Piano recital Sunday

Piano students of Shirley Malcolm will present their spring recital on Sunday at 2 p.m., at the Colby United Methodist Church. Students performing solos and ensembles will be:

Amanda and Matthew Barnum, Dryden and Lucas Baumfalk, Bryan Brewer, Cade and Shane Carter, Melissa Crumrine, Mandy Edmundson, John Faber, Madison Gawith, Alexa and Ryley Haas, Nate Horinek, Troy Koon, Cameron McLaughlin, Jaden Morrison, Kelsey Shields, Andrew Toth, Elizabeth Tubbs, Brock Wagoner, Kaid Wark and Jackie Webb. The public is invited.

Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will have their end of month meeting at 9 a.m. Friday at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include Sandy Swob, road grader bids, an Arbor Day tree planting and scraper rentals for the county landfill. The meeting is open to the public.

Barbershop performance

The Tumbleweed Chorus will present, "Songs Like Daddy Used to Sing," at 3 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday at the Frahm Theatre in the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College. Yesterday's Heroes, Tone-Henge and the Tum-

bleweed Chorus will perform. For information or tickets, call 462-6552 or 460-8640.

Taxes due by May 10

The 2003 second half of property and real estate taxes for Thomas County residents are due by Monday, May 10, said Donita Applebury, county treasurer.

She wanted to remind anyone with taxes due to make sure and submit those taxes by the May deadline since this is a change from previous years when taxes were due on June 20. For questions, call 462-4520.

Underclassmen to be honored

Colby High School has scheduled an awards ceremony for students in 9th, 10th and 11th grades starting at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, in the school auditorium.

The public is invited to attend this event to honor students with academic and attendance accomplishments. Cameras are welcome. For questions, call 460-5300.



Cool, rain

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...Mostly cloudy with rain likely. Lows in the upper 30s to near 40. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph and gusty. Chance of rain 60 percent. **Friday...**Mostly cloudy. Rain likely. Highs in the mid 40s to around 50. North winds 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 60 percent. **Friday night...**Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers. Lows in the mid 30s. Northwest winds 5 to 15 mph and gusty. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy. Warmer. Highs near 60. Northwest winds 5 to 15 mph with higher gusts.

The numbers

Wednesday's high, 88
Low this morning, 42
Records for April 29, 89 in 1934 and 16 in 1908
Year ago today, 77 and 51
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
April total, 2.60
April snowfall, 3 inches
Soil temperature, 62

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

