



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Speeders won't be charged

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

Authorities won't be charging two men from Virginia for a high speed chase that crossed Sheridan and Thomas Counties on Sunday.

Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn said Thursday afternoon that Steven L. Risby, 18, and David A. Davis, 20, both of Richmond, Va., are being extradited to Virginia for crimes they allegedly committed there.

Both men are wanted in Virginia for grand larceny, burglary and theft for crimes they allegedly committed on Feb. 13 in Chesterfield County, Va., the day the high speed chase took place.

Shortly after 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sheridan County Sheriff's Deputy Hessel Anderson was alerted about a gas theft in Graham County and he located Risby and Davis when westbound about 6 miles east of Hoxie. Anderson started following the car the two men were in and he clocked it going 82 miles per hour at the time.

A subsequent chase led authorities through Sheridan County and into Thomas County on country roads. The suspects were apprehended about 5:30 p.m. in a wheat field in just east of U.S. Highway 83 near County Road O.

Risby and Davis were taken into custody without incident.

Baughn said while the extradition process for the two men is currently underway, he did not indicate when it would be completed.

Pizza anyone?



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Puddle Duck Preschool students Gage Winger and Lexy Kraft made pizzas this morning. Students were making real and crafty pizzas as part of Pizzeria Day at the school. The students had a busy day along with other activities that included attending the FFA petting zoo at Colby Middle School this afternoon.

No smoking!

Colby College goes smoke, tobacco free

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

All campus buildings at Colby Community College are now smoke-free and tobacco-free following action earlier this week by the board of trustees.

Most of the campus buildings were already off-limits to smoking tobacco or chewing it, but the college farm buildings and the breezeway in the administration building still had areas designated for that purpose.

However, after getting complaints from students, faculty and staff about those areas and the intolerable "smoke-screen and smoke-scent" left behind prompted some type of action be taken.

The smoke-free, tobacco-free policy goes into effect on July 1, 2005.

Although there is no smoking or chewing allowed in campus buildings, the policy will not affect outdoor use.

Trustees also heard a marketing report from Nikol Scheurman, one of the three admissions counselors at the college, regarding strategies for recruiting new students. Scheurman said there are plans

in place to have a special visit day for high school seniors scheduled for Saturday, March 12, as one recruiting measure.

The visit would be in offering information about financial aid, providing campus tours, and meeting faculty.

The event is being advertised and circulated through a brochure mailed to high school counselors. In addition, the college is having a promotion from now until May 1, called "Got Friends."

The idea is to encourage a student to invite a friend to visit the campus and in doing so, the college will award the first student \$100.

The effort, Scheurman said, has been bringing additional students to the campus. There is also a "Junior Day" planned for March 30 to target high school juniors.

Of the three counselors, Scheurman reported to the trustees that two counselors are on the road most of the week with one on campus to answer questions from visiting students.

Cleona Flipse, trustee, asked Scheurman to let the board know the success of the special visit day and junior day.

Senate advances 'Lew Perkins Provision' to open records law

TOPEKA (AP)—Senators have unanimously approved a proposed change in the Kansas Open Records Act to require full disclosure of public officials' compensation packages.

The measure is known as the "Lew Perkins Provision" after the University of Kansas athletic director. The Senate's 39-0 vote Thurs-

day sent it to the House.

The bill's nickname comes from a lawsuit filed last year by The World Company, which publishes the Lawrence Journal-World and operates cable television station 6News, to force disclosure of Perkins' compensation package.

The Associated Press and the Kansas Press Association later

joined the litigation.

When a Douglas County district judge ruled in the media organizations' favor, the university released the records.

The bill would place the district court ruling into state law, mandating the disclosure of all compensation records, even those involving anonymous gifts and other, private

sources. However, senators also approved a bill, 38-1, to keep more than 240 exceptions to the records act in place for five years. Those exemptions are set to expire July 1, and senators said they want adequate time to review them.

The same bill also clarifies when public officials can close records to prevent an unwarranted invasion of

privacy. Critics say the provision is too vague and gives government officials too much discretion.

The new language defines an invasion of privacy as revealing information that would be highly offensive to a reasonable person and not of legitimate public concern, officials said.

A third bill, approved 37-2,

would close records detailing information about utilities' security measures, preventing them from even being subject to subpoenas in criminal or civil cases or administrative hearings.

In other action, a bill to protect the right of mothers to nurse their babies in public cleared the House on a 118-5 vote and went to the Senate.

Democratic National Committee chair talks about Dean's future

TOPEKA (AP)—True to his word that he would take his party's message to conservative bastions, Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean rallied a crowd Thursday in Kansas, which has voted Republican in every presidential election since 1964.

The former presidential candidate and Vermont governor criticized President Bush's budget record and plans for Social

Security while urging people to get involved in politics no matter what their philosophy.

"Democracy will fail if it's not nurtured. I'm asking you to run for the school board, I'm asking you to run for the city council, I'm asking you to run for library trustee," he told his audience of about 800 people. "Work in somebody's campaign, three hours a week, if that's all you can do."

Dean was the keynote speaker for a student government conference at Washburn University. He also is scheduled to headline a \$5-per-ticket rally at a downtown Lawrence theater on Friday.

Dean didn't hide his partisan leanings during his remarks and in answering audience questions. He criticized Bush for suggesting Social Security faces a big crisis. And concerning Bush's plan to create per-

sonal investment accounts as part of Social Security, Dean said, "I don't believe the way to fix Social Security is to have Wall Street run it so that it can be invested in Enron and Tyco and MCI."

Dean also said a sound energy policy and balanced budgets are important to national defense. Continued federal budget deficits are a problem, he said, because foreign investors, including the Chinese, hold much

of the debt.

"How would you like to have people you have a disagreement with holding the paper on your house?" he said.

Dean also planned to participate in several private fund-raisers for the Kansas Democratic Party, though its officials don't have a target for how much his visit will raise, said Mark Simpson, its executive director.

Colby Hoxie Oakley



Nice Saturday, cool Sunday

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. South winds 5 to 10 mph. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Gusts up to 30 mph in the afternoon. **Saturday night...**Mostly cloudy with scattered sprinkles or flurries. Lows around 30. South winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the southwest 5 to 10 mph after midnight. **Sunday...**Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Chance of sprinkles and flurries in the morning. Highs in the mid 40s. North winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 40 mph. **Monday...**Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. **Tuesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s.

The numbers

Thursday's high, 53
Low this morning, 22
Year ago today, 46 and 15
Records for this date, 77 in 1917 and -20 in 1960
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
Precipitation for month to date: 0.34
Snowfall for month to date: 3.7 inches
Soil temperature, 39

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.

Briefly

Commissioners to meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include: department presentations by landfill supervisor Larry Jumper, Lynette Koon on the recycling center, Gerry Fulwider on economic development and John Lygeros on emergency preparedness; road department supervisor Clair Schrock to discuss upcoming road projects and Rosalie Seemann to discuss the Silverhaired Legislature.

Town meeting planned Monday

An informational meeting at 7 p.m. at the Colby High School Commons Monday, Feb. 28 will give county residents the chance to help mold the county's future. The Thomas County Economic Development Alliance director Gerry Fulwider said the meeting, sponsored by the Pro-Active Committee, is the first step in developing a new long-range plan for the county's future. He said a major retooling hasn't been done since the last in 1995 even though it was updated every three years.

Donations for cemetery fence sought

Donations are being accepted by the Colby Cemetery District for a new fence to be installed on the south side of Beulah Cemetery. Anyone interested in contributing to this project should mail their donation to Dale Deaver, 316 First St., Levant, Kan. 67743. Checks should be made payable to Colby Cemetery District. A map display of graves locations has also been installed at Beulah Cemetery. A directory listing names is available along with the display.

Military identification cards at armory

Current military members, their dependents or retirees needing a new military identification card can get one made at the Colby National Guard Armory until 5 p.m. this evening or until 7 p.m. Saturday. 1st Sgt. Manuel Rubio at the Colby Armory said a representative from the Hays Kansas National Guard Armory with the ability to make identification cards will

be available to anyone needing a military ID. For information, call the armory at 462-2361.

Gem Lions holding annual winter soup day

The Gem Lions Club is holding its annual winter soup day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Gem Community Building Saturday, March 5. Chili, vegetable and potato soup, crackers, corn bread and cake will be on the menu. Free will donations will be accepted and net profits go to benefit the Gem Volunteer Fire Department. Donations will be used to purchase safety equipment.

All-School Reunion information sought

If any Colby High School alums are planning get-togethers for their particular class at this year's All-School Reunion and would like it listed in the registration packet, call or email Tracy Rogers, one of the reunion organizers, at 460-3128 or email:tr7979@hotmail.com. The deadline for getting information to him is Friday, March 4.

Pre-enrollment planned at Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart School will hold pre-enrollment for preschool and kindergarten children for the 2005-06 school year on Wednesday, March 9, in the school lobby between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. School officials ask that parent/guardians bring birth certificate, physical, social security care, and immunization records. For questions, call 460-2813.

Communications scholarship available

The Kansas County Clerks' and Election Officials' Association 2005 scholarship applications are now available, said Shelly Harms, county clerk. Any high school, college freshman or sophomore who plans on majoring in journalism, political science or communications is qualified to apply for this scholarship, she said. Applications can be picked up at the Colby High School Career Center, Colby Community College admissions office or in the clerk's office at the courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave. Application deadline is April 1, 2005.

