



COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

Eee-yah!



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Karen Higerd practiced her kicks during an adult board breaking workshop at Zejda's American Taekwondo Association at Southwind Plaza in Colby. People had the chance to learn basic technique and progressed to breaking a board.

School bus driver aids in Maryland man's arrest

Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

A bus driver for the Colby School District helped authorities on Tuesday morning with the apprehension of a Maryland man who, according to Thomas County jail records, is wanted for attempted second degree rape and two sex offenses.

Alan Wade, transportation director for the Colby school district, said driver Jerry Dean contacted him about 7:15 a.m. and advised him he thought he had located the man authorities were hunting throughout the night Monday.

"I got a call from the police department about 6:45 a.m. yesterday, asking that we watch for this guy they'd been hunting Monday night.

"About 7:15 a.m., Jerry Dean calls me and says, 'I think we have our suspect.'

"Jerry said the guy ran to a field, then ran back to the road near a house.

"I tried to call the homeowners, but sure enough they were on the phone.

"I told Jerry just to observe the

man, and I called the police back and let them know we thought we'd found the guy," Wade said.

Officers from the Thomas County Sheriff's Office and Colby Police Department responded and Tehron R. George, 26, Landover, Md., surrendered without incident.

Wade said there were no children on the bus at the time of the incident.

The hunt for George started Monday night about 11 p.m. when authorities in Thomas County were advised of a vehicle pursuit by authorities in Gove County which had entered Thomas County.

Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn said the pursued vehicle left the roadway approximately two miles west Oakley's interchange on Interstate 70 and the driver fled on foot.

"Units from the Thomas County Sheriff's Office, Colby Police Department, Gove County Sheriff's Office, Logan County Sheriff's Office, Oakley Police Department and Kansas Highway Patrol responded to the area.

Kansas Highway Patrol aircraft

also responded to assist with the search," Baughn said.

Pending charges against George in Gove County include fleeing or attempting to flee officers, resisting arrest, reckless driving, leaving the scene of an accident, exceeding the maximum speed limit, criminal damage to property, and driving while on a suspended license.

Gove County Sheriff Allen Weber said this morning since George hit a bridge guard rail in Thomas County during the pursuit by Gove County authorities, charges were filed through Gove County.

Weber said George appeared before District Magistrate Judge Barbara Werner and signed extradition papers and will be returned to Maryland within the next 10 days. Weber said George is now in the Thomas County jail.

Wade said Dean is experienced in law enforcement procedures, having been an officer for many years, including Colby Chief of Police at one time.

"Jerry Dean is a hero," Weber said.

Heart equipment gets check up

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

The defibrillators belonging to the Thomas County Emergency Medical Services will be getting yearly checkups, thanks to a service agreement approved Monday's county meeting.

The commissioners approved a one-year \$4,100 technical support service agreement with Medtronic out of Pueblo, Colo. to inspect and calibrate the four defibrillators in the county's ambulances.

Trey Franzoy, with Medtronic, said the service agreement includes the yearly inspection and also takes care of ordering batteries for the units as well as repair and loaner units if necessary.

Martin Rinehart, with the coun-

ty's emergency medical services, said Franzoy calibrated one of the units already and found it was dialed slightly higher than needed.

The commissioners found out the units had gone seven years since their last calibration since purchase and there was no service agreement in place.

"It's been neglected out here and that's our company's fault," Franzoy said.

Rinehart said the defibrillators are used for more than just jump-starting hearts. They're used on every run to monitor patients just so medical technicians can get an idea of how a patient is doing.

He said the they've used the units three or four times in the past month for defibrillation, but sometimes

they can go several months without having to use the paddles.

Commissioner Ron Evans said having the equipment in proper working order is a matter of life and death and suggested they try the service agreement for one year.

He also wanted to know if they needed to do anything to cover the smaller units housed around the county.

Franzoy said those units have an indicator light that comes on when the batteries are low, but he said they are good for at least five years, unlike the larger rechargeable ambulance units that need replacing every 18 to 24 months.

He said the batteries are still good for about 30 shocks even if the low battery light is on.

National Guard celebrating birthday with parade, other events

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

The Kansas Army/Air National Guard is celebrating its 150th birthday this year and the Colby National Guard Armory has plans to celebrate this weekend.

1st Sgt. Manuel Rubio with the Detachment 2-107th Maintenance Company in Colby said the festivities kick off on Friday at 2 p.m. with a parade in honor of the birthday.

The parade will start at Fike Park in downtown Colby and end at the armory. Rubio said equipment will be featured in

the parade, including a Hummer, Bradley fighting vehicle, M-109 Paladin, which will all be driven and an M-1 Abrams tank will be hauled on a flatbed down the parade route.

After the parade, the equipment will be on display Friday through Sunday as part of the 33rd annual Kansas National Guard enlisted conference at the Comfort Inn.

The Colby high and middle school bands will march in the parade and several floats are planned. He said the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Northwest Family Support group will have floats, and veterans can hitch a

ride on the VFW float.

"Any veteran or former Guardsman is welcome to ride on that float," Rubio said.

Four local former Guardsmen who were original members of the Colby armory were selected as grand marshals for the event. They are Don Shull of Oakley, Paul Chase, Harold Linville and Jack Fromholtz of Colby.

Rubio said county commissioners Ron Evans, Paul Steele and Ken Christiansen will be riding in a 1957 Cadillac limo driven by Charlie Wagner.

Other dignitaries from the National

Guard and soldiers and equipment from the Colby armory will be in the parade also.

Lt. Col. Greg Salisbury and state command Sgt. Major Stephen Rodina of the joint headquarters in Topeka, the senior enlisted member of both the Air and Army National Guard, will also be in Colby for the parade.

Rubio said other events for the weekend will be a free dance on Friday at the armory at 8 p.m. to which the public is invited.

On Saturday morning, there will be a pancake feed from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the armory.

At the Comfort Inn, the equipment will be on display along with the Living Memorial Museum featuring items from all the wars the United States has been involved in. Rubio said hot dogs and soft drinks will be served at the displays.

Along with the celebration and enlisted conference, the family support group will be holding a workshop starting at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Holiday Inn Express.

He said the enlisted conference will feature a banquet on Saturday where the National Guardsman and Air National Guardsman of the Year will be honored.

Council approves \$500,000 airport project

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

Plans to reconstruct Colby's municipal airport apron and taxilanes were given the go-ahead by the city council during its meeting Tuesday.

Three bids were received for the work with APAC Kansas in Hays being accepted as the lowest valid bid at \$489,039 for apron and taxilanes combined.

Separated the bid for apron only was \$359,026 and \$130,039 on taxilanes.

The total cost for the project is \$502,306 with the Federal Aviation Administration paying 95 percent and the city paying the other 5 percent, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager.

Thus far, the FAA grant of \$295,200 has been received with

the city's portion of \$15,537 already available. The city is still waiting on the FAA grant for the additional \$181,991 with Colby's portion being \$9,578.

When adding everything together, she said, the FAA project would be \$477,191 in grant money and \$25,115 in city money for the total project amount of just over a half million dollars.

Citing the engineering and administration costs at \$101,838, the total left for construction would be \$400,468.

After determining the APAC bid was the lowest valid bid and approved, Armstrong then explained that the FAA construction cost would be \$489,040 or \$88,571 over available funding.

"The decision by the council is

whether we complete a portion, all, or none of the project," she said, "with another decision being whether the city proceeds with the approach work to the private hangars for the \$58,000 to \$60,000 or considers other options."

In its decision, the council chose to go with the complete project and consider funding for the additional \$88,571.

However, the private hangar project will be contingent on signed contracts with hangar owners based on earlier decisions that the city would split that cost 50/50.

Councilman John Bremenkamp questioned the high cost for engineering, which Armstrong responded that the reason stemmed from the FAA not wanting to go with partial concrete work. In its

earlier discussions, the FAA would rather see all concrete work be done at the same time and not piece by piece or patched, thereby prompting engineers to rework some aspects.

There was also extensive surveying and other costs involved in the total engineering price.

The other two bids were received by Sporer Land Development with a total base bid of \$374,026 (apron) and \$129,078 (taxilanes) for a total of \$503,104 and Woofter Construction coming in with a base bid of \$332,453 (apron) and \$127,651 (taxilanes) for a total of \$460,104.

Armstrong said that there was a question of validity on the Woofter bid since the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise forms were not completed.

Briefly

Easter egg hunt Saturday

The annual Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt will be held in Colby's Fike Park on Saturday at 10 a.m. Youngsters will be divided into three groups: ages 3 and under, ages 4-6 and ages 7-9. Organizers are hoping for another good turnout for this popular annual community event.

Speaker to give two presentations

Dr. Mark Hansen, Colby native, will be speaking twice at Colby Com-

munity College on Thursday. He will address the students at 10: a.m. in the Cultural Arts Center, and then in the evening at 7:30 he will address the public as part of the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series, also in the Cultural Arts Center.

Share delivery Saturday

Delivery for Heartland Share is Saturday, at 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart School gym. There are a few shares left at \$18.50. For questions, call Gene Griffin, 460-3579.

Colby
Hoxie
Oakley



Warmer and then colder

Tonight...Increasing clouds. Lows in the upper 20s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph. **Thursday...**Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph increasing to 15 to 25 mph in the afternoon. Gusts up to 30 mph in the morning. **Thursday night...**Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Scattered sprinkles in the evening...Then scattered sprinkles and flurries after midnight. Lows in the lower 30s. West winds 10 to 20 mph shifting to the north 15 to 25 mph after midnight. **Friday...**Windy. Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs in the upper 40s. Northwest winds 20 to 30 mph. **Friday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. **Saturday...**Increasing clouds. Highs in the upper 40s.

The numbers

Tuesday's high, 52
Low this morning, 20
Year ago today, 63 and 22
Records for this date, 81 in 1908 and 0 in 1895
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
Precipitation for month to date: 0.07
Snowfall for month to date: 1.0 inch
Soil temperature, 42

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.

