



COLBY FREE PRESS

Recording artist visits hometown

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Colby got a visit from a well-known former resident on Tuesday. Christian Recording artist Mark Schultz, who now resides in Nashville, Tenn., was in town with a videographer to record footage for an upcoming project. Schultz graduated from Colby High School in 1989.

Accompanied by director/producer Ken Carpenter and cameraman Graham Fisher, Schultz said he was recording footage for a DVD coming out later this year for his album "The Stories Behind the Songs."

He said the idea also came about because he also just wrote a book by the same title.

Schultz said people know he's from Colby and he also talks about it at his concerts. For those reasons, he said he decided to incorporate the community in a unique way.

"How cool would that be to get my hometown in the DVD?" he said.

Footage was also slated to be shot in Salina, Hutchinson, Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas City and also in Nashville later this week during a recording session.

Some of the footage will also be shown during a live concert in Chicago in upcoming months.

Schultz visited his old house and other sites around the community.

He said they were only going to be in Colby for a few hours but managed to stay a little longer because he kept running into people he knew.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

DVD director/producer Ken Carpenter, Colby Visitors Bureau director Leilani Thomas and Nashville recording artist Mark Schultz visited during Schultz's return to Colby Tuesday. Schultz was in town with a cameraman and Carpenter to record video footage for an upcoming DVD that will incorporate places where Schultz grew up in Colby.

He will also be coming back to Colby on Aug. 11 for a concert at the Colby Community Building.

Schultz said it will be his first concert at home. He said all of his performances

are "fun" but this one will be special because it will be an audience of people he knows.

Oakley resident takes agreement

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

GOVE — An Oakley man has entered a year-long diversion agreement for vehicular homicide for the death of an Oakley teenager two years ago.

Blake N. Pilkington, 21, on Tuesday pleaded guilty in Gove County District Court to a traffic violation of driving too fast for surrounding conditions on Gove County Road S at 3:45 a.m. on Jan. 5, 2003, and having an accident.

That accident claimed the life of Cody M. Wilson, 18, of Oakley.

Pilkington was originally charged with four felonies, three misdemeanors and two traffic violations, with charges being filed only weeks before the statute of limitations ran out on Jan. 5. Gove County Sheriff Alan Weber said at the time charges were filed they were so long in being filed because he had "just laid (the case) down."

As part of a plea agreement, Gove County Attorney Mark Schmeidler, Quinter, dismissed all the charges against Pilkington except for the traffic violation. He amended the felony involuntary manslaughter charge down to misdemeanor vehicular homicide.

Pilkington sat quietly beside his attorney, Ronald S. Shalz, Colby, as Schmeidler told District Magistrate Judge Barbara Werner about the plea agreement.

"The blood alcohol content of Mr. Pilkington would probably not support a full DUI in count one or count two, and the state may have trouble proving it so the state is amending count one to vehicular homicide," Schmeidler said.

Schmeidler said Pilkington's blood alcohol was "greater than .02 but less than 0.8."

State law sets the legal limit of alcohol in the blood at 0.8.

Terms of the agreement require Pilkington to attend the six-week long Prime for Life Under 21 alcohol program at the Regional Prevention Center of Northwest Kansas in Colby, or an equivalent program in Manhattan where he is a student at Kansas State University.

Pilkington is also to pay a diversion fee of \$120, a docket fee of \$152, a processing fee of \$45, a fine of \$200, and a community restitution fee of \$1,000.

The community restitution fee is to be paid through the clerk of the

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Mother, sister read impact statements

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

GOVE — The mother and sister of an Oakley teen killed in a car accident more than two years ago gave impact statements during a hearing in Gove County District Court on Tuesday.

Janet Wilson and Amanda Scully, both of Garden City, told Blake N. Pilkington, 21, they did not want him to go to jail for killing their son and brother.

"Blake, it's been two years since I've seen you and it's been pretty nice to be free, hasn't it? I think these charges are too light," Wilson said.

Wilson is the mother of the late Cody M. Wilson, 18, killed in a car accident at 3:45 a.m. on Jan. 5, 2003.

Pilkington rolled the car he was driving just east of Oakley, killing Wilson, and injuring Casey L. Anderson, 17 at the time. Others in the accident, but not seriously injured, were Jeffrey C. Dennis, then 15, Robert D. Dennis, then 17, and Kyle A. Kersenbrock, 18 at the time.

"I've been cheated so much. My ex-husband says he's been depressed, but my life has stopped," Janet Wilson said. Cody Wilson would have celebrated his 21st birthday on March 6.

Pilkington entered a plea agreement pleading guilty to a traffic violation of driving too fast for road conditions and entered a year-long diversion for vehicular homicide for Cody Wilson's death.

Pilkington's attorney, Ronald Shalz, Colby, said he wanted the families involved to know the plea agreement his client entered had consumed a great deal of time and negotiation.

"We didn't come to this agreement lightly. The perfect situation would be to bring Cody back, but we can't do that," Shalz said.

Janet Wilson said she thinks Pilkington should be required to give more talks to teenagers about the effects of drinking and driving than the one required as part of the plea agreement.

"I want you to feel this every day."

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Four area hospitals have money stolen

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Someone broke into one of the business offices at Colby's hospital early Sunday evening, stealing money and checks, said Gary Shull, police investigator.

Similar types of thefts also occurred on Sunday and early Monday morning at hospital business offices in Oakley, WaKeeney and Goodland.

In the case of Citizens Medical Center, he said, the front door was still open because the theft happened between 6 and 8 p.m., which is still during visiting hours. However, the same wasn't so in the other three locations.

"Apparently the theft at Wa-

"It appears (whoever stole the money and checks) was traveling northeast across the hospital parking lot while tearing open envelopes. . ."

Janice McCart, chief executive officer
Citizens Medical Center

Keeney's hospital happened sometime between 2 and 3 a.m., Monday," he said.

Authorities in WaKeeney are speculating that whoever stole the money was passing through the area, but it was unclear what order the facilities were hit.

Shull said that police in Trego

County have some possible leads, but as of today no arrests were made.

As for the Colby theft, the amount of cash taken was undetermined and Shull said that whoever took the money left a trail of checks clear across College Drive and in ditches near the residential area of Summer

Sun. Janice McCart, chief executive officer at Citizens Medical Center, said the checks recovered were not from patients, but rather employees who had written them to the dietary department for meals.

"It appears (whoever stole the money and checks) was traveling northeast across the hospital parking lot while tearing open envelopes and when it was discovered no money was inside," McCart said, "checks were either torn in half or wadded up."

McCart said that since the checks recovered were from employees only, patients making payments were not affected.

The investigation is continuing, Shull said today.

Indonesian rescuers digging through rubble

GUNUNG INDONESIA (AP) — Indonesians searched through smoldering rubble for survivors on Nias island Tuesday and relatives wept over the bodies of the dead after an 8.7-magnitude earthquake hammered the region, triggering a tsunami scare and killing at least 330 people.

Some officials said the death toll

could rise as high as 2,000.

U.N. and other relief agencies rushed to ferry aid supplies to the island, which bore the brunt of the quake almost three months to the day after an even bigger temblor nearby sent waves crashing into coastlines around the Indian Ocean's rim, killing at least 174,000 people.

Fears of a second tsunami faded Tuesday when seas failed to rise up in the hours after the overnight quake, but at least 13 aftershocks between magnitudes 5.0 and 6.1 kept nervousness high.

In Gunung Sitoli, the biggest town on the island of some 600,000 people, a reporter saw many residents huddled around candles out-

side their homes, too fearful to spend the night indoors after the aftershocks that set some buildings swaying.

In the latest aftershock, a magnitude 5.8 temblor hit off Indonesia's coast at 1:22 p.m. and was centered 217 miles south-southeast of Banda Aceh, according to Hong Kong seismologists.

Briefly

Preschool enrollment-open house Tuesday

An enrollment-open house for the 2005-06 school year at Puddle Duck Preschool, 520 W. 5th, Colby, will be held Tuesday, April 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. Puddle Duck preschool is for 3 to 5 year-old children. For information, call Amy Jennings, director, at 460-2603.

'Bowl for Kids Sake' still needs teams

The Thomas County Big Brothers Big Sisters group will be participating in the "Bowl for Kids Sake," Saturday and Sunday, April 9-10 at the Colby Bowl and Fun Center, 1175 S. Range. Teams consisting of four to five people are still forming for the event. Questions, call 460-9125.

After school program registration ongoing

An after school program is being held from 4-5:30 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday until the end of April at the Colby Community Building. Snacks and activities are provided and the event is free. The program is being sponsored by the Thomas County Interagency Coalition. For information or to register, call the Regional Prevention Center at 462-8152

or the Colby Recreation Department at 460-4440.

School board holding special meeting

The Colby School Board is holding a special board meeting Saturday at 9 a.m. in the Colby High School Commons Area. The purpose of the meeting is to interview high school principal candidates.

'Spring Social' planned in Selden

The Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Selden, is having a "Spring Social" on Sunday, starting at 4 p.m. Featured activities include a White Elephant Auction, games for children, food, drinks and more. Everyone is invited to attend.

Spaghetti fund raiser scheduled

The Colby Community Building will be the site of a spaghetti fund raiser on Sunday, April 3 for Kristin Rathbun, the daughter of Fred and Marvia Miller of Colby, who is battling cancer. The spaghetti lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will include salad, bread and dessert in addition to spaghetti. A free will offering will be appreciated.

Colby Oakley Hoxie



Good chance for moisture

Tonight... Cloudy. Chance of rain showers early. Then chance of rain and snow after midnight. Lows in the mid 30s. North winds 10 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent. **Thursday...** Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain showers and snow early in the morning...Then chance of rain showers in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 40s to around 50. North winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 40 mph. Chance of precipitation 30 percent. **Thursday night...** Clear. Lows in the upper 20s to around 30. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Gusts up to 30 mph in the evening. **Friday...** Sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. West winds 5 to 10 mph.

The numbers

Tuesday's high, 73
Low this morning, 35
Year ago today, 68 and 25
Records for this date, 91 in 1943 and -4 in 1987
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
Precipitation for month to date: 0.74
Snowfall for month to date: 1 inch
Soil temperature, 50

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.

