



COLBY FREE PRESS

New charges dismissed on drug case

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

A Levant woman is back to her original legal status after her attorney argued her case in court on Friday.

Kimberly Anne Boardman, 33, today completed a one-year probation and diversion for charges which started with her arrest on Feb. 13, 2004.

After Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick earlier this year filed new charges against Boardman, Wyrick asked Magistrate Judge Richard Ress to revoke her diversion.

"All the new charges were dismissed, therefore the motion to revoke the diversion was thrown out and the diversion reinstated," Boardman's attorney Todd Stramel said Monday morning.

In 2004, Boardman was arrested on burglary charges which included the theft of morphine, sulfate pills, oxycodone, phenteramine, hydrocodone and endocet from three separate homes.

As part of a plea negation, Boardman waived her rights to a preliminary hearing and pleaded guilty to one court of theft and one count of possessing a depressant — both being misdemeanor charges.

Ress, at that time, agreed to a diversion for Boardman on seven of 11 charges dealing with burglary and removing prescription drugs from three separate homes.

At Friday's hearing, Stramel argued against the latest charges filed

against Boardman. Ress, in a journal entry filed Friday afternoon, said Wyrick did not prove her case for the four new charges stemming back to incidents in March and June.

In the first incident, Boardman was alleged to have illegally taken Carisoprodol, a schedule II substance on Friday, June 3, from a Colby resident. In the complaint, Wyrick charged Boardman with "permanently depriving the owner of the narcotic prescription drug."

In the second incident, on or about Sunday, March 26, Boardman was accused of "intentionally obtaining control over stolen property." The stolen property alleged to have been taken was Butalbital, an unscheduled prescription drug of a second Colby resident.

Stramel argued statements and communications made by Boardman to Court Service Officer Ann Ogle should be suppressed. He also argued laboratory tests of his client should be suppressed.

Ress agreed, saying in the journal entry Wyrick bore the "burden of proof" in the case and "based upon lack of evidence" granted Stramel's motion to dismiss the second case against Boardman.

The case was dismissed without prejudice, which means it could be refiled at a later date should new evidence surface to support it.

In a second journal entry, Ress reinstated Boardman's diversion under its original terms and conditions, which ended today.

State argues curriculum

TOPEKA (AP) — The State Board of Education couldn't agree Tuesday on whether to encourage most Kansas school districts to change how they handle sex education.

Five board members wanted to recommend that districts require students to obtain permission from a parent or guardian to participate in sex education. The other five favored leaving such a decision to the districts, most of which assume students will participate unless a parent objects in writing.

The issue arose during the state board's regular monthly meeting as it reviewed proposed health stan-

dards, which cover sex education. The standards would be only recommendations to local school boards because the state doesn't test students on health, unlike reading, math or science. But board member Connie Morris, a St. Francis Republican, said she is interested in making the opt-in proposal a mandate, perhaps by rewriting the board's regulations on how schools are accredited. Conservatives have a 6-4 majority on the board, but one of them, Kathy Martin, a Clay Center Republican, sided with the board's less conservative members, saying she favored leaving the choice up to local districts.

Colby family history project turns into book

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

A family history project turned into something more for a pair of siblings who grew up in Colby.

Ray Imhof of Colby and his sister, Doris Doris M. Johnson, of Burlington, Kan. had their first book come out this summer.

The book is a compilation of the stories their mother, Esther Imhof, wrote of her earliest years growing up in Thomas County.

"As I Remember It, A Memoir Told by Esther Imhof" is the name of the book.

"We put it together and compiled all these short stories she wrote about life on the farm," Imhof said.

Born in Nebraska, Esther and her family eventually moved to Thomas County where she was raised.

Esther was the oldest of three children and also had many cousins her own age who were playmates. Many of the stories are about her memories of those times — playing, life on the farm, family, growing up, the hardships experienced but also the good times and bonds between neighbors.

Johnson said her brother has always had an interest in genealogy, and he said he has an interest in local history and preserving his



R. Imhoff



D. Johnson

family's history.

She said Esther's grandchildren always asked about the stories and when the rest of the family and friends found out they were doing a book, interest kept growing.

"Well, we've come this far we might as well publish it," Imhof said.

The biggest difficulty they had to overcome was the fact they live at opposite ends of the state.

They wanted to get the book done in about a year but it took almost two with revisions and other delays.

In the 1980s, Imhof encouraged his mother to write everything down.

He also got her a tape recorder so she could make tapes.

However, instead of just dictating everything, Johnson said she first wrote it down then recorded it

as she read it aloud.

They still have her tapes, which helped during the book process.

"That was a great asset in putting this all together," he said.

The book's title was even inspired by Esther's writing.

The two said a common occurrence in her writing were the words "I remember" or "as I remember it" because she would start writing something, put it away and resume later, usually backtracking a bit and using those phrases to start off.

Johnson said one favorite story was about the time her mother was snakebitten as a young girl. She said Esther told her own mother it was a bull snake bite so she wouldn't worry, but it was actually a rattle snake bite.

In later years, Esther regaled her grandchildren with the tale, even showing them the scar on her leg.

Johnson said the book also includes illustrations and family photos. Imhof got many of the pictures ready for the book, along with doing much of the layout.

They're already planning a sequel and Johnson has already started on it.

It will include their mother's teenage years.

The two said they had fun with

the project and would encourage others to do the same.

"Maybe it will get more people interested in writing their family histories," Johnson said. "Everyone has interesting stories."

Imhof added his own two cents. "If we can do it, anyone can," he said.

They added their other brother and sister were happy they decided to tackle the project.

They think their mother would be too.

"I think she would have been quite proud of the work we did," Imhof said.

The book is available locally and the two have already done some promotion and plan to do more.

The two did a book signing Celebration on the High Plains Saturday, Sept. 10.

On Wednesday, Oct. 5, they will be the featured speakers at "Booked for Lunch" at noon at Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby.

The book is available at the gift shops at the Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby and the High Plains Museum in Goodland, Johnson said.

It's also available online at the publisher's Web site, <http://www.-trafford.com>



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Byron Whitford, a freshman at Colby Community College, along with other baseball fans spoke with Raymond Doswell, curator of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, follow-

ing his presentation at the Cultural Arts Center on the campus of Colby College. Doswell was the first of five speakers during this season's Max Pickerill Lecture Series.

Integration ends black leagues

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

Raymond Doswell, curator of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, was the first of five lecturers taking the stage at Colby College as part of this season's Max Pickerill Lecture Series.

Doswell's presentation on Tuesday included a video and discussion on the history of the league, the attitudes, events and stereotypes spanning the period from 1859 through 1955.

He spoke of the lynching riots, poverty and reconstruction efforts that would eventually shape black people's citizenship.

Names like Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois were also prominent in helping bring about change.

Doswell said that Washington, who was an educator in the late 19th century and who founded Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, urged blacks to concentrate on economic gains rather than on the pursuit of social and political equality with whites.

Conversely, Du Bois, also a teacher during that time period, was more of a "radical" thinker on racial questions and was the founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Du Bois criticized Washington's position that blacks should accept their inferior status in American society and accommodate white people.

As the 20th century approached and with the varying views, the game of baseball was growing as the number one spectator sport.

Doswell said many historians believe blacks became interested in baseball after exposure to the game during the Civil War period (1861-1865)

Not long after, the first so-called major league appeared, Doswell said, featuring Moses Fleetwood Walker in 1884.

As the years continued, there was a push for the formation of leagues and by 1920, under the guidance of Andrew "Rube" Foster, the Negro Baseball League was formed.

Soon rival leagues formed in Eastern and Southern states, bring-

ing the thrills and innovative play of black baseball to major urban centers and rural countrysides in the U.S., Canada and Latin America, Doswell said.

He talked about many of the baseball players during the late 1800s and into the mid 1950s. One of the more charismatic players, he said, was LeRoy "Satchel" Page who earned his nickname by using a pole on either side of his shoulders to carry bags from the train station in Mobile, Ala.

Many said that Page "looked like a walking satchel tree."

Page, who was a pitcher, was so good that after striking out player after player, who would tell his outfield to either go to the dugout or sit down by him while he struck out all the remaining batters.

"In 1959 and at the age of 55, Satchel had three shut out innings against the Boston Red Sox," Doswell said.

In addition to the many great baseball stars of the time, Doswell noted that Jackie Robinson in 1947 was the first black person to play baseball in the major leagues. Other

great players included Happy Chandler, Joe Black, John "Buck" O'Neil, Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, Don Newcombe and the list goes on.

Black players also brought a unique style to baseball with their athletic abilities in sliding, stealing bases and compassion for the game.

"The last Negro League teams folded in the early 1960s," he said, "but their legacy lives on through the surviving players and the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum."

Doswell encourages everyone to visit the museum at 18th Street and Vine in Kansas City.

The next lecturer in the series is Thomas Frank, author of "What's the Matter With Kansas," on Tuesday, Oct. 11. Then one week later, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius will focus on healthcare challenges, Tuesday, Oct. 18. Cathy Gordon, facilitator, invites anyone interested to attend one or more of the remaining lectures. There is no charge for admission.

New ideas



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms had the chance to see what electronic voting was like, along with other county and deputy clerks from northwest Kansas Tuesday at the Colby Community Building. Bob Morris and Barb Kinzer of Voting Technologies International demonstrated touch screen voting technology for the clerks. It's been mandated that Kansas counties get voting machines that are American Disabilities Act compliant. The touch screen method is just one of the possibilities looked at here in Thomas County, Harms said.

