



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Man charged in rape case

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

A Colby man was arrested shortly after midnight Thursday for allegedly having sex with a child.

Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn, in a written statement, said his office was notified about an alleged case of indecent liberties with a child at 7:18 p.m. Thursday. Melvin W. Myers, 59, was arrested at 12:22 a.m. today when a search warrant was executed at a residence in the 3400 block of County Road B.

Myers, who has been using the alias of Pete Helt, was arrested on charges of rape, aggravated indecent liberties with a child and criminal sodomy.

Those charges have been forwarded to Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick for review.

Baughn said preliminary information gathered on Myers indicates he may be wanted in Oklahoma.

Baughn said the Logan County Sheriff's Office and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation assisted his office in the investigation.

Abortion foes turn clinic into offices

WICHITA (AP) — It was 1991, at the height of the Summer of Mercy protests in Wichita that drew thousands of anti-abortion demonstrators to this Midwest city.

Jeff White, Operation Rescue's tactical director at that time, was among the 80 pastors arrested at the Central Women's Services here in one of the largest civil disobedience demonstrations anywhere in the burgeoning anti-abortion movement.

It would take another generation and 15 years before his daughter, Allison White, bought the building leased by the Wichita abortion clinic.

On Thursday, Operation Rescue director Troy Newman disclosed that White was the unknown third party who helped the anti-abortion

group buy the building housing the embattled clinic. The facility will now house a memorial and the group's national headquarters.

"This place represented human tragedy, but it is being redeemed in the name of the Lord," Newman said.

"A place that was a broken vessel — a disgusting, filthy building — is now going to be renovated and redeemed and used for righteousness' sake."

While Operation Rescue bought the building where Central Women's Services once leased space, the business itself, including rights to the clinic's Web site and name, were sold to Wichita's other abortion provider, Dr. George Tiller's Women's Health Care Clinic.

Made in the shade



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Dylan McLemore of Goodland perched on a ladder Thursday at the Thomas County Fairgrounds fastened tarps to provide shade for the audience at this weekend's Pickin' on the Plains bluegrass

festival. The festival kicks off at 6 p.m. today; reopens at 9:30 a.m., Saturday with Youth Bluegrass Contest and Sunday activities start at 9 a.m.

Fair board, county debate alcohol policy at fairgrounds

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Fair Board has a couple of issues it hopes to settle with the county commissioners.

The board, at its meeting Thursday, talked about an alcohol policy in contracts and raising campground rates. No action was taken on either matter and were tabled until the group meets with the county commissioners.

The board invited county commissioners to its June 9 meeting to discuss the alcohol usage agreement.

The fair board is in the process of finalizing its contract with Colby Community College to allow its rodeo team to use the fairgrounds for practice.

However, last month, the contract was returned to the board, un-

signed by the commissioners.

Board president Stan Strange said he was told by commissioner Ron Evans the policy of no alcohol allowed on the fairgrounds must be added to all contracts — not just the college contract.

Last year groundskeeper Ron Kogler found beer cans and other evidence to suggest some members of the college rodeo team were drinking at the fairgrounds. Some damage was also done.

Commissioners and the fair board put up signs on the grounds stating no alcohol is allowed on the fairgrounds.

Strange said if the policy is broken, law enforcement will be called.

"If alcohol is found a contract will be null and void," he said. "I was given a directive by the commissioners and we will follow it."

Board member Marty Crampton said the policy isn't enforceable by

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— Marty Crampton, fair board member

those signing the contract because they have no control.

Only commissioner Paul Steele showed up at Thursday's meeting to answer questions. He explained the reasoning for the policy.

"The commissioners feel that someone could get hurt, and want to show as a defense there is a policy in place."

Crampton said someone could get hurt and sue the county even if they were not drinking.

"If the alcohol stipulation is put in the contract, no one will want to sign a contract for the races, amuse-

ments or anything else."

Board member Nancy Rundel agreed.

"It will be hard to do business if we don't have any revenue," she said.

Steele told the board to get on the commissioners' Monday agenda if they have concerns.

Strange replied that was why the board wanted commissioners at their meeting.

"I was disappointed the other commissioners, Ron Evans and Ken Christiansen, didn't show."

The new fee structure for the fair-

ground campsites was another issue.

Strange said he was asked to the last commissioners meeting, along with Dan Bourquin, owner of Bourquin's Old Depot Restaurant and RV Park. Bourquin and the commissioners said the fairground rates are in direct competition with Bourquin's.

"The fairground camp sites don't have the amenities available at Bourquin's, such as a shower, restaurant and laundry. That is the reason for the lower fees," Strange said. "We can't compete with private enterprise."

The current fairground rate is \$15 per night, while Bourquin's charge \$24. The fees are \$75 per week at the fairgrounds, \$144 at Bourquin's. The monthly rate is \$275 a month for the county, and \$360 at Bourquin's campground.

Strange said what upset him at the

commissioner's meeting was the board didn't get to explain a few things.

"We do try to send Bourquin's business, like anyone traveling with horses, because their campground is set up to accommodate them," he said.

Board member Darrel Dible said because the county doesn't offer the same services, the fees shouldn't be as high.

Steele said he wasn't aware of everything Strange wanted to discuss, and said they should talk about it at the next commissioners' meeting.

This weekend will be one of the biggest weekends for the campsite use with the Pickin' on the Plains bluegrass festival.

"We are proud to host the festival," Strange said.

The fair barbecue was also discussed. Dible told the board last

Cool tunes, hot day

Fairview Estates residents Carol Haselhorst, left, and Darlene Seele along with Shawna and Kacie Schwaderer, enjoyed lunch and a performance by Sappa Strings at Picnic in the Park at Fike Park Thursday. Kacie is an employee at Fairview and Shawna is her daughter. Only two more of the events remain, July 20 and 27 at noon. Sappa Strings is made up of Wayne and Millie Lauritsen, former Colby residents.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby school board plans reorganization

The Colby School Board is holding its annual reorganizational meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the Administration Building 600 W. Third St.

The election of a board president and vice president for the 2006-2007 school year will be held. Those positions are currently held by Tracy Rogers and Janice Frahm, respectively.

Special business for the board will include setting meeting dates for the coming year, appointments of board members to committees, depositories, official signatures for checks, official newspaper, mileage reimbursement rate, adoption of resolutions and fees.

Appointment of school officials is also on the agenda. They are: Jo DeYoung, board treasurer; Deann Shields, board deputy treasurer; Rhonda Kropp, board clerk; Janel Andrews, board deputy clerk; Kansas Public Employees Retirement

System representative, Jo DeYoung; alternate, Rhonda Kropp; food service representative, Barb Alwin; overseer of evaluations, Kirk Nielsen; hearing officer for free and reduced lunch fee applications, Jo DeYoung; truancy officers, Terrel Harrison, Rob Ross and Rocky Robbins; reporting officer for state and federal programs, Kirk Nielsen; district hearing officers, Robb Ross and Rocky Robbins; local freedom of information officer, Kirk Nielsen.

New business is as follows: approval of handbooks; Western Plains Arts Association membership; out-of-district school attendance and transportation; Kansas State Department of Education Nutrition Services 2007 program agreement; Head Start Agreements for 2006-2007; and if necessary, personnel.

The meeting is open to the public.