



COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

Underage drinking party prompts arrests

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Colby police officers arrested four teenagers and detained another 19 young people until their parents could arrive after a neighbor called on a loud noise complaint, Saturday, in the Friendly Acres Mobile Home Park.

Corey Allen Reed, 19; Matthew M. Grove and Brandon Lee Wade, both 18; and Travis Joseph Parker, 16, were all booked into the Thomas County jail on charges of disturbing the peace, which is a disorderly conduct, minor in possession of alcohol and furnishing alcohol to minors, said Gary Shull, detective sergeant with the Colby Police Department.

The other 19 people who were held, but not charged, ranged in age to include two individuals who were 20 years old; two were 18; eight were 17 years old; one was 16; seven were 15; and one was 14 years of age, he said.

The complaint was received at 9:07 p.m. at mobile home #27, said Gary Shull, detective sergeant with the Colby Police Department.

Two police officers, Sgt. Kent Dible and Ron Alexander went to the scene and were assisted by Thomas County Sheriff's Deputy Alan Markham, Shull said.

Colby Police Chief Randy Jones said

High school issues athletic suspensions

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

The Colby School Board found out at its Monday meeting several high school athletes have been issued athletic suspensions.

During his report, Colby High School principal Robbins said they're dealing with an issue from over the weekend. He said there was a party that was "busted" and they've been asking if students were there and if they were drinking.

Robbins said athletic suspensions have been issued.

"That's unfortunate but that's what I have to report," he said.

The junior varsity football game

against Oberlin Monday was postponed, said activities director Jeff Quenzer.

Board member Joel Powell asked about the status of the rest of the week.

Robbins said there were no problems with volleyball and didn't see any others.

"We're still a go for homecoming," he said.

The board also heard reports from middle school principal Robb Ross and activities director Jeff Quenzer.

Ross said his students are planning a fund-raiser for victims of Hurricane Katrina. They will be doing a dodgeball tournament next week.

"I was pleased the kids wanted to get out and do something," Ross said.

During his report, Quenzer said the counts for student enrollment and activities are both this week.

He said they're both important, and added the activities count is what decides if the school stays a 4A school, which it will probably remain.

Quenzer also told the board the high school cross country meet scheduled for Tuesday was canceled because only three teams, including Colby, were interested.

He said he hopes there is more interest next year so the home meet can be reinstated.

The Thursday seventh grade football game against Oakley was also canceled.

warrant is necessary."

In this particular case and living in a small town, Jones said, many of the youth involved were known to be minors and the officers had established for themselves that a crime was being committed, which gave them probable cause.

Jones said his office is also aware of the high school's policy of self-reporting when an individual has done something illegal, as in the Saturday incident.

Earlier this week, Jones said, an official from Colby High School did call the police department asking for the names of students at that party and were given the information.

"We believe parents want to know whether or not their children are at underage drinking parties and consuming," he said. "We are doing whatever we can to protect our youth."

One solution that Jones said is the easiest is for young people to stay away from underage drinking parties altogether. Until then, the police will continue to respond to complaint calls, accessing each individual situation and make arrests when crimes have occurred.

The four individuals who were arrested have been released and the possible charges have been forwarded to Andrea Wyrick, Thomas County attorney.

Fear factor — Colby style



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Alex Diercks and Madison Gawith, Colby Middle School students, gobbled down frightful concoctions during "Fear Factor" at Pioneer Memorial Library Tuesday. Twelve students in sixth

through eighth grade completed challenges during the monthly after school program that started this week, said Judy Kleinsorge, children's librarian.

Homecoming activities begin

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Colby High School Homecoming activities are underway this week.

Activities director Jeff Quenzer said the school's student council organized each of the daily activities this week.

The theme for Homecoming this year is "Forget the Titans," Quenzer said, a play on the title of the movie "Remember the Titans."

Monday and Tuesday's events were "Stop Light Monday" and "Twin Tuesday."

The rest of the week's days are: Wednesday, "Color Wars. He said each class was given two colors to wear and the one with the most like colors wins. The freshmen were given green and brown; sophomores, orange and purple; juniors, red and green and seniors, pink and orange.

Thursday is "Tropical Thursday" and Friday is Spirit Day. Quenzer said that's traditionally the day students and faculty wear orange and black to show their school spirit.

Also on Thursday is the annual jersey auction, bonfire and pep rally. He said it will be at 8:30 p.m. at the Thomas County fairgrounds.

The varsity jersey auction is the first event and at the same time there will be a silent auction for the junior varsity jerseys.

Quenzer said whoever buys the jerseys gets to wear them to the Homecoming football game Friday. He asks that the jerseys be turned back in by Monday morning.

Following will be the bonfire and pep rally, which are organized by the high school's cheerleaders.

The Thursday night events are open to the public and he would encourage everyone to come.

On Friday, high school students will be dismissed at 1:30 p.m. to prepare for the Homecoming parade at 2:30 p.m.

The parade will begin at the northwest corner of Fike Park and go down Franklin to Third Street and then will head west on Range Avenue. The Homecoming football game will be at 7 p.m. at Dennen Field.

Homecoming royalty will be announced during the game. Senior homecoming royalty candidates are: Chris Haeffner and Shea McKee, Brett Wilson and Jessica Stephens, Chris Staley and Sarah Redmond and Cole Garcia and Jada Koenig. Attendants are: Jessica Hawk and Brandi Stupka, juniors; Hunter Olsen and Malory McKee, sophomores and Heath Stephens and Jordan Krzycki, freshmen.

The week's activities will wrap on Saturday with the Homecoming dance from 8 to 11:30 p.m. at the high school gym.

Vehicles damaged in Levant grass fire

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Three vehicles at Hillery Motors in Levant were damaged after a trash fire went out of control late Monday afternoon, said Bob McLemore, Colby fire chief.

Joe Martin, who was burning trash, told McLemore that he was unaware that the flame had gone into the dry buffalo grass near some barrels and from there caught a Ford

pickup, a Ford LTD and one other vehicle on fire.

The fire department sent two water tankers and one fire truck to the scene following Martin's call at 4:34 p.m. Officials arrived at the location around 4:48 p.m. and within 10 minutes the fire was extinguished. Estimated damage from the fire was set at \$1,500.

McLemore said that the Colby fire truck and two tankers belong-

ing to Rural District #3 were dispatched to the fire.

As a precautionary measure, McLemore is reminding everyone to take particular care when burning, whether it's trash, wheat stubble or weeds in ditches during dry times. For those planning to do agricultural-related burns, McLemore encourages them to call the fire department first. Residents who are planning to burn trash in the county

do not need to call the fire department, but are asked to consider conditions before burning.

Avoid windy days and be aware of dry conditions, he said.

Make sure to place a screen over trash barrels, McLemore said, and to avoid sparks from flying into dry grasses or other dry areas.

For questions or to find out other ways to prevent fires, call (785) 460-4454.

College approves vet agreement with K-State

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Colby Community College will have a partnership with Kansas State University in Manhattan. That is if it can come up with the money to cover start-up costs.

The college's board of trustees approved pursuing a satellite veterinary technology program with K-State, but only if they can find a way to pay for the nearly \$300,000 in start-up costs.

Dr. Jennifer L. Martin, head of Colby's vet tech program, gave a presentation on the proposal.

Beforehand, college president Dr. Mikel Ary said the costs will be around \$300,000 if they chose to affiliate with K-State. He also said

grant money could be available to help.

Martin said the affiliation would prevent program duplication elsewhere in the state and could be more attractive to students from larger towns because they could attend class at Manhattan.

She said students have a tendency to attend class and relocate close to home after they finish school.

Labette and Butler community colleges are considering starting their own vet tech programs, Martin said.

She also said many students from eastern Kansas come to Colby for the program and there are currently more jobs available than there are

people to fill them.

The affiliation would help stabilize the Colby site as well as allow the college to receive credit for the students in Manhattan?

"We need to really move forward," Martin said.

Ary said the school's dental hygiene program received donations when they started it up and dentists were "generous" with the equipment and other assistance the provided.

Martin said they could do the same with the vet tech program.

K-State, Ary said, was hoping to put in place a prototype program.

"They're very enthusiastic about it," he said.

Board member Larry Arehart

asked what K-State's contribution to the effort would be.

The university will provide space in its veterinary school as well as access to labs and surgeries.

"I would call that a real contribution," he said.

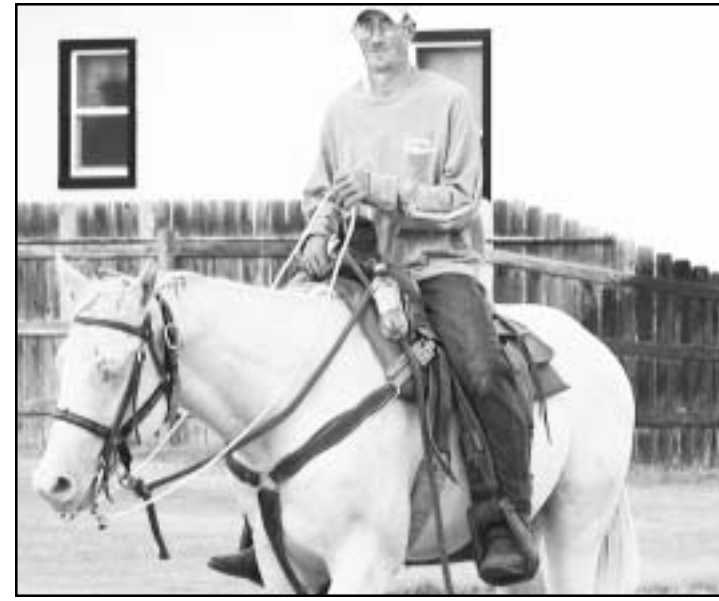
Arehart said it's worth pursuing but asked what's to keep all the students from going to K-State.

Martin said she polled her vet tech students and one-third to one-half said they would still come to Colby.

Dr. Cathy McMulk, Colby vet tech instructor, said as far as class size is concerned, they could handle up to 27 students per class.

She said they haven't been at full strength.

Breaking away



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Cory Caswell, employed at Colby Livestock Auction, 125 S. Country Club Dr., was riding a two-year old stallion around town on Tuesday. Caswell said for the last couple of days he has been "breaking horses" in order to ready them for next month's livestock auction on Monday, Oct. 3. "This horse, known as a Chimer, or a type of quarter horse has blue eyes and is bone quiet," Caswell said.

