

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE
Tuesday

12:53 a.m. – Counselor with High Plains Mental Health requested check on subject on Dylan House. Report filed.

1:18 a.m. – Parking complaint at South Park. Posted vehicle.

1:50 a.m. – Intoxicated driver leaving Love’s. Turned over to sheriff’s office who made stop on South Range.

3:20 a.m. – Open door on building at Meadow Lake.

3:39 a.m. – Welfare check on subject on Dylan Drive.

5:27 a.m. – Removed debris from street in the 700 block of S. Country Club.

8:08 a.m. – Deb Henry reported criminal damage to stones at Beulah Cemetery.

8:19 a.m. – Dog at large at 410 S. Chick not found.

8:50 a.m. – Abandoned vehicle at 220 N. Mission. Tow away posted; owner contacted.

9 a.m. – Abandoned vehicle at 485 N. French. Tow away posted.

9:03 a.m. – Checked trailer parked in the 500 block of N. Mission in yard for tow away; ongoing.

10:06 a.m. – Vehicle parked at 160 W. Third for over a week. Vehicle checked OK and legally parked.

11:17 a.m. – All four tires flattened on vehicle at 444 S. Court. No damage, no report.

1:58 p.m. – Subject brought item to station found at 105 E. Walnut.

3 p.m. – Truck parked in the street in the 200 block of W. Fourth. Spoke to driver, vehicle moved.

6:20 p.m. – Civil stand-by.

6:22 p.m. – Report of vicious animals at Chick and Cedar. Animals put back in cage.

9 p.m. – Subject reported boyfriend in violation of protection from abuse order at 1150 S. Franklin. Subject not in violation but asked to leave area.

11:14 p.m. – Loud music somewhere around 400 Walker. Spoke to subject; putting speakers in vehicle.

11:15 p.m. – Subject yelling at Fifth and Franklin Spoke to subject.

Wednesday

12:19 a.m. – Numerous call of a loud motorcycle in the 400 block of Walker. Spoke with subject about complaint at 11:14 p.m. Tuesday.

1:03 a.m. – Further complaint about subject running his motorcycle. Spoke with the reporting party.

2:59 a.m. – Report filed for ob-

struction on incident around 10th and Thompson.

3:08 a.m. – Secured building at Meadow Lake.

12:12 p.m. – Threatening phone calls received. No report; contact was made with suspect.

12:16 p.m. – Sexual harassment report filed on a problem in the 500 block of N. Franklin.

2:37 p.m. – Possible break-in. Report filed.

2:54 p.m. – Property found at railroad crossing.

4:33 p.m. – Supplemental report filed on arrest warrant served on Eric Jurek in the jail.

4:46 p.m. – Bosselman’s reported gas skip.

6:26 p.m. – Criminal damage to truck at Sunflower Apartments.

7:36 p.m. – Report of battery.

8:48 p.m. – Civil stand-by at Sunflower apartments.

9:06 p.m. – Driving under the influence report filed on subject at Village Inn.

9:23 p.m. – 911 caller said subjects were trying to attack him with a knife at 485 Walker. Report filed.

10:44 p.m. – Jeffery Crowder arrested on warrant.

10:44 p.m. – Report filed on warrant arrest of Ricci Welter.

1:20 p.m. – Report on warrant arrest of Justin Horinek.

1:58 p.m. – Dog at large at Fike Park. Unable to locate.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF
Tuesday

1:55 a.m. – 24/7 towed vehicle from traffic stop in the 1200 block of S. Range. Report filed.

8:22 a.m. – Alvin Juenemann hit a deer at County Rds. 23 and Y.

11:35 a.m. – Illegal dumping of numerous items in the 2100 block of County Rd. X. Sheriff advised.

5:34 p.m. – Transient at U.S. 24 and County Rd. 11 en route to Sherman County line.

Wednesday

12:19 a.m. – Numerous calls of a loud motorcycle in the northwest part of town. Spoke to subject at 485 Walker No. 4.

1:03 a.m. – Assisted police units with above complaint.

2:45 a.m. – Assisted police in the 600-700 block of N. Country Club.

7:35 a.m. – Cattle out on K-25 mile 188. Contacted owner.

12:21 p.m. – Assisted police with sexual harassment complaint.

5:46 p.m. – Vehicle towed from 229 W. Third for expired tags.

9:23 p.m. – Report filed for assisting police at 485 Walker No. 4.

Senior Progress Center

Tuesday there will be a bingo game at the Senior Progress Center.

Activities for the week: **Monday:** 10:30 a.m. Skip Bo game. **Tuesday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 11 a.m. bingo. **Wednesday:** cookie day. **Thursday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 a.m. pinochle game. **Friday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 shuffle board.

Menus for the week: **Monday:** tater tot casserole, Italian blend vegetables, applesauce. **Tuesday:** Polish sausage with kraut, mashed

potatoes, green beans, cantaloupe. **Wednesday:** turkey, sweet potatoes, creamy cucumbers, gelatin with fruit. **Thursday:** salisbury steak, scalloped potatoes, mandarin oranges, cake. **Friday:** lasagna, spinach salad, peaches, and pudding.

The Thomas County Nutrition Center invites anyone 60 and older and guests to lunch Monday through Friday at the senior center.

Make reservations at (784) 460-2901 by noon the day before.

School Activities and Menus

Brewster
Activities: Tuesday: first day of school.
Menus: Tuesday: breakfast: cinnamon roll; lunch: soft shell taco, corn, tomatoes, pineapple, watermelon. **Wednesday:** breakfast: sausage cheese biscuit; lunch: chicken patty, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, baby carrots, banana, applesauce. **Thursday:** break-fast: scrambled eggs and bacon; lunch: goulash, green beans, carrots, peaches, orange slices. **Friday:** breakfast: pancakes and sausage; lunch: hamburgers, tater wedges, coleslaw, baby carrots, mixed fruit, orange slices.

Colby Public Schools
Activities: Monday: 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. enrollment, high school commons; practices begin for football, cross country, girls tennis, girls golf and volleyball; 7 p.m. school board, administration building. **Tuesday:** Colby Community College semester begins. **Wednesday:** freshman orientation; 7 p.m. sixth grade back-to-school, middle school cafeteria. **Friday:** new staff orientation.

Colby Community College
Activities: Sunday: 10 a.m. dorms open for students move in; 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. admissions open, Student Union; 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. bookstore open, Student Union; 5 p.m. free barbecue for all students, Student Union. **Monday:** cafeteria open; 8:30 a.m. orientation/registration, Cultural Arts Center; 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. bookstore open regular hours, Student Union; 9 a.m. new student final registration, Student Union; 2 - 5 p.m. transfer and returning student reg-

istration, Student Union; 7 p.m. movie at Colby Cinema; 9 p.m. bowling at Colby Bowl. **Tuesday:** classes begin; 5:30 p.m. community block party with free barbecue, north of Student Union; 6:30 p.m. introduction to wind course begins, Bedker 710; 7 p.m. mud volleyball, by the college baseball field. **Wednesday:** 6:30 p.m. introduction to wind course, Bedker 710; 7 p.m. Amazing Race followed by ice cream social, Starts in the Student Union. **Thursday:** 6:30 - 10 p.m. introduction to wind course, Bedker 710; 7 p.m. hometown pride event, Student Union. **Friday:** 6:30 p.m. introduction to wind course, Bedker 710. **Saturday:** screenings for athletes, Health Science building; 6 p.m. Duck Soup softball tournament fundraiser, city recreation ball fields; 6:30p.m. Introduction to wind course, Bedker 710; library closed. **Sunday:** 1 p.m. Duck Soup softball tournament fundraiser, city recreation ball fields; library closed.

Golden Plains
Activities: Tuesday: 6-8 p.m. instrumental display at Selden.

Heartland
Activities: Monday: board meeting.

Sacred Heart
Activities: Tuesday: enrollment 8 a.m.

Spanish cops go easy on drivers after wages cut

MADRID (AP) – As Spain’s highways hum with vacationing motorists, relief from fears of being stopped and fined is coming from an odd quarter: the country’s economic and debt woes. Traffic cops angry over a pay cut and other slights are slapping wrists rather than writing tickets.

That is raising concerns about whether road safety is being jeopardized in one of Europe’s top tourism destinations. The number of traffic deaths last weekend, for instance, was the highest so far this year.

In June, the first month after government salaries were reduced 5 percent as part of an austerity plan, the number of traffic tickets handed out by patrol officers fell by nearly 50 percent compared to the same period in 2009, according to figures from the Civil Guard highway department obtained Tuesday by the Associated Press.

Official numbers for July are not yet out but news reports say the go-easy policy of letting people off with warnings rather than a fine has pressed on.

The protest – which the Spanish press has baptized the strike of the “downed pens” – is another headache for a beleaguered government whose summer was first rattled by a threatened strike by air traffic controllers

whose salaries were also cut in the name of fiscal discipline.

The highway cops have not come right out and said they are going easy on drivers, but their boss acknowledges they are.

An official with the Independent Civil Guard Association, which acts like a pseudo-guild because the Civil Guard is a paramilitary organization and thus cannot unionize, said the protest began spontaneously after the pay cut was announced, and then spread.

“There is a generalized bad feeling,” said this official, who spoke on condition of anonymity saying he feared reprisals.

The 10,000-strong Civil Guard traffic department was already miffed because its officers earn less than other police officers in Spain – their salaries run from €1,600 (\$2,100) to €1,800 (\$2,400) a month – and have not seen the extra hiring promised by Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

Then, in April, the department circulated a moneysaving memo urging officers to use their radios more, rather than cell phones, and spend more time parked watching out for traffic violators instead of being on patrol all the time.

The pay cut seems to have been the last straw, said the association official.

“It is only natural,” he said. “Those of us who work in traffic need to be stimulated.”

Last weekend, highway deaths went from an average of about 20 to 29, and alarm bells went off amid worries that the police go-slow is encouraging Spaniards to drive less carefully.

The government’s top official for traffic safety said no, arguing that, statistically, that number is not significant because it refers to too short a time span.

“I will never say that the protest by the Civil Guards has caused an increase in highway accidents,” said Pere Navarro, head of the National Traffic Directorate, which is part of the Interior Ministry.

Civil Guard traffic cops are eligible for a €150 productivity bonus every month, and under a reform introduced in July – the patrol officers call it a backlash against them – handing out fines earns them more points than, say, helping a motorist with a broken-down car.

The nation’s top-selling daily, *El Pais*, has lashed out at both sides: the traffic cops for exerting pressure with a tactic that could make roads less safe, and the government for giving the impression that road officers’ job is less about protecting drivers than raising revenue by fining them.

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