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Couple face charges in highway chase

By Tom Betz

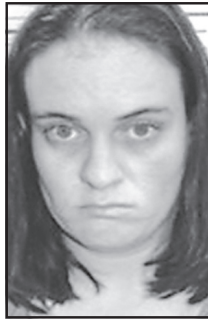
The Goodland Star-News
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A man and woman who were arrested after a chase on Interstate 70 last month where the passenger shot at pursuing Kansas Highway Patrol troopers have been charged with two counts of attempted first degree murder by the Kansas attorney general's office.

The chase started Sunday, Jan. 16, about eight miles east of the Colorado line and ended on a county road about two miles north of Brewster when a trooper



Anthony Patrick



P. Stout-Briese

returned fire and hit the man driving the fleeing vehicle.

Anthony Douglas Patrick, 30, driving a blue Toyota Scion, was stopped about 7:20 p.m. because the car did not have any license plates. His passenger was Piper Lacey Stout-Briese, 30, and the Toyota belonged to her grandfather from Colorado.

Trooper Perry Frey reported that he stopped the vehicle. When he asked for the registration, the man took off. Frey followed with his lights on, and the Toyota stopped again about a mile later. As Frey started toward the vehicle, the driver took off.

The trooper told the dispatcher he was

in pursuit and asked for help from Sherman County deputies to set up "stop sticks" to deflate the car's tires at the west Goodland exit.

Frey reported following the Toyota at speeds of up to 90 mph as they approached the exit. He said a man was driving with a woman passenger that he could see.

Sherman County Deputy Asa Stiles had stop sticks ready, but the driver swerved to avoid them and the chase continued east with the trooper and two Sherman County officer behind.

Trooper Charlie Brattin had stop sticks set up at the Edson exit and Trooper Terry

Kummer was waiting with another set at the Brewster exit.

As the Toyota went past the Goodland exit, a sheriff's deputy said he saw something sticking out of the window on the passenger side.

As the car sped east, officers said, the passenger began firing at Frey's car. He reported his car had been hit, but he continued following the Toyota. Frey's car took a bullet in the windshield.

As the chase approached the Edson exit, Frey warned Brattin to take cover.

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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Dr. Stephen Vacik, one of the candidates for president of Colby Community College, spoke to a small crowd Friday at the student union.

Public meets third candidate

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press
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About 17 people, including college staff, board members and citizens, turned out Friday morning to meet Dr. Stephen Vacik, the third candidate to be interviewed for Colby Community College president.

Vacik is vice president of instruction at East Mississippi Community College in Mayhew. He was born in Fargo, N.D., but grew up in Alabama. He is married and has two sons, in sixth and ninth grades. He said he and his family lived in Fayette, Ala., a town slightly smaller than Colby, for a long time, he said, and he enjoyed small-town living.

The candidate said he likes to be out in the community, something he doesn't do a lot of as a vice president of instruction.

"Most of my time is spent internally at the college with staff and teachers," he said, adding that a college president has to assimilate into the town.

"The president should be the face of the college," he said. "He should be a cheerleader, laud the good things but be honest."

Faculty and staff should also be part of the community, he added.

"Everyone who works at the college is a recruiter," Vacik said.

Vacik was asked about how

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ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Ana Calito (from left), Nora Roth and Rachel Montgomery from the Colby Community College volleyball team entertained people at the Take Charge Challenge pancake breakfast Sunday. The

Colby Kiwanis Club cooked the pancakes while the volleyball team helped serve.

Colby leading again in energy challenge

By Kevin Bottrell

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A crowd counted at 1,291 people showed up at the Colby Community Building on Saturday morning for the Take Charge Challenge kickoff.

Volunteers gave out about 700 compact fluorescent light bulbs and recorded everyone who re-

ceived one on the Take Charge website. The event put Colby in the lead in the five-city contest again. To date, Colby has recorded 4,530 switches from incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescents.

WaKeeney and Goodland had been in first and second place after getting boosts from their own kickoff events.

Midwest Energy had a booth

with information on the How\$mart program for home energy audits. Efficiency Kansas, the agency sponsoring the challenge, set up a booth with information on home-energy improvements and free insulation packs for outlets and light switches.

The Colby Kiwanis Club served a pancake breakfast with help from the Colby Community College volleyball team. Ross Carney,

a Colby fire fighter, won the drawing for a 46-inch LCD television.

City Administrator Carolyn Armstrong, who heads Colby's Take Charge leadership committee, said the city has more than 2,200 bulbs left over, which will be given away at events throughout the year. The next one will be a booth at the Better Homes and Living Show March 25 to 27.

Governor orders more agency consolidation

By John Milburn

The Associated Press

TOPEKA – Republican Gov. Sam Brownback delivered Friday on more elements of his intention to reorganize Kansas government, issuing two executive orders to reshape the state agencies that handle Medicaid and economic development.

Brownback signed the orders moving the Kansas Health Policy Authority from a separate entity to the Kansas Department of Health

and Environment. The authority's functions – including the administration of Medicaid programs for the poor and disabled – will be absorbed by the department's health division.

The move is part of Brownback's effort to make Kansas government more efficient amid sagging state revenues.

"Much of the \$550 million budget deficit is related to increased caseloads in Medicaid," Brownback said. "This reorganization not only saves millions of dollars, but also unifies the expertise in KHPA with the accountability

of KDHE as we implement major reforms to our Medicaid delivery model."

Brownback has made Medicaid reform a focus of his Cabinet, placing Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, a doctor, in charge of finding ways to reduce costs while still delivering services. The governor has said health department would be suited to handle Medicaid with his selection of Dr. Robert Moser, also a physician, to head the agency.

See "GOVERNOR," Page 3

Briefly

Senior group offering tax help

The American Association of Retired Persons will offer tax preparation help for low- and middle-income taxpayers – with preference to those 60 or older – by appointment until April 15. For information or to set up an appointment, call Earle Rice at 462-2990.

Seniors plan potluck Thursday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church. The event had originally be scheduled for Tuesday. Bring a dish to share; table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

Wesleyan offers regular study

Colby Wesleyan Church will hold a weekly la-

dies' Bible study, "Discerning the Voice of God," by Priscilla Shirer, each Wednesday beginning this week. Two sessions are available, 9 to 11 a.m. at the church, 320 W. Pine, and 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. at the Pioneer Memorial Library. For information or to register, call Joy Rothfuss at 462-8391 or e-mail wesleyan@st-tel.net.

Enroll early for preschool

Early enrollment for the Little Angels preschool and prekindergarten at Sacred Heart Catholic School will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday at the school. Come to the preschool classroom by the east school doors. For information, call Sharon Shirley at 460-2813.

Orchestra plans concert Sunday

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra, made up of musicians from the Tri-State Area, will perform at

at 3:30 p.m. Sunday in the Frahm Theatre at Colby Community College. Jan Wolf will conduct the concert, featuring selections from "The Moldau," "Dances With Wolves," "Finlandia," Brahms' "Concerto in A Minor for Two Violins" – with soloists Kendra and Josiah Akers – and more. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children and seniors. Punch and cookies will be served at intermission. For information, call President Mary Shoaff at 462-2159 or e-mail comments@prairieorchestra.com.

Church, school plan conference

The Mingo Bible Church and Heartland Christian School will hold a "New Love and Respect" video marriage conference from 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday at the school, open to singles, dating couples and married couples. Cost is \$20 per person. For information, call the school at 460-6419.

Chamber banquet coming up

The Oakley Area Chamber of Commerce will have its annual banquet and meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, at the Logan County 4-H Building, Second Street and Kahler Avenue. Former National Football League player and CBS color commentator Steve Tasker will speak. Tickets are \$15 in advance. For information, call Jodie Wright at (785) 672-4862.



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