

Thomas County Jail

Booked into the Thomas County jail:

- Kirt Alan Dugger, 19, Colby, Dec. 14, probation violation, giving a worthless check, Court Services of Thomas County, released Feb. 28 to responsible part.
- Jason Wayne Dodson, 31, Colby, Feb. 15, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, criminal threat, criminal damage to property, Oakley Police Department, released Feb. 28 on \$20,000 bond.
- Felipe Palmerin Fonseca, 43, Tustin, Calif., Feb. 18, criminal use of a financial card, identity theft, Kansas Highway Patrol, released March 1 to other agency.
- Matthew Allan Shepherd, 28, McDonald, Feb. 18, probation violation, Court Services, released Feb. 28 on court order.
- Terry Lee Twilegar, 54, Latah, Wash., Feb. 18, sale/distribution of certain hallucinogenic drugs, no drug tax stamp, speeding, Highway Patrol, released Feb. 28 on \$500,000 bond.
- Michael Dean Jones, 23, Colby, Feb. 20, aggravated battery, disorderly conduct, Colby Police Department, released Feb. 25 on \$100,000 bond.
- Michelle Ann O'Brien, 33, Colby, Feb. 20, driving under the influence, driving with license suspended or revoked, Sheriff's Office, released Feb. 25 on notice to appear.
- Robert William Stamm, 39, Denver, Feb. 21, sale/distribution of certain hallucinogenic drugs, Highway Patrol, released Feb. 23 on recognizance.
- Tony Westin, 38, Federal Heights, Colo., Feb. 22, driving with license suspended or revoked, Sheriff's Office, released Feb. 22 on notice to appear.
- George Wesley Love, 46, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., Feb. 23, sale/distribution of certain hallucinogenic drugs, no drug tax stamp, conspiracy, Highway Patrol, released Feb. 28 on \$100,000 bond.
- Patricia Ann Perry, 50, Akron, Colo., Feb. 23, giving a worthless check, Highway Patrol, released Feb. 23 on bond.
- Travis Logan Downing, 31, Colby, Feb. 25, theft more than \$1000, Colby Police, released March 2 on recognizance.
- Seth Ryan DeHart, 18, Colby, Feb. 25, probation violation, Court

Services, released Feb. 27 for time served.

- Tami Kay Downing, 32, Colby, Feb. 25, Colby, theft more than \$1000, Colby Police, released March 2 on \$50,000 bond.
- Joel Gentry Scott, 30, Silverthorne, Colo., Feb. 26, sale/distribution of certain hallucinogenic drugs, Highway Patrol, released Feb. 26 with charges pending.
- Joseph Dean Harper, 31, Colby, Feb. 27, criminal trespass, Sheriff's Office, released March 2 on \$25,000 bond.
- David Leroy Mayer, 50, Brewster, Feb. 28, domestic battery, disorderly conduct, Sheriff's Office, released March 1 on recognizance.
- Andrew Logan Wright, 24, Colby, Feb. 28, driving under the influence (third or subsequent), Sheriff's Office, released March 2 for time served.
- Larry Dan Hill, 64, Longmont, Colo., March 1, possession distribution of certain hallucinogens, conspiracy, no drug tax stamp, Highway Patrol, released March 3 on \$200,000 bond.
- Raymond Marcus Sandoval, 31, Denver, March 1, murder first degree, Highway Patrol, released same day to other agency.
- Taylor Jon McClure, 19, Colby, March 2, possession of certain hallucinogenic drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia, obstruction of official duty, Sheriff's office, released March 4 on bond.
- Coynesha Shay Picken, 25, Los Angeles, March 2, possession/distribution of certain hallucinogens, Highway Patrol, released same day with charges pending.
- Juan Ramon Rivera, 58, Pomona, Calif., March 2, possession/distribution of certain hallucinogens, Highway Patrol, released March 2 with charges pending.
- Kayla Jean Bennett, 18, Colby, March 3, domestic battery, disorderly conduct, Court Services of Thomas County, released same day with charges pending.
- Matthew Tyler Rikoff, 25, Colby, March 3, driving under the influence, Sheriff's Office, released same day on recognizance.
- Shasta Monet Bolin, 30, Colby, March 4, protective custody/alcohol, Colby Police, released same day with charge pending.

Exchange will benefit Kansans

TOPEKA – Kansas volunteers from the business, insurance, organizational and governmental communities are meeting now and in the coming months on providing Kansas solutions for Kansas health insurance.



Sandy Praeger

• Kansas Ins. Commissioner

It's all part of the state-based "health benefits exchange" planning process that we at the Kansas Insurance Department have been promoting. Our state agency got two federal grants that will help us figure out the best way to provide a "one-stop" shopping method for Kansans to buy health insurance.

We have based the grant money's use on gathering strong input from all the players in the Kansas health insurance mix – members of the insurance industry, health care providers, health care organizations and governmental leaders. Many people from these groups volunteered to be on committees addressing exchange details.

The federal Affordable Care Act allows states to plan their own benefit exchange, which is designed as a one-stop online marketplace for consumers and businesses to find health insurance plans they can afford. The technology built into the exchange would allow Kansans to comparison shop for plans by using a computer program. This exchange would take effect in 2014.

If Kansas does not implement the exchange

at the state level, under the law the federal government will run it for us. We want a Kansas exchange that meets our needs, one that is designed by Kansans for Kansans.

The plans would have "apples to apples" comparisons of benefits, and they would be based on how much consumers could pay for them. With some consumers, subsidies from the federal government would help pay the balance of a premium. In other cases, a person's income would take the exchange information directly into Medicaid assistance plans that would be built into the system.

One survey suggests that more than half of Kansans may live in families that would be eligible for some level of subsidy under the law.

All of the health plans placed on the exchange will have to contain "essential health benefits," which will be determined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The idea of the exchange is one which I lik-

en to buying a plane ticket on Expedia.com, or searching for a car on autotrader.com. All a consumer would do is put in his/her location and income level, and the programmed computer would do the rest, providing the health insurance options that best fit the answers provided.

One of the major items to be discussed is the role of current Kansas health insurance agents in the whole process. I truly believe that agents are necessary to help consumers through the process to provide one-on-one advice and explanations in order for consumers to receive the best coverage for their needs.

We have eight work groups established to consider all the aspects of setting up an exchange that works best for Kansans. It will require months of long discussions and precise recommendations in order to advance the idea. But, in Kansas, we are not short on good thinkers.

The Kansas Insurance Department, established in 1871, assists and educates consumers, regulates and reviews companies and licenses agents selling insurance products in the state.

More about the department is online at www.ksinsurance.org.

Start planning for 4-H summer camps

Although still officially winter, occasional sunny afternoons bring thoughts of spring and summer and may prompt parents to begin exploring summer opportunities for their children.

"A well planned and managed summer camp can provide a safe environment to introduce youth to new experiences and interests," said Pam Van Horn, a Kansas State University Research and Extension 4-H youth development specialist.

"There's more to summer camp than meeting new people, making new friends and trying new activities," said Van Horn, who has more than 25 years experience in planning and managing opportunities for youth.

A summer camp will typically include health-promoting physical activity and opportunities for personal growth that come from community living and building respectful relationships, she said.

Most campers will have an op-

portunity to practice citizenship such as raising the flag, and learn about earth or environmental science, including the weather, geology, plants and wildlife.

Campers also can grow in responsibility for themselves as group or organization? Who is responsible for the day-to-day management and operation? How long has the camp been serving youth? And, what is the average age and grade level of their groups?

For younger, first-time campers, Van Horn suggested considering a day or partial-day camp in a structured environment similar to a school day. First-time overnight campers may benefit from a first-timer – or Rookie Camp – with an abbreviated schedule to introduce children to outdoor life.

For a weekly or residential camp, youth organizations, such as Kansas 4-H, Scouts, school and community groups will have experience in providing successful camp experiences, said Van Horn, who encouraged parents to talk

with the parents of their children's friends, and ask questions:

- Where is the camp? What transportation will be required to and from camp?
- Is the camp affiliated with a group or organization? Who is responsible for the day-to-day management and operation? How long has the camp been serving youth? And, what is the average age and grade level of their groups?
- What's a typical day at camp like?
- On average, how large are camp groups? What is the ratio of campers to counselors? What ages are served?
- Are camp groups supervised by youth or adult counselors, or a team with both? How are counselors trained? Supervised? Will a lifeguard be present for water activities? Who provides transportation for off-site activities?
- Does the camp offer a lodge or dormitory? Cabins? Tents?
- Does the camp have access to

medical or emergency services? How are emergencies handled?

- Does the camp have an inclement weather or other emergency plan?

Families who are new to camping may want to consider family camp, in which the family attends camp together, said Van Horn, who noted that the Kansas 4-H Center at Rock Springs offers opportunities for families. For dates and information, contact Amanda Eilders at aielders@rocksprings.net or call (785) 257-3221.

For information about Kansas 4-H Camps go to www.Kansas4-H.org.

Officials say soil erosion is well beyond tolerable limits

Plains winds annually erode an average 1.3 tons of topsoil per acre from Kansas' 24.6 million acres of cultivated cropland – among other things, underscoring an on-going need for tree planting and shelter-belt management.

USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service rates this annual soil loss as being well beyond tolerable limits.

– Source: Kansas Forest Service

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE
Thursday

1:10 a.m. – Security check at 1145 S. Franklin.

1:46 a.m. – Security check at Twister's.

1:49 a.m. – Open door.

2:13 a.m. – Assisted deputy with traffic stop.

5:47 a.m. – Caller reported subject banging on windows and door.

8 a.m. – Arrest warrant served by three

officers.

9:54 a.m. – Served arrest warrant for the Ford County Sheriff's Office.

3:33 p.m. – Assisted ambulance crew.

4:34 p.m. – Subject came to Law Enforcement Center reporting subjects threatening him. Information provided.

5:07 p.m. – Report of harassing phone calls. Spoke with subjects, report filed.

7:19 p.m. – Provided directions in the 2000 block of S. Range.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF
Thursday

1:49 a.m. – Assisted Colby police with an open door at Franklin and Pine.

2:07 a.m. – Driving under the influence report on traffic stop. 24/7 towed vehicle.

3:11 a.m. – Booked Matthew T. Rikoff.

3:32 a.m. – Released Rikoff.

5:03 a.m. – Sheridan County Sheriff's Office reported someone walking on U.S. 24 around mile 68. Located subject and

brought back to Colby.

8:42 a.m. – Booked Jose Garcia.

10:04 a.m. – Caller reported three cattle on roadway in the 2600 block of County Road K. Not found.

12:40 p.m. – Assisted Highway Patrol on traffic stop.

2:44 p.m. – Released Larry Dan Hill.

3:21 p.m. – Booked Kayla Jean Bennett.

3:41 p.m. – Released Bennett.

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