



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Police catch park vandals with cameras

By Kevin Bottrell
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Thanks to a well-placed video camera, the Colby Police Department has had a run of good luck lately in identifying people damaging the bathrooms at Fike Park. At least four incidents were caught on camera this summer. Police Chief Randy Jones said the first incident was theft of some of the lightbulbs from the bathroom. Police were able to identify an adult man from looking at footage of him entering and leaving the building. Jones said the man was cited and had to pay restitution of about \$400. A juvenile was caught on camera on Aug. 11 writing "tagged" on the bathroom door. The picture was published in the *Colby Free Press* on Aug. 12. Jones said the juvenile turned himself in to the police the next day. On Aug. 16, another juvenile was caught on camera kicking the bathroom door in the afternoon. Jones said the juvenile moved out

of town about two days after the incident. Jones took a proposal to close city parks at night to the city council that evening, but it was not approved. Closing the park would have allowed police officers to break up groups and kick people out of the parks after dark. Currently, officers are only allowed to take action if they witness someone breaking the law. The latest incident was on Aug. 28, when three people were caught on camera taking a bicycle wheel rim into the bathroom. Police found the rim stuffed into one of the urinals. Pictures from the incident were published in the Aug. 31 *Free Press*. Jones said the police have gotten a good response from the community when the pictures are published. The police got at least six calls on the latest incident, and they were able to identify the individuals, two young women from Rexford and one young man from Colby. Jones said that since no real

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Beef conferences set for September

Kansas State University will hold its annual Fall 2011 Beef Calf Conference in three locations, Atwood, Oakley and Stockton, in late September. Keynote presentations by K-State Research and Extension speakers at all three conferences include "Beef Cattle Market Outlook," by Glynn Tonsor, livestock marketing specialist, and "Calf and Stocker Research Highlights: Updates in Management, Nutrition and Health," by Dale Blasi, stocker and forage specialist. Each conference will include a meal and other speakers as well. Dates and times include: In Atwood, the meeting will be

at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the 4-H Building. Register by Thursday, Sept. 22, at (785) 626-3192 or cdixon@ksu.edu. Beef quality assurance will be an additional topic. In Oakley, the meeting begins at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center. Register at (785) 743-6361 or rsbarrow@ksu.edu by Thursday, Sept. 22. Keeping pastures productive will be the local topic covered. The meeting in Stockton begins at 5 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Rooks County Fairgrounds. Register by Sept. 26 at (785) 425-6851 or rbolye@ksu.edu.

New exchange students affected by 9/11 attacks

Sept. 11, 2001, will forever be indelible in my mind. Laura Valdivia, from Chile, had arrived at my home in Winona just days before. I was intent on pleasing her with one of her first American breakfasts as she was embarking on an experience of her lifetime. Being unfamiliar with the language and joining classmates at Triplains High School where the enrollment from K-12 was smaller than her class in Antofagasta, Chile, was her first challenge. She had enrolled in a social studies class and their first assignment was to report a current event; thus the television was the focus of our first meal of the day. As we viewed the twin towers being assaulted, she didn't have a clue as to what we were viewing. I was mesmerized and confused as to what was happening. I was still stunned when I walked outside with her as she continued the walk to school just two blocks from our house. That year there were eight foreign exchange students, including Laura, at Triplains. David Spencer, the superintendent,

realized how traumatic visualizing this horrible event must be for those youth so far from their homeland. Enabling those students to get in touch with their parents took precedent over academics or any thing else. He persevered until each student had conversed by telephone with their families (some of whom were panicking by then) and assured them Kansas was perhaps the safest place they could be. The school year certainly provided them with a learning experience. Geographical locations, such as New York, became a reality to them and the message they took home was the strength of patriotism and unity they saw in Triplains and surrounding communities and the United States of America.



By Jean Lowe



Trucks in the Special Olympics Kansas World's Largest Convoy lined up on Horton Avenue on Saturday after meeting up in Colby. The trucks got in their line for a parade through downtown Colby.

KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press



Trucks and their motorcycle escort from the Goodland start area traveled down I-70 on their way to Colby. The lead truck came from Downing Farms, which donated \$1,000. The escort was mainly American Legion Riders. The Goodland trucks met up with the Oakley trucks in Colby to form one large convoy.

DEBBIE LUCKERT

Largest convoy attracts 41 trucks

By Kevin Bottrell
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Forty-one trucks and 21 motorcycles paraded through town Saturday morning, forming the northwest Kansas World's Largest Convoy to raise money for Special Olympics Kansas. Organizer Jane Mentlick said they are still counting up the money raised, but the convoy had four more trucks than last year. The American Legion Riders and area law enforcement officers provided escorts for the convoy from its start positions in Goodland and Oakley to its end point at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Drivers bid to get a place in line, with the first place going to whatever driver donates the most. The lead truck from Oakley was driven by Jack Collins, who donated \$900. The lead truck from Goodland came from Downing Farms, which donated \$1,000. Downing had six trucks in the convoy. The oldest driv-

er was Donna Schwindt, who works for Frahm Farms. The drivers who came the farthest for the convoy were Dan and Jan McCarter, who also provided the entertainment for Friday's spaghetti dinner. The Special Olympics also had a torch run as the convoy paraded through downtown. Mentlick said athlete Aaron Luckert and Reba Schiesser from the sheriff's department carried the torch, which had been at an event in Hoxie during the week. The torch run will become a recurring event in Colby, she said. Mentlick said the Special Olympics is already planning next year's convoy, and they have several truck drivers interested in returning. One driver, Don Prickett of Hoxie, always wants to be the tail-end truck, she said. In the mean time, the next event for athletes in the Regional Bowling competition on Saturday, Oct. 8, in Colby.



Aaron Luckert (from left) and Reba Schiesser carried the Special Olympics torch through downtown Colby at the head of the World's Largest Convoy. Organizer Jane Mentlick said the torch run will be a recurring part of the convoy.

DEBBIE LUCKERT

Consequence emerges from driver's license laws

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Strong driver's license laws have led to fewer fatal crashes among 16-year-olds but with a disturbing side effect — more fatal accidents among 18-year-olds, a nationwide study found. Many states require young drivers to get extensive experience, including driving with an adult, before getting a full license. But in most states those laws only apply to those younger than 18. The new study suggests some teens are just putting off getting a license until they turn 18 — meaning they have little experience and higher odds for a deadly crash. "There's an incentive right now to skip out and just wait until you're 18," said Scott Masten, the study's lead author and a researcher with California's Department of Motor Vehicles. "In most states you don't even need to

have driver education or driver training" if you obtain a license at 18, he said. "I was actually bummed by my own findings — to find out we're offsetting the benefits" in young drivers so much, he said. "It was quite unexpected." The study examined fatal crashes from 1986 to 2007 involving 16- to 19-year-olds. Results appear in Wednesday's *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Most previous studies have also linked graduated licensing programs with a decline in fatal crash rates among young teens, but evidence on effects in older teens is mixed. A journal editorial by researchers with the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety said the potential effects in older teens "is a serious issue deserving attention by researchers and policymakers." The editorial noted that New Jersey is one of the few states where graduated driver's licensing restrictions apply to all first-

time applicants younger than 21. That has led to lower crash rates among 17- and 18-year-olds. Whether these programs should be extended to include older teens merits further study, the editorial said. Every state has some type of graduated driver's licensing program. These typically allow full, unrestricted licenses to kids younger than 18 only after several months of learning while driving with an adult, followed by unsupervised driving with limits on things like night driving and the number of passengers. The study authors analyzed fatal crash data

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