



Police nab suspected bank robber

By Kevin Bottrell
Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkansas.com

A 67-year-old man was arrested Friday afternoon just minutes after robbing Farmers and Merchants Bank.

Colby Police Chief Randy Jones said Timothy David Seifert, 67, walked into Farmers and Merchants Bank and used bank forms to write a note which he passed to a teller. The note said he had a weapon under his jacket, and that if the teller gave him money, no one would get hurt.

The teller gave Seifert money and he left the bank. Three police officers and a Thomas County Sheriff's deputy responded to the

bank's alarm at 1:50 p.m. Jones said the officers spotted Seifert about three blocks from the bank and arrested him without incident. He had not been carrying any weapons.

Seifert was booked into the Thomas County Jail at 3 p.m.

Seifert had come to the Law Enforcement Center on Oct. 16 to turn himself in, saying he was wanted on a warrant from Pennsylvania. Jones said Pennsylvania did not want to extradite him, and so he was released.

Jones said the Federal Bureau of Investigation has taken over the bank robbery case. As of Monday morning, Seifert was on his way to the FBI's resident agency in Garden City.

Debate team places second

The Colby High School debate team narrowly missed out on first place at the Liberal Invitational Debate Tournament on Saturday.

All seven teams earned medals, putting together a 26 win, 7 loss record. Garden City beat the Eagles by one win to claim the top spot. Great Bend placed third.

In the Open Division, Michael Tubbs and Christina Ostmeyer

placed second; Tomi Miller and Cameron McLaughlin, third; Madison Gawith and Hannah Matchell, fourth; Colton Rundel and Ian Koerperich, fifth; and Sarah Lamm and Billy Selley, sixth.

In the Novice Division, Konnor Kriss and Walter Vacik placed fourth and Cheyne Weiss and Eric Schuette placed sixth.

Faeries and garden gnomes



Colby Free Press graphic designer Kylee Hunter handed out candy to trick-or-treaters from Puddle Duck Preschool this morning. The morning and afternoon classes went all around downtown Colby today, getting candy from businesses.

KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Final bodies recovered in Atchison elevator explosion

By John Milburn
and Roxana Hegeman
The Associated Press

ATCHISON — The bodies of the final three victims of a grain elevator blast that killed six people and injured two others were recovered this morning in Kansas, a company official said.

Three victims were found during the weekend but unstable concrete, hanging steel beams and other damage had forced crews to temporarily call off their search at the Bartlett Grain Co. facility in Atchison, about 50 miles northwest of Kansas City.

Bob Knief, a Bartlett senior vice president, announced the three bodies had been recovered but declined to identify them.

Relatives said two of the three were worker Curtis Field, 21, and state grain inspector Travis Keil. They have said the third person also was a state grain inspector.

Keil was a war veteran who had served as a site inspector for 16 years. His parents, Gary and Ramona Keil, drove from Salina to Atchison to wait with his three

children — ages 8, 12 and 15 — as crews searched.

"It's a parent's worst nightmare to go through this," Gary Keil said.

Unstable concrete, hanging steel beams and other damage caused by a powerful explosion that ripped through the elevator were complicating efforts to find the missing people. The bodies of three other workers were recovered after the Saturday blast, and two people are hospitalized with severe burns.

The explosion was a harrowing reminder of the dangers workers face inside

elevators brimming with highly combustible grain dust at the end of harvest season. The blast fired an orange fireball into the night sky, shot off a chunk of the grain distribution building directly above the elevator and blew a large hole in the side of a concrete silo.

The search was temporarily halted Sunday because of fears that the building could fall on rescuers. Local officials met with victims' families to explain why crews pulled back, but understood they wanted their loved ones found, Atchison City Manager Trey Cocking said.

The three Bartlett workers whose bodies have been recovered were identified as Chad Roberts, 20; Ryan Federinko, 21; and John Burke, 24.

Roberts planned to get married Nov. 19 and take a honeymoon cruise to the Bahamas, said Alicia Cobleigh, his fiancée. She said he liked to hunt and fish and took her fishing. They'd met in high school.

"He was fun, and he couldn't wait to be a husband and a dad," she said "We actually bought a house in April and re-

See "EXPLOSION," Page 2

A batch of new trees



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Members of the Colby Tree Board planted 49 trees along Franklin Avenue and College Drive on Thursday as part of the walking trail project. The board also intends to plant 90 trees along the first loop of the trail once it has been built.

Preliminary hearing delayed in Decatur County murder

A preliminary hearing scheduled for Friday in the murder case against Dylan Coryell Jr. has been continued until the beginning of December.

Jeff Wagaman, deputy chief of staff for Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt, said both parties agreed to a continuance until 1:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5.

Mr. Wagaman said Mr. Coryell, 24, is being held by the Decatur County Sheriff's office in the county jail with bond set at \$500,000, cash or surety.

The Dec. 5 date, he said, will include a review and status update, where counsel for the state and

defense will discuss the status of discovery and the court may schedule the preliminary hearing.

Mr. Coryell faces three charges for allegedly shooting Airman Corey Cook, 22.

The first count is for premeditated murder in the first degree with an alternative charge of felony murder in the first degree. A felony murder charge applies when a death occurs during a planned felony crime, regardless of whether the death was planned.

The second count is aggravated battery, and the third is for aggravated burglary. Both are felonies.

Closing pension gap will be expensive

By John Hanna
The Associated Press

TOPEKA — A commission examining Kansas' public pension system still must tackle the daunting issue of closing the system's long-term funding gap, a task likely to prove expensive no matter what emerges from its discussions.

The pensions study commission is building on work by legislators earlier this year that produced the law creating the group, while committing the state to increasing its contribution of tax dollars to the Kansas Public Employee Retirement System. The law also will force public employees to choose

between contributing more of their paychecks to their pensions and accepting lower future benefits.

Commission members plan to consider drafting a proposal to start a 401(k)-style plan for new hires or a less aggressive hybrid of that approach and traditional plans. KPERS plans guarantee benefits up front, based on an employee's salary and years of experience, rather than on investment earnings, as is common for businesses.

The debate over starting a 401(k)-style plan is contentious and pits Gov. Sam Brownback and Republican allies in the GOP-controlled Legislature against public employee groups. Yet bolstering

the long-term financial security of KPERS will require the commission and legislators to consider other ideas likely to cause heartburn and complicate Brownback's push on other initiatives next year.

The pension system projects a gap of nearly \$8.3 billion between its anticipated revenues and the benefits promised to both retirees and current employees, through 2033. The commission plans to discuss committing even more

See "GAP," Page 2

