



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Trial set in underaged solicitation case

By Sam Dieter

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A trial has been set for an 18-year-old accused of asking underaged children for sexual favors over the Internet.

Kollyn Schippers of Hoxie is set to go to court Monday, June 10, for allegedly

soliciting three juveniles in early October. He plead innocent Dec. 18 to seven counts each of electronic solicitation of a child, aggravated indecent solicitation of a child and promoting obscenity to minors.

County Attorney Kevin Berens said the first charge, which carries a sentence of 12 to 54 years in state prison and a \$300,000 fine, is a Level 1 felony, the highest level

in Kansas law. The second carries a sentence of 2 1/2 to 11 years in prison with the same possible fine. Promoting obscenity to minors, a misdemeanor, comes with a possible year-long sentence in the county jail and a \$2,500 fine.

The charges stem from sexual advances Schippers allegedly made on Oct. 1 and 5 to three teens born in 1998 and 1999.

He was booked into the Thomas County jail Oct. 10. Warrants issued for his arrest carried appearance bonds of \$50,000 and \$100,000. He posted a \$100,000 bond and was released after his arraignment Dec. 18.

At the hearing last month, he waived his right to present evidence at a preliminary hearing before entering his plea. Berens

had several large binders full of evidence ready for the hearing, and four people, a man, two grown women and a girl who appeared to be in her teens, were sitting in the courtroom, apparently ready to testify. None of the four or a middle-aged woman who was sitting near Schippers would comment after the hearing.

Rexford dairy makes list of top stories

The Colby Free Press put together this roundup of the top 10 articles from the past year. The first five stories ran in the Wednesday paper; the second five are in today's paper.

6 The McCarty Dairy in Thomas County finished a multi-million-dollar expansion in April, making it a key supplier of one of the nation's largest producers of yogurt and dairy drinks.

The family-owned dairy, with its 500,000-pounds-per-day processing facility, partnered with Dannon as the sole supplier of condensed milk for the French firm's Fort Worth yogurt plant. The Rexford milk-condensing plant is the only one of its kind in North America.

The Rexford dairy added 13 to 17 jobs for the new project, with the first product approved to go out April 1.

Ken McCarty, one of the co-owners of the family operation, welcomed dignitaries, including Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, Secretary of Agriculture Dale Rodman and Commerce Secretary Pat George, friends, contractors and reporters to the plant's open house on June 14.

"I applaud McCarty Family Farms and Dannon," Brownback said at the open house, "for entering into a successful partnership that benefits farmers, the small business that support farmers, the consumers and the community as a whole. This partnership is a fab-

ulous example of how agriculture can create good-paying rural jobs with the potential to spur significant additional job creation in the future."

To fulfill the dairy's commitment to the Fort Worth plant, the family milks 7,500 cows, so each of its three operations, in Rexford, Scott City and Bird City, will have around 2,500 cows.

7 A dust storm with hurricane-force winds hit Colby along with most of western Kansas and eastern Colorado on May 26, causing extensive damage in many areas, including Colby and Thomas County.

The wind pushed semitrailer rigs over on Interstate 70, damaged roofs and trees in town and whipped flames through a haystack at a feed yard east of town. Damage at Colby's new aquatic park forced the pool to close for two days.

Jeremy Martin, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Goodland, said the peak wind speed measured in Colby was 82 mph at 11 p.m. He said there were lots of 60s and 70s measured that night in other Kansas towns.

The K-State Northwest Research and Extension Center reported 266 miles of wind on Saturday, measured by miles per day.

Martin said power outages were reported in Thomas, Sherman and Logan counties, and several areas

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Water engineer approves order

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The state's top water engineer has approved a new kind of regulation to limit groundwater use for five years in parts of Sheridan and Thomas counties.

Water restrictions written by the landowners and approved by the state will last from the start of 2013 to the end of 2017 in the state's first Local Enhanced Management Area. The first of its kind, the management area covers 99 square miles known as Sheridan No. 6.

Each year, a committee will review what is happening under the restrictions, and in three years, they will consider whether to re-implement them, possibly with revisions.

Area water users will make up the board, along with at least one person each from the Kansas Division of Water Resources and Groundwater Management District No. 4, where the area is located.

David Barfield, chief engineer for the water division, signed an order Tuesday implementing the area. He had the option of adding revisions to the groundwater district's proposal based on testi-

mony from a Nov. 28 meeting in Hoxie.

"I didn't find it necessary to send the order back," with revisions, he said.

At the meeting, Wayne Bossert, manager for the groundwater district, explained that the idea is to cut water use by 20 percent.

To do this, he said, the 125 water users in the area will be restricted to pumping 114,000 acre-feet of water over the next five years. Farmers must limit themselves to a total of 55 acre-inches of water over that five-year period, he said, but could use that allocation at any time over the five years.

Stock water users will be limited to 12 gallons per day per head, down from 15.

The land covered by the management area is mostly in Sheridan County but includes nine square miles of Thomas County just south of Menlo.

Barfield said that he was most concerned that people could move parts of their new water allocations among any wells within the area, something that normally cannot be done with water rights. Two farmers brought this issue up at the meeting.

"I think for the long term it's

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Colby Public Schools back in session today

Shelby walked her son Gus Bain (above left) to kindergarten this morning at Colby Grade School, while his little brother, Isaac, and baby sister, Josephine, accompanied him. Some kids seemed eager to get back to school (left) on the first day of the spring semester, but some did not (below).

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



Kansas wants donor to pay child support

By John Hanna

The Associated Press

TOPEKA — The state of Kansas is trying to force a man who donated sperm to a lesbian couple to pay child support, arguing that the agreement he and the women signed releasing him from all parental duties was invalid because they didn't go through a doctor.

Under Kansas law, a doctor's involvement shields a man from being held responsible for a child conceived through artificial insemination. At least 10 other states have similar laws, including California, Illinois and Missouri,

according to the Kansas Department for Children and Families.

William Marotta and the couple he helped have a daughter didn't go through a doctor, so the department is asking a state court to hold him responsible for about \$6,000 that the child's biological mother received through public assistance — as well as future child support.

The department also asked the court to appoint an attorney to represent the now 3-year-old girl, independently of her mother.

Marotta is asking that the case be dismissed, arguing that he is not the child's legal father. A hearing is set for Tuesday.

Department spokeswoman Angela de Rocha said Wednesday that when a single mother seeks benefits for a child, the department routinely tries to determine the child's paternity and require the father to make support payments to lessen the potential cost to taxpayers.

She argued that the law regarding artificial insemination is an incentive for donors and prospective mothers to work with a doctor.

"I believe that is the intent of the law, so that we don't end up with these ambiguous situations," she told the Associated Press.

Marotta, a 46-year-old Topeka

resident, answered an ad on Craigslist in 2009 from Angela Bauer and Jennifer Schreiner, a local couple who said they were seeking a sperm donor.

After exchanging e-mails and meeting, Marotta and the couple signed an agreement in which the women agreed to "hold him harmless" financially. It also said the child's birth certificate would not list a father.

But the state agency argues the

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