

Suspects still running from law

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heading east before entering the south ditch and crashing through the barbed-wire fencing.

Jones said he arrived shortly after that and saw the car traveling south through a plowed field.

"We couldn't get through (following the suspect) without damaging some cars," Jones said. Officers instead elected to try to cut the suspect off on the main roads by following the dust cloud.

After driving about half a mile, however, the suspect vehicle drove into a corn circle.

By this time, Colby police officers and state troopers were starting to cordon off the area. Officers drafted Mark Ostmeyer, manager of Shalz Airfield in Colby, who flew Colby officer Kevin Diercks over the area a little after noon.

About 1 p.m., Colby dispatch received a call from the teen-ager, who told dispatchers she had returned to her home in the area and discovered the pair in the house.

They threatened her with a knife, tied her up and stole her car. Officers arrived within a few minutes, Jones said, and the search started for the Escort.

"She handled the situation very well," said Jones, who declined to release the girl's name. "She was very frightened, but she kept her head."

Jones said the girl was tied up for only a short time before getting free and calling police.

An aerial search of the area around the rural farmstead located the pickup and a document found inside the vehicle may lead police to the name of the



The man wanted in a string of car thefts is described as about 5 foot, 6 inches tall, 135-150 pounds, with medium blond-brown hair. He has several tattoos around his neck, described as oriental writing.

woman. The paper apparently indicated that the woman was being treated for a spider or bug bite, and the Highway Patrol put out a bulletin asking police and sheriffs to check hospitals and clinics anyone seeking treatment for a spider bite.

Jones said the Kansas Bureau of Investigation had sent several agents to assist.

"The Colby police, KBI and highway patrol have been a lot of help," he said.

Colby police and area troopers were among the first to respond to Patton's original call for help and stayed to help secure the area well into the afternoon. Sheriff's officers and police in nearby counties joined the effort, parking at Interstate exits



The woman is described as small built, weighing about 120 pounds, with red hair and a noticeably freckled face.

and watching highway traffic.

Some interchanges had two or three police cars. More than a few black cars were stopped and checked.

Jones said a nationwide alert has been put out for the couple, described as being in their mid-20s. The man is about 5 feet, 6 inches tall, 135-140 pounds, with medium length brown-blond hair. He has several tattoos around his neck, described as resembling oriental writing.

The woman has a small build, about 120 pounds, with long red-blond hair and a noticeably freckled face.

Anyone seeing a couple matching this description should call 911 immediately, but Jones said they should not try to capture them or go near them.

Junk parade planned for September

CITY, from Page 1

ask them to form groups to help with the clean-up and encourage everyone who is interested to put together "floats" for the parade.

The county commission has waived collection fees for tires, appliances with freon and construction and demolition debris for one day, Saturday, Sept. 22, to support the group's effort. They said the junk parade was last done 10 years ago.

City Commissioner Chuck Lutters said the parade is a good idea, and the commission agreed to give Hixson and Goodwin a police escort to lead and one to follow the parade. The parade will march the junk down Main Avenue from 17th to Eighth, Goodwin said, and then take the junk to the landfill.

Goodwin encouraged people who are interested in participating to call him at (785) 899-6200 for information.

Scott Schroller, general manager of Wal-Mart Super Center, spoke to the commission about the Chamber of

Commerce's banner project. He and Donna Swager, owner of Pied Piper Video, are working on a project to install banners welcoming people to Goodland, Schroller said.

The banners will be attached to electric poles along K-27 from I-70 to Business U.S. 24 at first, he said, but may be extended to the downtown area before the project is done. Swager is working on putting banners downtown, Schroller said, while he works on K-27 in front of his store.

"We will work toward each other," he said, "and meet in the middle."

They are trying to put up around 20 banners to start with, Schroller said, but the long-term project will include about 60 banners when it is finished. This is the first phase of plans to enhance the appearance of Goodland, he said, to improve our image.

He said he has talked to business owners and managers along K-27, asking them to help pay for the banners. So far, no one has said no, he said, and he hopes to continue to have success as

he goes to more business people.

The banners are painted with high quality paint, Schroller said, and should last 15 years. Leon Volk, in charge of artwork and graphics at Commercial Sign Co. of Colby, said the signs are made of aluminum and will be painted with three or four alternating themes.

Volk lives in Goodland, Schroller said, and is committed to helping the city look good.

Commercial Sign has given him a price of \$199 per panel, Schroller said, that includes installation. Schroller didn't want to ask the City of Goodland for money, but would like them to waive the fees to have Commercial Sign install the banners. With this arrangement, he said, city employees will not have to install them.

The Chamber of Commerce will need the permission of the city and the Kansas Department of Transportation to install signs on K-27, City Manager Ron Pickman said, but there are no fees for permits.

KU urges students to get meningitis vaccine

LAWRENCE (AP) — Reacting to the results of a new study, the University of Kansas is urging freshmen who will live in dormitories this fall to get a meningitis vaccination.

Two studies published Wednesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association reported freshmen living in dormitories have an increased risk of contracting the disease and that immunization may be the best way to prevent infection.

The studies said that freshmen living in residence halls are three times more likely than the general population to contract meningococcal disease.

The studies match previous findings that places where large groups live together increase the disease's risk, said

Randall Rock, associate director of health education at the university's Watkins Health Center.

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Basic telephone fees could go up

TOPEKA (AP) — The Kansas Corporation Commission opened hearings Wednesday into a proposed settlement between its staff and three telephone companies that could lead to lower long distance rates but higher fees for basic telephone service.

Critics say the agreement saddles residential customers with the phone companies' cost of doing business, while advocates insist the higher fees are crucial to fostering competition.

Walker Hendrix, consumer counsel for the Citizens' Utility Ratepayers Board, which represents residential and small business consumers, questioned whether the service charges are priced above the actual costs to phone companies.

Janet Buchanan, head of the KCC's telecommunication's division, said the increase in service charges are necessary in a previously regulated and monopolistic market.

"That's the price we're going to have to pay to raise rates to bring

competition to Kansas in the short term," Buchanan said.

The hearing is expected to end Thursday.

Kansas has 47 local exchange companies, but Bell controls more than 84 percent of the access lines. Sprint Corp., doing business as the United Telephone Company, controls another 8 percent.

In January, federal regulators gave Bell permission to begin offering long-distance service in Kansas and Oklahoma.

But if the access rates Bell charges other companies are higher than actual costs, it would have an advantage over long-distance competitors like AT&T. That's why the agreement would cut access charges.

Bell's access rates would drop to 0.6 cents a minute from 2.3 cents a minute. Sprint's would decline to 2 cents a minute from 4 cents.

Under the agreement, Bell's basic local rates for phone service would increase, to \$15.45 to \$22.35 a month for residential customers,

from its current \$13.45 to \$20.55 a month.

For United Telephone customers, their rates would increase over three years. Residential customers would see them range from \$16.75 to \$20 a month, compared to \$10.75 to \$16 now.

Hendrix told the commission Wednesday that raising service charges runs the risk of pricing phone service higher than poor Kansans can afford.

KCC spokeswoman Rosemary Foreman said Kansans unable to pay for telephone service can qualify for Lifeline, a program that helps customers with phone bills.

Foreman said to qualify, residents must show that they have qualified for other forms of assistance, such as food stamps.

The KCC's staff says Bell customers will break even if they make an average of 89 minutes in long-distance calls within the state each month. The figure for United Telephone customers is 245 minutes.

County approves fence for landfill

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

The new Sherman County landfill could be open within six weeks, and commissioners took another step Tuesday with the approval of a contract for a fence to enclose the site.

There were four bids for the estimated 6,000 feet of fencing, ranging from \$37,500 to \$28,750. Commissioner Kevin Rasure excused himself from the discussion and abstained on the vote due to a possible conflict of interest.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he felt the information and details from Ninemire Fence Construction of Hill City was the best choice, and made the motion to accept their bid of \$29,865.

Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Curt Way, county road and bridge superintendent, said Ninemire representatives said they would be able to get on the fence within three weeks. He said this company specializes in putting up fences and should be able to complete the work in time to get the landfill open at the end of September.

Way said he had talked to Midwest Energy and the landfill was now on the list for a power line, but not sure when they would get it done. Way said it was possible to open the landfill without the electricity being connected, however.

On the equipment for the landfill, Way said he was getting information on two tractors to pull the trailers, and on a new or used track loader. One supplier gave him a price of \$172,000 on a new one and \$89,000 on a used one, he said.

The commissioners went into closed session with Way to discuss personnel matters for 45 minutes.

When they returned, they approved

increasing the hours for Paula Geist to 30 per week, with the cost to be shared by road and bridge and noxious weeds.

Repair of the Southwest Bell Building roof was put on hold to see if there was any insurance money ever paid for the damage.

Commissioner Rasure said he had inspected the roof and found that the west half was in good shape, but the east part needs work.

He said there are places where the roof is pulling away from the brickwork.

The commissioners have a proposal for fixing the roof, but decided to delay any action until County Clerk Janet Rumpel could contact the insurance pool to see if the county was entitled to collect for the damage.

The commissioners tabled discussion of a proposed emergency medical training contract until the next meeting, Tuesday, Aug. 21. Rumpel said she had talked to Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, who had said that Eagle Med of Wichita was agreeing to pay about half of the tuition cost, which would reduce the amount to be split by the county, hospital and the hospital foundation.

Dr. Robert McCullough called Rumpel and asked when the commissioners were going to consider the contract, and she said he is expected to attend the next meeting.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby told the commissioners she was going to have to delay the tax sale by a month to include property coming due this year.

Selby said they would probably add 100 pieces of property to the 128 they already have ready.

She was hoping to be able to publish the notices in August and hold the sale in September, but this will delay it until at least October.

Joe Fuentez, new administrator at the Goodland Good Samaritan Center, talked to the commissioners about a plan to replace a white shed on the north side of the building. He said the plan is to take down the existing shed and replace it with a larger shed to hold more of their equipment.

The cost of the new shed would be handled by the center, and the commissioners agreed they had no problem with the plan.

Commissioners Rasure and Tiede suggested that Fuentez might look at a shed with better doors because it might last longer.

Fuentez said things were going well at the center, and that he was working with a resident's committee to look for ways to make it more homelike.

"I told them they needed to take ownership of the building and tell us what they want in it," he said. "I told them it was theirs, because they had to live there when the rest of us went home."

He said they have come up with some good ideas already, and hopes they will continue to find better solutions.

The commissioners approved payment of an autopsy bill as recommended by the district coroner, but decided not to include the cost for embalming which was included. The motion was made by Frankenfeld and seconded by Rasure. The motion passed 3-0.

The commissioners went back into closed session with Way for 15 minutes. No action was taken when they returned. The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

The next regular meeting will be 8 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 21, in the commissioner room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, Eighth and Broadway.



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