

Offender fails to register

By PATTY DECKER
Colby Free Press

A Wisconsin man is being held at the Thomas County jail for failing to register as a sex offender, the Colby Police Department said Friday.

William David Buckel, 26, known by the nickname of Billy Bob, was arrested March 12, on a warrant from the U.S. marshal's office on behalf of the state of Wisconsin.

"We had some inquiries from the public asking if we have caught a child molester," said Gary Shull, Colby Police Department investigator, "but just to set the record straight, Mr. Buckel was not arrested for a sex crime in Colby or Thomas County."

Mr. Shull said that Colby authorities actually have no idea what Mr. Buckel was accused of in Waukesha County, Wis., other than the fact that whatever occurred did require him to register as a sex offender in 1997.

The first contact that Colby police had with Mr. Buckel was in July when officers here discovered that he was a registered offender in Wisconsin.

"After 10 days and when he did not register with the Thomas County sheriff's office as required by law," Mr. Shull said, "we contacted the Thomas County attorney's office as well as the Kansas Bureau of Investigation's Registered Offender office in Topeka."

Police said police asked if either the county attorney or KBI wanted to prosecute Mr. Buckel.

"We were instructed to contact Mr. Buckel and have him register, which he did on July 28, 2003," Mr. Shull said.

Mr. Buckel had moved twice from that date before being contacted again by police to update his registration, which Mr. Shull said he did on Feb. 25.

It was later learned that the man had moved again and that time he did not update his registration, which resulted in Wisconsin issuing an arrest warrant.

Mr. Buckel is awaiting extradition back to Wisconsin and remains in jail here, Shull said.

In the criminal complaint from Wisconsin, which was filed by Sandy Cornell, a sex offender registration specialist, Mr. Buckel is accused of not complying with the guidelines of his program.

Failure to comply could mean that Mr. Buckel faces up to six years in prison or a fine of up to \$10,000.

Anyone interested in knowing more about sex offenders in most states and what they were convicted of can locate that information on the Internet at: <http://sexoffender.com>

Hospital gets money

Decatur Health Systems received a \$1,000 donation from Wal-Mart recently which will be used for the new fitness and rehabilitation center.

At last year's golf tournament, said Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden, a Wal-Mart employee volunteered to help. As a non-profit organization, the hospital qualified to receive additional money.

The hospital received the check at the beginning of March.



BETWEEN PERFORMANCES during the regional music festival, Scooter Matchett (above) played a quick game of chess in the room assigned to Oberlin students. Band teacher Deanne Spanier and Amber Reynolds (below) talked before her saxophone performance.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt

Students receive top scores

Music poured out of just about every room in Decatur Community High School on Saturday during the annual regional music festival.

With students from almost 20 area schools in town, there was something going on just about every minute of the day. While some students were singing a solo, others played their trumpets or flutes, some sang in groups, others played in groups and still others took time in between competitions to sneak in a game of chess or a sweet snack.

Susan Nelson, who teaches vocal music at the high school, said Decatur Community High has been host for the competition for the past several years. She said the school is the best facility for it, people here are willing to volunteer and the music department is willing to do all the scheduling.

Oberlin students ninth through 12th grades in band and vocal music received eleven II ratings, excellent, and 31 I ratings for superior. Those who received I ratings will travel to Concordia at the



end of April for the state music competition.

Mrs. Nelson said the students start working on their pieces right after Christmas. She and band teacher Deanne Spanier give each student ideas on pieces which they will learn from and be successful doing.

Mrs. Nelson said the music teachers have the time to spend with each

student to give them lessons on the pieces. At smaller schools, she said, there often is one teacher doing both band and vocal. Mrs. Nelson takes care of all the vocal and Ms. Spanier does the band.

Doing well at music competitions is a tradition for Oberlin, said Mrs. Nelson, and the kids work hard at it.

Hearing to be continued Monday

The Oberlin City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday night at The Gateway to continue a public hearing for vacation of an alley downtown.

At the meeting on Thursday, March 18, the council decided to adjourn the hearing to get more public comment.

Greg Fidele, owner of Fidele Electric and Woodcrafting, asked the city to give up the alley between his business and the old cafe so that he could store supplies in the alley-

way. Mr. Fidele purchased the cafe building and fixed its roof. He plans to expand his business into it.

Anyone who wants to comment is invited to the meeting.

County handles courthouse needs

The Decatur County commissioners dealt with several items for county offices at their meeting last Tuesday afternoon.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn asked commissioners to ratify the purchase of three file cabinets.

The bid was \$179 apiece from Top Office Supply of McCook. Mrs. Horn said it would be over \$500.

Offices that will get file cabinets include the register of deeds, clerk, treasurer and ambulance.

Mrs. Horn said the payroll printer went out and needs to be replaced. The could cost as high as \$1,000.

The commissioners approved the purchases.

Mrs. Horn said her office has received a monitor for a computer from the dispatch computer that broke down recently.

The commissioners discussed a new proposal for the roof at the Golden Age Center for around \$40,000. The first bid was over \$60,000. Mrs. Horn said she will start looking for a grant for the project.

A certificate for the new Logan Township treasurer was signed. Martin May was appointed a few months ago, but just took his oath last week.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Signed a resolution for refinancing the bonds for Wheat Ridge Terrace.
- Signed an approval for special township road funds to be transferred from Bassettville, Sherman and Summit townships for work the county road and bridge crew has done.

Four juveniles run; one is still at large

Four juveniles ran away from the Sappa Valley Youth Ranch this week, with one still on the run and a car missing from town.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said the first boy was found about 1:52 p.m. on Tuesday by Edgerton Auto Repair east of town on U.S. 36. He said a call came in that there was a boy by the shop who might be from the ranch. Staff from the facility picked up the 14-year-old and took him back to the ranch.

The second boy ran off around 7:30 a.m. on Thursday. The 15-year-old was spotted near the creek between the ranch and U.S. 36. The police picked him up and took him to the sheriff's office, where an intake interview was done. The boy was then taken back to the ranch.

The last runaway was at 1:26 a.m. Friday, when two 16-year-olds were found missing. One boy was found at Columbia and U.S. 83 around 4 a.m. He was taken back to the ranch. The other hasn't been found yet.

The next morning, a car belonging to Mary Lemman, who lives nearby on South Antelope, was missing. She told police the 1988 Buick station wagon had been taken from her garage. Chief Lockhart said there was some antique glass in the back of the vehicle.

He said he didn't know if the two incidents were related, but the station wagon has not been recovered.

The same day, a fight between two youths, 15 and 16 years old, broke out at the ranch. During the fight, some computers in the school were broken. Neither of the boys was arrested.

Man held in jail

The Decatur County undersheriff arrested a 46-year-old man in Jennings last Wednesday morning for domestic battery.

Elton Gillespie Jr. was arrested last Wednesday morning after dispatch received a call from the Jennings home around 8:40 a.m.

Undersheriff Michael French said Mr. Gillespie and his wife got into an argument about some property in his truck. Undersheriff French said

the wife saw a baking tin in the front seat of the truck and wanted to know what was in it. She got into the truck and found sales receipts in the tin.

Mr. Gillespie then allegedly hit her in the face with the tin. Undersheriff French said there was evidence of battery on the woman's face.

Mr. Gillespie was released from the Decatur County Jail later that day on a \$500 bond.

Items needed for sale

Spring is here, bringing warmer, longer days, which will give everyone time to clean out the clothes that don't fit and things they don't use and give to the Last Indian Raid Museum for its annual rummage sale.

The sale, on Saturday, April 17, and Sunday, April 18, is being sponsored by KFNH radio. It will be held at the Bohemian Hall. All proceeds go to the museum.

The museum is continually changing and bringing in new things. Recently the entire inside walls of the Bohemian Hall were

spackled and painted. Co-Director Myrna Jones said the hall needs a little finish work around the arch to the bathrooms and a tile floor in the basement.

The museum, she said, will start taking donations for the rummage sale on Tuesday, April 6. Ms. Jones said they will be open that day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., then will be open from 10 a.m. to noon, and 1-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday for the summer season. She said they won't take any heavy appliances.

For questions, call the museum at 475-2712.

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