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Threat against President Bush made in Colby

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

A criminal threat to President George W. Bush, domestic disputes, fights and more kept Colby police hoping this weekend, said Chief of Police Randy Jones today. Although unable to release much information, Jones did say there was a criminal threat against

the President of the United States on Friday that was made in town.

"We have sent what we have to the FBI and no clearance was given to release any more than that," he said.

In another separate incident, police arrested Brian Smith of Colby, who is being charged with burglary and theft in connection with recent break-ins in

town.

"This investigation also involves three juveniles who were detained Friday night," Jones said. As of today, property from recent burglaries have been recovered and police are in the process of trying to figure out who the rightful owners of the property are.

More details on the series of the re-

cent burglary ring will be released later this week, he said.

Friday night also sent police to a home on Cherokee Drive in reference to a domestic disturbance at about 9 p.m., followed by another report of aggravated battery involving juveniles at 9:35 p.m.

The weekend didn't seem to im-

prove much on Saturday as police were again called to a domestic fight in the Country Club mobile home area at 11:22 p.m. During the early morning hours on Sunday, police also investigated another assault and battery involving a man who ended up in Citizens Medical Center for injuries following a fight. The man apparently

needed stitches over his eye. Another man, who at this time remains unidentified, was charged with assault and battery for his part in the dispute after 2 a.m. on Sunday.

"In many of these incidences, we are still sifting through information as the investigations continue," Jones said.

On schedule



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Jarrod Taylor, employed with Jim's Electric in Colby, worked on the runway and taxiway lights at the Colby Municipal Airport recently. About 40,000 feet of new cable will be installed underground as part of the

City of Colby's project to repair the lights and cable, which have been continually damaged by rodents in the past few years. The project started six weeks ago and the main runway lighting is complete.

Colby community is ready to help out

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Many organizations, from the Red Cross to private businesses and individuals, in Colby and Thomas County are scrambling to raise money that will benefit recovery efforts in New York and Washington, D.C.

"We've had a tremendous response from our community, particularly people wanting to donate blood," said Donna Finley, director of the Thomas County American Red Cross.

Finley said that with the disaster on the East Coast, the blood supply will be affected for weeks to come and needs to be continually furnished.

Since there are no additional blood drives that can be added in the state at this time, she suggested that people remember to donate during the next scheduled blood drive in Colby on Tuesday, Oct. 16, at Colby Community College.

"Anyone wanting to donate blood can schedule an appointment with Wanda Davis at 462-4797," she said.

Other area blood drives include: Tribune on Wednesday, Sept. 19, and Sharon Springs on Thursday, Sept. 20.

Donations are also being accepted at the Red Cross office here for the disaster relief fund. Checks, she said, should be made payable to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief and mailed to 350 S. Range, Suite 8, Colby, Kan., 67701. For information on upcoming blood drives, donations or questions, call Finley at 462-7161.

In addition to the work of the Red

Cross, a freedom rally is planned on Sunday, Sept. 23, said Cole George, organizer, and he hopes other motorcyclists will join in this cause. Donations of \$25 per motorcycle are being sought by those participating in the rally.

"Our goal is to raise as much money as possible to aid the families of this terrible attack on our country," George said on Friday. He said he is urging anyone interested to call him as soon as possible in the daytime at 1-(800)-804-4840 or evenings at 462-3135 and leave a message.

The tentative itinerary includes a meeting at the Colby Community Building or Village Inn for breakfast between 7:45 to 8:45 a.m.

"From there," he said, "the group will gas up and proceed to the Thomas County Courthouse and leave at about 9:45 to 10 a.m. for Hoxie."

Riders will then go onto Hill City, WaKeeney, Ness City, Dighton and Lake Scott Park for supper and a candlelight vigil service.

Businesses donating to the run were J-J Oil, Wal-Mart, Colby Fire Department, and Village Inn.

One day care provider's children have also been working on ribbons that will be available for donation later this week at local businesses.

Editor's note: As other businesses and organizations involved in fundraising activities to benefit the disaster relief effort are known, information will be released in future editions.

County fair board sets 2002 dates; accepts secretary's resignation

By **MAXINE NELSON**

Colby Free Press

The dates for next year's Thomas County Free Fair have been set for July 29-Aug. 3, the fair board announced at its Thursday night meeting.

Also at the meeting, the board critiqued this year's fair, got a jump-start on plans for next year's and accepted the resignation of the fair board secretary.

Following a 30-minute executive session, the board accepted the resignation of Laura Cook, who will remain with the board through the next meeting.

In other matters at the meeting:

- Extension Agent Dennis Chandler reported having received favorable reports on the fair, and said no one came to him or the other Extension agent with a problem.

- Mark Anderson said he had been "calling around but not got much done" about the carnival for the 2002 fair. He has talked to two or three carnivals who are interested, but does not yet have a contract.

Cheryl Baird had several suggestions and telephone numbers he could contact. Darrel Pabst said he thought the carnival should be done by a local citizens group, not by the fair board,

and hoped someone would step in and offer to do it.

- Vera Sloan said the fair lost money on Family Night, and suggested having a small admissions charge as well as the donation for Genesis Food Bank.

She suggested the board ask for donations of meat for the free barbecue. John Cranston said community members are constantly being asked to donate, and shouldn't be asked to donate

more.

- Mark Anderson said the demolition derby pays more prize money than any neighboring derby and they need to let people know.

There were 26 cars entered this year. The only complaint heard was from some of the women who had wanted to have a powderpuff heat.

- President Mark Miller suggested changing the sequence of events at the

fair to get more interest and attendance. He suggested having the parade the last Saturday of the fair, maybe having the demo derby, barbecue, and family nights on different nights.

He said they could try it once, and see if it works.

- The board paid bills.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Oct. 18. All meetings are open to the public.

Briefly

Weather: 0.78 inches of rain

The weekend rainfall total for Colby was 0.78 inches, bringing the month's total to date to 1.5 inches. Moisture chances remain a good possibility for the remainder of the week, primarily in the form of thunderstorms, ranging from 70 percent tonight to 50 percent Tuesday and 30 percent Wednesday. Overnight lows for the period will be around 45-55 degrees, with highs in the lower to mid-70s. The weekend temperatures: highs, 87 on Friday, 64 Saturday and 71 Sunday; lows, 60 on Saturday, 52 Sunday and 55 this morning. The records for September 17: 99 in 1947 and 26 in 1903. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

Election to be held by mail

The Thomas County Extension Council is conducting its annual election in the form of a mail ballot. Each Thomas County household with registered voters should have received a ballot in the mail by Wednesday. If you did not receive one please contact the Extension Office at 462-4582, or stop in at the office at 350 S. Range, Suite #16.

Learning center plans activities

The Thomas County Learning Center has planned many activities on Thursday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for

the purpose of introducing the many educational services it can provide, said Melinda Fikan, director. Mini-workshops will be held beginning every hour that day at 305 N. Franklin. For questions, call Fikan, 465-7900.

College board to meet

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. today in the board room of Thomas Hall. The board will open bids for the sale of used vehicles, go into executive session with legal counsel, discuss employment with legal counsel, approve payment of a feed bill, and pay bills. The board is also expected to go into executive session to discuss negotiations. The meeting is open to the public.

Chamber tourney scheduled

The 8th annual Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce golf tournament is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 27. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun tee off at 12:30 at the Colby Country Club. The format is a four-person scramble and is open to all interested golfers. The registration fee is \$50 and includes dinner and door prizes. Cash prizes will be awarded to top teams in each flight. For more information or to register contact the chamber at 462-3401.

Homecoming floats wanted

Members of the Colby Booster Club are encouraging all organizations, businesses and individuals to get into the spirit of homecoming by entering a float in this year's parade. The event is planned for Friday, Sept. 21. For information or questions, call Colby High School, 465-5300.

School board meets tonight

The Colby Board of Education will meet tonight at 7 p.m. in the board room of the administration building. Disposal of school equipment will highlight the agenda.

Presenting the king and queen



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Seniors Austin Sprester and Michelle Juenemann, Golden Plains High School homecoming king and queen, were treated to the traditional ride around the field in a convertible driven by Kathi Hapke. Lakyn Rogers and Casey Shaw, selected as Little Miss and Mr. Bulldog by the PRIDE committee also enjoyed the ride along with committee member Evelyn Johnson.

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