



COLBY  
FREE PRESS

# Snag develops in female fugitive's return

By **PATTY DECKER**

*Free Press Editor*

Just when Thomas County law enforcement officials thought they had one of the two people involved in the high-speed chase last August, it turns out they don't.

The woman partner in the duo, Tina Janice Pearce, 23, was expected to be extradited back to the county on Wednesday, but due to a misunderstanding and her refusal to sign the extradition papers, she is still in Angelton, Texas, said C. D. Hopper, investigator with the sheriff's office.

"It was a miscommunication on our part with Texas authorities," said Hopper today. "We were under the impression that extradition orders were signed for Kansas, but in fact, Pearce signed for Mississippi."

Hopper said that Mississippi authorities had forwarded extradition papers ahead of Kansas, but in communications with Texas officials, the impression from them was that papers were signed for Kansas.

The Kansas warrant charging Pearce and Kristopher Aaron Lambert, 21, with aggravated burglary, aggravated assault, kidnapping,

felony theft and criminal damage to property will follow her to Rankin County, Mississippi and those same charges are still pending with Lambert as he faces similar charges in Texas.

Although Pearce is still in Texas, she will be returning to Mississippi to face charges of auto theft.

As of today, the Thomas County Sheriff's office submitted a fugitive warrant to Allan Taylor, county attorney, who is expected to request a warrant issued from Gov. Bill Graves' office.

The warrant will then be sent from the

governor's office in Kansas to the governor's office in Mississippi. Based on probable cause, Hopper said, the court in Mississippi will decide whether or not Pearce should be extradited back to Kansas or not.

"Right now, we are just waiting on the extradition process through the governor's office," Hopper said.

Both Pearce and Lambert are wanted in at least four states and possibly five, he said.

"For sure they are wanted in Wisconsin, Texas, Mississippi and Kansas," Hopper said. "They might even be wanted in Utah for alleg-

edly stealing vehicles out of Tremonton and Ogden, but our last contact with authorities there were that lab reports weren't back yet on fingerprints."

Of all the states, however, Hopper said the more serious charges occurred on Wednesday, Aug. 8, in Kansas where charges are pending for their involvement in the kidnapping of a rural Colby teenager, stealing her 1998 Ford Escort, reportedly stealing a 1991 White Jeep Cherokee in Hoxie and eluding Thomas County authorities earlier in the day in a high-speed chase on I-70.

## Officials to attend drug class

By **JAY KELLEY**

*Colby Free Press*

Claims by former students have prompted high school administrators to attend a seminar on drug abuse next month. Bryan Bullington, principal at Colby High School, told school board members on Monday night that some graduated seniors had said drug use at the high school was as high as 70 percent. Bullington said he thought the number of students wasn't actually that high, but drug use was serious in any numbers.

Janet Worthy, director of the Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center's Colby office, said she thought usage had increased also, but was extremely skeptical of student perceptions. "Most kids think everyone else is doing it," she said.

Bullington and his assistant principal, Jeff Quenzer will attend a seminar at the Hays Medical Center on identifying drug abuse on Nov. 5.

"The seminar will be put on by the Kansas Highway Patrol and health care professionals," said Bullington.

Bullington said unannounced locker searches and visits by drug dogs have not turned up drugs in the past, but if kids can't perform at school, it affects their future.

"This is a community issue, not a school issue," said Bullington, "our concern is to get kids away from this stuff, and get it away from kids."

Drug arrests in northwestern Kansas have been on the increase in recent years, including some large amounts of methamphetamine.

While much has been discovered while being transported, Thomas County and other area sheriff's department have busted manufacturing sites locally.

## Egg-citement above!



CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

Students at Sacred Heart School in Colby had some fun with rockets on Wednesday afternoon as part of McGyver Day, where students learn to solve problems. Each rocket carried an egg that had to survive the launch and landing. From left to right are Tyson Miller, Stephen Dinkel, Jordan Krzycki (launching rocket), Matt Ryan, Bob Schroeder, Jacque Schroeder, Lisa Schroeder (holding Kurt), Laura Schroeder, Julie Schroeder, Kelly Miller (holding Trey), Kriss Schroeder (helping with the launch), Kathy Arnberger (in the right hand background).

## Harvest moving along here

By **JAY KELLEY**

*Colby Free Press*

Although fall harvest was slowed by last weekend's rain, area elevators are busy with truckloads of grain.

The dryland harvest around Brewster is almost done, and Collingwood manager Rex Jamison said the average has been about 45-50 bushels an acre.

"That's about break-even," said K-State agronomist Roger Stockton. Jamison said the irrigated harvest was not far enough along to estimate, but he thought yields would be in the 165-175 bushel range, a little below the average yield of 180 bushels.

Jamison said milo in the area was about 75 percent done, with yields ranging from 10-80 bushels, with the average below 50. Normal yields are in the 80 bushel range.

K-State extension agent Dennis Chandler said yields were "better than anticipated" in some fields north of Colby.

He said he had heard reports of 240 bushels per acre on irrigated corn, although none of the elevators could confirm that.

Diana Luhman from Hi-Plains Co-op, said she thought the harvest was about half-done with most of the corn remaining being irrigated.

"I don't know about yields," she said, "but quality has been good."

Good quality grain has been reported all over the county, even in areas that have been dry.

"You go north about 10-12 miles, and things are real dry," said Tom Veeh from Rexford Grain Co. Veeh said quality is still good, but yields depend on "who got the rain."

"That's the way it is everywhere," said Chandler. "Those who got the rain did all right, but those who didn't suffered."

## Change in trash pickup noted

The city's public works department announced today that yard waste collection will end with the Wednesday, Oct. 31, pickup. However, if residents should have yard waste after that date, they ask that they set it out with their municipal solid waste on their designated day.

Gerry Bieker, public works director, said that residential trash pickup on Saturdays will end with the Nov. 3 pickup.

"Those residents who currently have household trash picked up on Saturday will have their collection day changed to Wednesday beginning on Nov. 7," he said.

The commercial route on Saturday will be minimized to an "as needed" basis.

For questions on the changes, either refer to the government access channel, Channel 4, or call Bieker at 462-4420.

## School district's policy manual faces changes

By **JAY KELLEY**

*Colby Free Press*

Some changes are coming to the Colby School District's policy manual if board members vote to implement the recommendations of the Kansas Association of School Boards at their Nov. 5 meeting. Board members looked at the changes Monday night and will decide whether or not to put them in force next month.

The changes involve usage of district credit cards, the superintendent's

ability to sign contracts, background checks and changes in weapons and drug policies due to changes in state law.

One change stems from problems the Haysville district had when their superintendent was caught using the school credit card for personal items. The new policy would require the board to set limits on use of credit cards and district vehicles. The board would also monitor receipts and expenses.

"This is really something we're do-

ing now," said superintendent Kirk Nielsen. "Marilyn (Reed, board clerk) checks every receipt now." Nielsen said the only change in procedure would be for Reed to note the credit card expenditures on the consent agenda.

Other changes reflect changes in state law. One new policy requires a report to the police department if a student has been found in possession of a weapon. The legislature changed the requirement for a report from the de-

partment of motor vehicles to the local police department. The definition of a weapon was also changed to include "stun guns." Background checks are no longer required for those who haven't lived in Kansas continuously for the past 10 years as the state allowed the law to expire on June 10.

One policy that may not change is the superintendent's authorization to execute contracts. Right now the limit is \$5,000 and the recommended policy would increase that to \$10,000.

## Briefly

### Weather: Just plain nice

Colby's weather though Monday will be nice, says the National Weather Service. Tonight, clear, lows 30-35 and southwest winds 5-15 mph. Friday, sunny, highs 75-80 and west winds 5-15 mph. Friday night, clear, lows 35-40, Saturday, sunny, highs 75-80, and Sunday and Monday, partly cloudy, lows 30-35 and highs near 70. Colby's high Wednesday was 82 and the overnight low this morning was 30. Precipitation remains at 0.45 inches for the month. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 55 degrees both in Colby and at the weather service in Goodland. The records for Oct. 18: 90 in 1927 and 22 in 1898. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

### Commissioners meet Friday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Friday, in special session, in their meeting room in the courthouse. They are expected to approve a resolution for a solid waste plan five-year review and update; approve an agreement between Miller and Associations and the commission-

ers; and discuss a utility request and petition. The meeting is open to the public.

### Kiwanis plans feed

The Colby Kiwanis Club is sponsoring a pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 27, at the VFW, 220 N. Lake. The cost of the feed is \$3 and all proceeds will go to help Christmas projects and other community services. Tickets are available from any Kiwanis Club member.

### 'After Five' site announced

Business After Five will be held from 5-7 p.m. today at Farm Credit of Western Kansas, 375 S. Range. Chamber members and their guests are encouraged to attend.

### Youth to collect food

The United Methodist Church Middle School Youth group and the Catholic Youth Organization will be assisting Colby Girl Scouts in doing *Trick or Treat so Others Can Eat* from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 21, weather permitting. If the weather is bad, it will be held Oct. 28. The girls will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Genesis

Food Bank.

Donors are asked to put the food on their porch in a bag marked "Girl Scouts." For more information contact Jo Frahm, 462-2082.

### Pet wash Saturday at college

The Colby Community College veterinary technology students will hold a pet wash from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 20, at the ag/vet tech building on campus. To make an appointment, call 462-3984, ext. 260 and there is minimal fee.

### Genesis gears up for holiday project

Genesis-Thomas County, which is the area food bank, is again planning to help families during the holiday season, said Marcy Wasson, chairperson of the Christmas basket project. Families in need and who are interested in receiving food and services during this special time are asked to pick up forms at the Genesis-Thomas County office, 350 S. Range, Colby, or call, (785) 462-7930 for information or questions. All applications must be returned to the office by Friday, Nov. 2.

### Church auction scheduled

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Colby, is having its annual charity auction, *A Star Spangled Auction*, on Saturday, Oct. 20. This year the auction location has been changed to the Colby Community Building. Doors open with a silent auction at 6 p.m.; the oral auction begins at 7:30. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the parish rectory, call 462-2179.

### Hunter education course upcoming

There will be a hunter education course offered this fall by the The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Colby volunteer instructors, and the Colby Recreation Department. The course will be held at the Colby Community Building and those planning to attend must be present at all the sessions, said Benny Young, with wildlife and parks. The dates of the course will be Tuesday, Oct. 23 and Thursday, Oct. 25 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 27 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., with range instruction from 2 to 4 p.m. . Students also need to pre-enroll at the Pirates Den, 1115 S. Franklin in Colby. For questions, call (785) 462-6631; (785) 462-7602; or (785) 462-3367.

