



Two Sections  
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# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Symbol of friendship



PATTY DECKER/Free Press Editor

Neil Smith (right), general manager of Shelbourne Reynolds, 1250 S. Country Club Dr., Colby, with the assistance of his parts manager, Josh Lowrie, adjusted the British flag on Thursday that symbolizes his country and the United States fighting together in the war against terrorism. "The flag shows how the English and American people are working together, similar to what we have here in Colby," he said. Shelbourne Reynolds, which is a British-based firm that manufactures headers for grain harvesting equipment, is located next door to Stephens Construction. Smith was born and raised in a rural town 120 miles west of London and has been in Colby for six years.

## According to surveys

# Finding birds may be problem, but finding rooms shouldn't be

By JAY KELLEY and  
MAXINE NELSON

*Colby Free Press*

Colby motel managers say they are "doing okay" for this year's pheasant hunting season and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks said the bird population is down a little from last year.

Tammy Horn, of Holiday Inn Express said they weren't completely booked, but the numbers were about the same as last season.

Carrie Riedel, of Days Inn said their numbers were about the same as last season, noting that pheasant season wasn't the biggest weekend for them, but it was "pretty good."

Jeanne Crawford, at the Country Club Drive Motel said their numbers were up from last year, "but some of those are workers as well as hunters."

Crawford said they didn't have every room full, but they had a lot of reservations.

Managers all said business had gone up since Sept. 11, though.

"We're up about 10-20 percent," said Eugene Goralski at the Super 8 Motel.

Angie Hemel, Best Western Crown Motel said they had been very busy since September, but numbers had been dropping off in the last two weeks.

Howard Culver, at Comfort Inn, said there were more people driving instead flying, which helped motels in locations like Colby, but didn't help others.

"Some of the airport motels are really hurting," he said. "Mid-September was very good and October was a little

## Things to keep in mind

All hunters, age 16 to 65, must have a license. All out-of-state hunters regardless of age, age 16 or older must purchase a non-resident license.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks issues hunting and fishing licenses on-line. The system is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week for those who want to purchase hunting or fishing licenses or renew a boat registration. Go to [www.kdwp.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us) to get your license.

In Thomas County, licenses are available at the Thomas County Clerk's Office, Wal-Mart, and C-M Gun & Pawn in Colby, Golden Prai-

rie Taxidermy & Rafter B Outfitters in Brewster, and Co-Ag in Rexford.

An annual hunting license will cost \$15.50 for a Kansas resident. Non-resident hunters will pay \$65.50 for a license.

Those non-resident hunters under 16 years of age will pay \$30.50. Residents under age 16 do not need a license. Get permission from the landowners before hunting. If land is posted "No Hunting" or "No Trespassing," hunters should respect the landowner's request.

More information about pheasant hunting can be seen on the Web at [www.kdwp.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us)

better than usual." Linda Wellman from Budget Host said they were down a little, but the entire year had been down from last year.

"We've still got quite a few rooms, but we're getting close," she said.

Traci Bruggeman, Ramada Inn, said business had been up for the motel, but she wasn't sure about the restaurant.

As for pheasant hunters, she said, "We have a lot of reservations, but we really won't know until they show up."

With respect to hunting, Benny Young, conservation officer with Kansas Wildlife and Parks, reports that the pheasant population is lower this year.

"From all of our surveys and everything I've been hearing the pheasant

population is down quite a bit this year. I really don't know why.

"It could be the weather, farming practices have changed over the past years, weather has a big influence, too. There are a number of bunch of contributing factors," he said.

Young said the pheasant population seems to be a little better back around Norton, Graham, Rooks, Ellis, and Phillips counties. "They seem to be a little better than we are, but not much," he said. "There will be pockets of pheasants and it will be hard to find those pockets."

Young reminds hunters to get permission from landowners before they hunt.

# Collision sends three to Wichita

By JAY KELLEY

*Colby Free Press*

Three people remain in Via Christi-St. Lukes Medical Center in Wichita after a two-vehicle accident at 4 a.m. Thursday sent eight people to the Logan County Hospital.

St. Lukes officials said Jaclyn Schmidt, 22 Victoria, remains in critical condition and James Barks, 33 and Kaycee Rogers, 12, both of Calhan, Colo. were in serious condition.

Logan County Hospital spokesman

Jay Plank said Schmidt and Barks had been flown out in critical condition and Rogers was sent to Wichita in stable condition.

The Kansas Highway Patrol said the accident happened when Barks, who was driving a 1997 Chevy on I-70 between Colby and Oakley at milepost 69, saw Schmidt's 1993 Ford parked sideways in the road too late to avoid a collision.

Barks' vehicle flipped on it's side and landed in the south ditch and

Schmidt's car came to rest in the left eastbound lane.

Along with Schmidt, Barks and Rogers, six other passengers in Barks' car were transported to the Oakley hospital.

Charlotte Rogers, 36, Dylan Rogers, 8, Ethan Barks, 10, Kynzee Rogers, 3, and Kyrstyn Rogers, 10 were all treated and released.

The highway patrol report said all of the occupants of Barks' car were wearing seatbelts, but that Schmidt was not.

# Leavenworth youngster who found \$2,600 wad of cash gets to keep it

LEAVENWORTH (AP) — More than \$2,600 that fell from the pocket of a fleeing man and then went unclaimed for six months now belongs to the boy who found it.

Because there was no school last March 19, Chase Gillaspie was at home with his two younger brothers when he heard a knock at the back door of the family's third-floor apartment.

The knock surprised Chase, now 14, because the family used that door only

to take the dog outside.

Chase opened the door and saw a man dart down the back stairs, jump from the second-floor landing and run toward the woods beyond the apartment complex. Before he disappeared into the thicket, something flew out of his jacket pocket.

Chase followed, and to his surprise found that the man had dropped a neatly folded wad of cash. He scooped it up, ran back inside the apartment and

headed for his bedroom.

There, behind closed doors, he counted 26 \$100 bills, two \$20s and three \$1s — \$2,643 in all.

After a fleeting first thought — "I found it, I get to keep it" — he reached for the phone and called his mother at work.

"He was so excited when he was talking to me on the phone," his mother said Thursday. "The first thing out of his mouth was: 'Mom, you won't be-

lieve what this man dropped!'"

She told her son to go to the apartment manager's office so he'd be safe in case the man returned for the money. Then she raced home.

On Thursday, Chase's truthful instinct paid off. Since nobody had claimed the money, Leavenworth Police Chief Lee Doehring presented him with a check for \$2,643.

Doehring said that according to state law the police department must keep

all found property for six months and advertise it in the local newspaper. To claim the property, the owners must provide police with details about the item and where it was lost.

Usually people claim jewelry, purses, wallets and other items, Doehring said, adding: "I can remember one or maybe two instances where we've returned found property to the finder. It's rare that we have a wad of cash like this turned in."

Doehring said he believed the man who dropped the money knocked on the wrong door. And, for the record, Chase's family has since moved to a new address.

"I'm proud of him," said his father. "It shows he's learned some responsibility."

Chase said he'll spend some of the money, share part of it with his brothers, Travis, 13, and Shane, 9, and put at least half in the bank.

# Reno County sheriff bound over for bribery trial

HUTCHINSON (AP) — Reno County Sheriff Larry Leslie was bound over Wednesday to face trial for bribery after preliminary hearing testimony in which his former undersheriff described an alleged kickback scheme involving profits from the county jail annex.

Bound over with the sheriff were Gerald Hertach, a Hutchinson attorney

and businessman, and the company he set up to manage the annex, MgtGp Inc. Each faces 34 counts of bribery, alleging that Hertach paid the sheriff almost \$285,000 over three years in exchange for Leslie's insistence that MgtGp get the annex management contract from the Reno County Commission.

The trial in Reno County District

Court will probably be held in the spring.

In testimony before Senior District Judge Michael Barbara, former undersheriff Ken Angell portrayed Hertach as the mastermind of the scheme, in which he said he was to have been a partner. Angell, who retired for health reasons in 1999, said he dropped out of the purported partnership the year be-

fore because he "just didn't feel right about it."

Angell said the plan called for the three partners to share \$225,000 in estimated annual profits generated by the jail annex, which opened in January 1998. One-third of the estimated pot — between \$75,000 and \$78,000 annually — was scheduled to remain with Hertach, Angell said.

## Veteran tribute planned

A *Tribute to Veterans* will be presented by Dick Weston at 11 a.m. Monday at the Senior Progress Center in Colby.

## College play continues tonight

*Heaven Can Wait*, presented by the theater department of Colby Community College, continues tonight at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday. The performance will be held in the Frahm Theater at the Cultural Arts Center.

Salute to our Veterans  
see pages 4 & 5

## Briefly

### Weather: No changes seen

The weather for the Colby region is going to stay pretty much the course through Tuesday, anyway, the National Weather Service said in its mid-morning forecast today. Tonight, clear, lows in the lower 30s and light and variable winds. Saturday, mostly sunny, highs in the middle 60s and light southwest winds. Saturday night, clear, lows in the lower 30s. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, partly cloudy, highs 60-65 and lows in the lower 30s. No precipitation is expected through the period. Colby's high Thursday was only 47 and the overnight low this morning was a downright cold 14, just one degree off the record low of 13 set on this date in 1913. The record high for Nov. 9 is 80, set in 1914. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 50 degrees. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

### Piano recital Sunday

There will be a pinao recital beginning at 4 p.m., Sunday, at the United Methodist Church in Colby. "There will be 40 students and adults performing in *An Afternoon of Piano Pops*, said Sharon Kriss, coordinating the event.

### VFW to honor veterans Saturday

The Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars and their ladies' auxiliary will be saluting all veterans with a social at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 Saturday night at the VFW hall, 220 North Lake. Also, a special salute to Korean War veterans, including: Don Alldredge, Raymond Bange, Verlin Bell, Lewis Black, Francis Bohme, Larry Booth, Jack Brier, James M. Brown, Murray Custer, Charles Davis, Daniel Denneler, Otis Dewey, Louis W. Dible, Cleo Duffy, August Durham, Richard Eller, Philip Finley, James Firestone, Lynn Hagler, Donald Harrison, Duane Hauser, Delmer

