



COLBY
FREE PRESS

Marijuana, lots of cash result in stops on I-70

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

During the past week, approximately 300 lbs. of marijuana and \$100,000 in cash has been seized off Interstate-70 in or near Thomas County, said Capt. Kelly McGuire, troop commander with the Kansas Highway Patrol in Hays.

The most recent seizure happened prior to the icy weather and accidents on Sunday afternoon when a highway patrolman stopped two people from California for failing to signal when changing lanes.

The driver, Tiffany Veneable, 34, of Shaker Heights, Ohio, was stopped at 12:44 p.m. at milepost marker 42 and consented to a search which yielded 86 lbs. of marijuana discovered in a duffel bag in the trunk. Both Veneable and a passenger, Paul Sheldon, 23, of Daly City, Calif., were taken into custody and are being held in the Thomas County Jail.

Another stop late last week involved a New York man who was stopped at milepost marker 74 by a trooper for speeding. Anthony Bonafede, 32, of Eden, N. Y., also consented to a search which resulted in 33 lbs. of marijuana in a suitcase.

Two earlier stops last week resulted in an additional 175 lbs. of marijuana seized. In one case, McGuire said, Loren Hector of Newark, N.J., driving a 2002 Mitsubishi was stopped at milepost marker 53 for speeding and 40 lbs. of marijuana was found in the trunk of his vehicle. Near Oakley, Nereida Barragin, 22, driving a 2001 Ford Explorer and pulling a U-Haul trailer, was stopped for not having a safety chain on the trailer.

While interviewing the driver, McGuire said, the trooper got permission to search the vehicle and subsequently found 135 lbs. of marijuana. Barragin and a passenger, Amadore Orozco of Sylmar, Calif., were both taken into custody.

In one other stop last week, McGuire said a Pennsylvania man was stopped at milepost 50 for speeding. In questioning the driver, the trooper became suspicious and asked to search the car resulting in the discovery of \$100,000. The money was found in false compartments on both sides of the vehicle.

"This case has been turned over to the Drug Enforcement Agency," McGuire said today, "and we cannot provide any other information at this time."

Teacher charged in child pornography case resigns

WICHITA (AP) — A Wichita Catholic school teacher charged with possession of child pornography resigned on Tuesday, the same day the Wichita Diocese had planned an announcement on whether he would be fired.

Jeffrey Klazura, 29, a fifth-grade teacher, allegedly ordered and received pornographic pictures of minors off the Internet, U.S. Attorney Eric Melgren said. The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Postal Service and the FBI.

Klazura, who was in his second year at St. Thomas Aquinas School, was charged Thursday and released Friday after posting \$20,000 bond.

Klazura won't be eligible to teach in the Wichita diocese again, said Chancellor Robert Hemberger. And if other schools call for a reference for Klazura, "We'll be very truthful to them," Hemberger said.

By contract, Klazura had to be suspended seven days before the diocese could fire him. During that period, which ended Monday, Klazura could have appealed but did not, superintendent Bob Voboril said.

There were no reports of misconduct involving Klazura at St. Thomas Aquinas, Voboril said.

If convicted, Klazura faces up to five years in a federal prison.

Reservist's wife awaits birth of quadruplets; dad awaits deployment

WICHITA (AP) — Scrawled in crayon and pinned up in Christina Tetrick's hospital room, the well-wisher's card summed it up nicely: "It's a boy, boy, boy, boy."

But for Christina and her husband, Pat, the birth of their first children is still a waiting game. Her official due date is in late May, but at a little over 30 weeks along she's already well within the average term of 28 to 31 weeks for quadruplets — and could have the babies at any time.

As his wife spends the last days of her pregnancy alone in Wichita, Pat Tetrick, 34, has been doing a different kind of waiting at Fort Riley. He is a sergeant first class with the Hutchinson-based 346th Military Police Company, an Army Reserve unit activated as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

His unit was activated in 1990 for Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and again in 1997 for Operation Joint

Guard in Bosnia, Hungary and Croatia.

Although his unit was activated Jan. 14 in the wake of the terrorist attacks, it has yet to be deployed. He will likely be gone a year once the unit gets its orders.

"The hardest thing is realizing my husband won't be here the majority of the time," Christina said in an interview from her hospital bed. "That is definitely the hardest."

His family lives in Wichita, but all her family lives in St. Louis, where she grew up.

Her husband got a few days of emergency leave to be with his wife when it looked like the babies might come earlier this month. Her mother, Toni Schardan Skipper, also came down to be with her daughter. But doctors were able to stop the labor and give the babies more time to develop.

It also gave the mother and daughter more time to research their family past — and trace a long line of twins in



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

The public works department with the City of Colby started removing the island just south of Interstate-70 near Southwind Plaza and Village Inn on Tuesday. The work is necessary in completing the Horton Avenue project and removing the island was mandated by the Kan-

sas Department of Transportation in meeting specifications. Above: Kevin Helus (right) and Rick Kuper were cutting out more asphalt in preparation for pouring cement. Officials said this part of the project should be completed before the end of the week.

Initial work on new city street begins

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Work started Tuesday in preparation for a new street in Colby just south of Interstate-70 by Southwind Plaza and Comfort Inn.

The City of Colby's public works department removed the island near where the street will soon be put in and today began flattening the surface for laying concrete, said Ron Kogler, street foreman.

Originally, the project was designed further south of Comfort Inn, Kogler said, but due to concerns by the Kansas Department of Transportation, plans were changed.

The state wants Horton Avenue to be more aligned with Taylor Avenue rather than how it was first discussed. Taylor Avenue serves as the entrance to Southwind Plaza.

The maximum project costs have been estimated at \$210,000, which includes other miscellaneous items such as subgrade materials, asphalt removal, pavement markings, slope drains, and curbs, said Gerry Bieker, public works director. The project was delayed about a month ago, he said, after the state wanted the design reconfigured for curbs and elevation issues. In addition, the state wanted the island on Highway 25 removed before the actual street work began.

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Christina Tetrick
soon-to-be mom of quadruplets

their family.

Christina's multiple pregnancy is the result of two eggs splitting in the womb, giving her two sets of identical twins. In the last three generations on her side of the family, they counted six sets of twins, five of them identical, said Christina, 28. Going back four generations on her side, they have found 11 sets of twins.

The predilection for twins comes from the mother's side, she said. They have named their sons Peyton, Parker, Camden and Christian.

The couple — who also plan to celebrate their first wedding anniversary in June — were not using fertility drugs, and they didn't plan on having children so soon. Pat also has a 4-year-old son, Dakota, from a previous marriage. They had just bought a new home, which they planned to pay off with their two incomes. But that was before he was activated and before they learned she was pregnant with quadruplets. Their income has since been cut to less than half.

"To know now I can't work for the

next five years was a huge change in our plans," Christina said.

She had a good job as a construction engineer. Before his activation, he was working full time at Communication Technology Association while also a full-time student majoring in sports administration at Wichita State University.

They've known from the 17th week of pregnancy that she was carrying quadruplets.

"I cried for joy ... then it turned to fear," she said. "My husband was completely excited. He talked to me about being happy, and we'd figure the rest later."

Later is now. To help them meet the added expenses of raising quadruplets — on less than half of their normal income — the Tetricks have hired a Wichita advertising firm, Lottridge Advertising, to help them find corporate sponsors. The firm has developed a logo and Web page for the family. A

fund has also been set up to help the family pay expenses.

Theresa Lottridge said her firm took on the account without immediate pay in the hopes they could get paid for their efforts later from corporate interest in the quadruplets.

"We are investing in this for her sake, as well as ours," Lottridge said.

The family, which had so far shied away from the limelight, is now seeking coverage on national television shows and other media outlets. The firm is handling all the publicity the pregnancy has generated.

Christina said families with other multiple pregnancies typically hire an agent, but she wanted something less obtrusive and felt a local advertising agency would better suit their needs.

"They are checking into product endorsements and getting our name out there," she said. "Maybe it will get us diapers and formula, and maybe we can keep our house."

Briefly

Weather: Very nice

The nice weather is expected to hang in for the Colby area through the weekend, says the National Weather Service. Tonight, partly cloudy, lows in the middle 30s and northwest winds 10-20 mph. Thursday, sunny, highs in the middle 60s and northwest winds 10-20 mph. Thursday night, partly cloudy, lows in the lower 30s. Friday through Easter Sunday, partly cloudy, highs 60-63, lows in the low to middle 30s. Colby's high Tuesday was 59 and the overnight low this morning was 22. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth averaging 37 degrees. No additional precipitation to report. The records for March 27: 82 in 1989 and -1 in 1931.

(The temperatures and precipitation are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Brewster school board to meet

The Brewster School Board will have a special meeting at 4 p.m. Thursday. They expect to go into executive session to discuss personnel.

Scholarships are available

The Colby High School Career Center is offering the following scholarships: Edward Zahn Agriculture Scholarship to Allan County Community College; Neosho County Community College Foundation Scholarship; Will to Win - Asthma Athlete Scholarship. Also, Pittsburg State is having an Hispanic-American symposium on Friday, April 5. Highland Community College is looking for several responsible individuals who would be interested in managing the Scottie football program.

AAUW scholarship deadline nears

Female students who have graduated from a Thomas County high school and will be a junior or senior in college for the fall semester of 2002 could be eligible for up to \$1,000 total scholarship money over four semesters. The scholarship offering is being made available by the American Association of University Women, said Vanessa Eicher, scholarship chairperson. Applications are at Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. 4th, Colby, and the deadline to file is Monday, April 1, 2002. For questions, call Eicher, (785) 462-7438.

Workshop rescheduled to April 2

The Rural Home Owners Workshop, called off Monday due to weather conditions, will be held on April 2 in the

Little Theater at the Colby Community Building. RSVP the Thomas County Conservation District at 462-7482, ext. 38.

Spring turkey permits available

Spring turkey permits are available at the Thomas County Clerk's office in the courthouse. The season dates are from April 10-May 19. There is a youth season between April 5-7.

'Bugz' musical scheduled

First grade students at Colby Grade School will present a musical play entitled, "Bugz," at 1:15 p.m. and again at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 4, in the elementary school auditorium. Everyone is invited to attend the free performance. For questions, call 465-5100.

