



COLBY FREE PRESS

Students witness attempted theft in parking lot

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

A Rexford man could be charged with battery and felony theft after attempting to steal a pickup from the high school parking lot in Rexford on Thursday and then assaulting a Golden Plains High School student trying to stop him from taking it.

Anthony Endreola, 34, is currently in the Thomas County jail awaiting further evaluation as to his mental state with charges being recommended to Allan Taylor, Thomas County attorney, said Cloyde Hopper, investigator with the sheriff's department today.

The incident was reported to authorities at about 11:40 a.m. after students, who were taking a test in the gymnasium, happened to notice a man getting into a pickup they knew was owned by a fellow student, Hopper said.

As the student observed the activities outside, he noticed the man was

starting to maneuver the vehicle out of the lot.

Apparently, the student then turned to the owner of the pickup saying, "Hey, somebody is trying to steal your truck." In response, the student left the gymnasium and tried to stop the theft by leaning into the driver's side over the man to get the key from the ignition.

Endreola is alleged to have pushed the youth out of the way as he drove from the lot. Hopper said the young man was not injured.

Ken Patton, a deputy with the Thomas County Sheriff's office, was then dispatched to the scene when school officials called to report that a man had stolen a 1998 GMC Sierra pickup and assaulted a student.

After locating the pickup, Hopper said, Patton tried to take Endreola into custody, but he resisted. However, within minutes the man was apprehended.

Colby woman enters guilty plea in child case

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

A Colby woman entered into a plea negotiation earlier this month in Thomas County District Court for her involvement in two felony-level charges of indecent liberties with a young child under the age of 14.

Tonya S. Meyer, 25, pled guilty to attempted aggravated indecent liberties with a minor and aggravated indecent solicitation of a child on Wednesday, April 10, according to the journal entry filed on the case at the Thomas County Courthouse.

As part of the negotiation, the original charge of rape was dismissed and the second count of the indictment, which had been aggravated indecent liberties with a child was amended to "attempted" aggravated indecent liberties.

Meyer, who is currently out on a

\$100,000 bond, was arrested in May after authorities were alerted to incidents that alleged she had been involved with a male youth from around May 11, 1997 through Dec. 31, 2000.

The complaints, at that time, alleged that Meyer had engaged in lewd fondling or touching of a child under the age of 14 and further had accosted and/or enticed him into committing unlawful sexual acts.

Following Meyer's decision to plead guilty to the two charges, Glenn D. Schiffner, district judge, said the court would accept her pleas and directed court services to prepare a presentencing report prior to June 5.

Pending the outcome of that report, Meyer could face from 50 to 136 months in jail for the attempted aggravated indecent liberties charge and from 32 to 46 months for the solicitation charge.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Smart Start staff (l to r) Nathalie Staats, Maureen Ostmeyer and Cindy Schafer, added final touches for Saturday's open house at Kids Port.

Kids Port plans open house Saturday

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

A new alternative hour childcare facility will soon be opening in Colby and, in celebration of the long-awaited event, an open house is planned Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Kids Port, which is located in the same building as Puddle Duck Preschool, with the entrance on N. Garfield, was a concept started in 1999 when the Birth to Success Coalition applied for the Smart Start grant and developed 10 goals for the project, said Cindy Schafer, with Smart Start.

The new childcare facility, with

plans to open for business in the near future, will not compete with traditional family childcare providers, she said, but will offer scheduled drop-in, night, and weekend care for children whose parents work unusual hours instead of the typical 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. workday.

"Kids Port promises to be a tremendous asset to parents with evening or weekend employment," Schafer said, "and it will also serve as an early childhood training facility, providing hands-on experience for Colby College students."

Renovation for the new facility started in August of 2001 with many

volunteers working alongside Smart Start staff during the construction phase. During the next several months, the physical aspects of the site were nearly complete; however, before it could actually open, Smart Start staff needed to tackle licensing and staff requirements, she said.

"The overall objective of Smart Start," Schafer said, "is to ensure that all children enter school healthy and ready to learn."

Quoting from statistics by Cosmos, Inc. of Bethesda, Md., Smart Start across Kansas has impacted some 10,000 children during the first year of the grant awards.

The organization serves 11 rural counties including Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Graham, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas, Trego, and Wallace.

The Regional Prevention Center is the fiscal agent and lead agency for the Smart Start grant and also provides local evaluation for the project, said Sue Evans, director of the center. For information on admission or enrollment requirements, call (785) 465-9103.

"Everyone is invited and encouraged to come and celebrate the opening of this new asset in our community," Schafer said.

Beware: /t/s out there, you can see it, and it poses a deadly threat

By **TOM A. DREILING**
Free Press Publisher

It's out there and knowing what to do about it could save your life.

Scott Metzger, meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service office at Goodland said today that it is lightning, and that Sunday will usher in the second annual observance of Lightning Safety Awareness Week.

He said the primary goal is teaching lightning safety skills to youngsters all over the country. Metzger said lightning

is the second deadliest weather-related killer in the United States, averaging 73 deaths per year. In addition, he said, hundreds of people are injured, many with serious and lasting impacts on their quality of life.

Metzger said knowledge saves lives, and that the goal is to make K-12 students and their teachers and coaches aware of the dangers of lightning, and more importantly, how to protect themselves and others from the threat of lightning. Lightning deaths and injuries

in the United States occur most frequently in open fields, including ballparks and playgrounds. Those spearheading this special week say it is critical for schools, since many have activities in open fields such as recess on the playgrounds and competition on athletic fields.

Lightning can strike over 10 miles away from a thunderstorm. The easiest rule to follow, meteorologists say, is simply this: "if you hear it, clear it... if you see it, flee it." They say it is then

safe to go back outside 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning.

Metzger says the centerpiece of the week-long observance is a comprehensive lightning safety website — <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov>.

The site contains facts about lightning and detailed information on where to seek shelter when thunderstorms threaten.

He encourages students and teacher to visit the site, which is available throughout the year.

Advanced spotter class set


The Goodland National Weather Service office will hold an advanced storm spotter training session on May 1 in Colby at the Community Building at 7 p.m. (CDT).

It is hosted by Thomas County Emergency Management.

The class is open to storm spotters who desire a more in-depth discus-

sion of severe storms and spotting techniques.

There is no fee, but attendees must have completed a basic storm spotter training class. Seating will be limited, so pre-registration is required. Call Joy Hayden at the Weather Service in Goodland at (785) 899-6412 to pre-register.



Thumbs up!



✓*Trojan Quiz Bowl Team* — good luck at state today and Saturday.

✓*Kathi Wright* — the county's new EMS director.

✓*Earl & Mildred Yarnell* — congratulations on your 60th wedding anniversary today.

✓*S & T Communications* — welcome to town.

✓*Dale Deaver* and All Others — for your hard work in promoting the Beulah Cemetery improvements.

✓*All Local Volunteers* — you deserve a standing ovation.

✓*Pride of the Prairie Orchestra* — thanks for another super season.

✓*Underwriters* — of the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series, thanks for bringing David and Julie Nixon Eisenhower to our college, or town.

✓*John Bremenkamp* — new Chamber of Commerce president.

✓*Teachers Karla Denny, Gordon Rasmussen, Kyle Shively, Randy Koons* — "Award of Excellence" recipients.

✓*Ken Winter* — new president of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association.

✓*Kylie Reilley* — outstanding honor from your classmates at the Tech College in Goodland.

✓*Doyle Glasscock* — new pastor at Landmark United Pentecostal Church.

Call us at 462-3963 or e-mail td@nwks.com to submit a name or group for inclusion in this salute.

Briefly

Showers mentioned

There is still an outside chance for showers overnight tonight, says the National Weather Service in its Colby forecast this morning. Tonight, cloudy, a 20 percent chance for showers, breezy, lows in the lower 40s, southeast winds 15-25 mph, gusting to 35 early. Saturday, a 30 percent chance for showers early, then becoming partly sunny, highs in the upper 60s to around 70, west winds 5-15 mph, becoming north late. Saturday night, partly clear with a 20 percent chance for showers early, then becoming clear, lows in the middle 30s. Sunday, all sun, highs around 70, and Sunday night and Monday, partly cloudy, lows in the upper 30s to around 40 and highs in the middle 70s. Colby's high Thursday was 60 and the overnight low this morning was 35. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 54 degrees. The records for April 26: 91 in 1927 and 23 in 1907. *(The temperatures and precipitation are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

Forensics open house Monday

The Colby High School Forensics team will sponsor its annual open house on Monday, April 29, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium, said Nancy Rundel, head coach. The open house is held each year to showcase the talents of students prior to state competition, which this year will be held on Saturday, May 4. In addition to performing forensic-type activities, the students will also do a variety of skits. Everyone is invited to attend. For questions, call 465-5300.

Rexford Pride plans flea market

Rexford Pride is sponsoring a flea and farmers market beginning on Saturday, May 4, with plans to have one the first Saturday of each month throughout the summer, said Kathi Hapke, one of the organizers. The events will be held at the Rexford City Park from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and are open to everyone. For those wanting to sell merchandise, there will be 10' x 10' spots in the park for rent at a cost of \$10 with \$5 going back to the spot renter if the area is cleaned after use. Participants would need to bring their own tables and chairs. For questions, call (785) 687-3925.

Youth workshop scheduled

Logan and Thomas County are sponsoring a hazardous occupational training workshop on Wednesday and Thursday, May 1 and 2, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Thomas County Extension Office. The event is open to all youth ages 14 and 15 who will be operating farm equipment for people other than their parents, said Dennis Chandler, Thomas County extension agent. Registration is \$8 and supper will be provided. For questions, call either the extension office in Oakley at (785) 672-3245 or in Colby at (785) 462-4582.

County hosts bike, safety fair

The Thomas County Health Department will be sponsoring a free bike Rodeo and Safety Fair from 4-6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1, at the Thomas County Office Complex. The event is open to children ages 6-12 with supper served. Keyna Baalman, Colby Police dispatcher, will instruct the

children on aspects of bicycle use and safety. The bikes will be inspected for any servicing they might need and the health department will register each child's bicycle with the police department. Bicycle helmets can also be purchased at the time of registration. For questions or to register, call 462-4596 and give the model and make of your child's bicycle.

Rexford plans annual clean up day

The City of Rexford is having its annual clean-up campaign on Saturday, April 27, beginning at 9 a.m., said Kathi Hapke, one of the organizers. For those who would like to drop off old appliances (no freon) can do so on Friday, April 26, when a trailer will be available at Rexford City Hall for that purpose. For those unable to bring items to that location on Friday, Hapke asks that they call (785) 687-3340 or (785) 687-2400 for arrangements. For those who can volunteer time at the clean up, Hapke asks they be at the Rexford Community Building by 9 a.m. the day of the event.

Parking regulations revisited

With the warmer weather and as people begin turning their attention to recreational activities, the City of Colby is reminding its citizens that no truck, motor vehicle camper, trailer, machinery or equipment can be parked on any street or alley within the city in excess of 48 hours, officials said. The police department is authorized to remove and impound any of these types of vehicles that would be in violation of this regulation, said Carolyn Armstrong city manager.

