



COLBY FREE PRESS

Thompson case Judge orders treatment, supervision

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Michael A. Thompson, 18, of Colby, was ordered by Thomas County District Judge Glenn D. Schiffner to be placed in an appropriate treatment program and further ordered that he be supervised by community corrections for a period of 60 months for his part in a two-car collision, which resulted in the deaths of two other teenagers in January 2000. The decision was made during a sentencing hearing on Wednesday.



Thompson

Thompson, who had pled guilty in April to amended charges of involuntary manslaughter and aggravated battery stemming from the deaths of Angela Duden and Justin Shaw, both 17 and both from Colby, was sentenced to 32 months on the manslaughter charge and eight months for the aggravated battery charge to run concurrently with the Kansas Department of Corrections. However, based on sentencing guidelines and testimony presented,

the decision was made to place Thompson in appropriate treatment and supervision, in lieu of a prison term.

Prior to Schiffner's ruling, victim impact statements were made from members of Angela Duden's family to include her mother, Doris; father, Ivan; and sister, Sarah, along with testimony from the defense, which included a neuro-psychologist at the Craig Rehabilitation Center in Denver and Thompson's mother, Christina.

In addition to those who spoke at the sentencing hearing, Judge Schiffner said he had also received many written statements as well.

The accident happened on Jan. 29, 2000 at the intersection of Thomas County Road 27 and Highway 24. Thompson was driving a 1976 Cadillac and Duden was driving a 1995 Probe. The crash occurred when Thompson failed to stop at the intersection.

Shaw was a passenger in Thompson's car and Brice Reynolds and William Pederson of Colby were passengers in Duden's vehicle.

Shaw was pronounced dead at the scene and Duden later died in Denver. Both Thompson and Pederson suffered major head trauma and were hospitalized and in rehabilitation for almost a year after the accident.

'They're getting my goat'



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Jaxson Haas, along with Clay Cassaw and Miranda Kern looked on as Amy Jennings, director of Puddle Duck preschool, fed Dale the Goat. Dale was at the preschool to help the youngsters learn about farm life.

"Just because you don't live on a farm," Jennings said, "doesn't mean you should be able to see farm animals." Ashley and Lisa Jones brought two horses along with the goat to Puddle Duck.

Thermal imaging camera approved for city's firefighters

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council approved the purchase of an \$18,880 thermal imaging camera for the fire department during its meeting this week.

The council's decision was based on information provided by fire department officials who had tested five different thermal cameras and recommended the Talisman ISG K90XL, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager.

In addition, the Thomas County Sheriff's office offered to split the cost with the fire and police departments, since the camera would be of benefit to them as well.

"This camera will aid us tremendously," said Bob McLemore, fire chief, "and will help us with fire tactics and in hazardous conditions that might otherwise not be obvious, such as in basements and attics."

The sheriff's office will also benefit

in search and rescue operations, he said, since it sees infrared and looks for heat. In other words, when the camera sees something hotter than the background it will show up in white.

Another feature of the camera was its safety aspect when firefighters enter a building obscured by smoke and they can't see four inches in front of their faces, McLemore said.

"With this camera we would be able to see the whole room and anything

hotter would be brighter on the screen, which would aid us in searches and help us to find the seat of the fire a lot easier."

Armstrong noted that the city's share of the cost would be about \$12,587 with the fire department having raised about \$4,477 through pancake feeds and other various donations, along with the police department's \$8,110 available in the 2002 budget.

In other business:

- The council approved a contract for transportation gas through Post Rock Gas of Holdrege, Neb. The contract is for two years beginning June 1, 2002 and subject to a 45-day written cancellation.

- Colby Mayor Warren Hixson recommended the following appointments, which were approved by council. They included the reappointment of Lisa Wilson, and appointments of James Mardock and Brenda Kimberly

to the Pioneer Memorial Library board with terms to expire in April of 2006.

- The council approved the Thomas County Fair parade's route from Fike Park south on Franklin Ave. to Cedar St. then west on Cedar to Range Ave. The parade will be held on Tuesday, July 30 at 5:30 p.m.

- Hixson was appointed by the council as the alternate member on the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency board of directors.

Hundreds honored at high school ceremony

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Hundreds of awards and scholarships were presented to Colby High School students Tuesday night in the auditorium.

In addition to the honors bestowed, thousands of dollars in scholarship money was also distributed.

The following students (in alphabetical order) were recognized:

- Sarah Ackerman — Academic Letter 2001-02.
- Courtney Albers — Academic Letter 2001-02 and Outstanding Achievement English II.
- Kristen Arensdorf — Hays City Silver Award and Award of Excellence in Psychology.
- Bruce Arnberger — perfect attendance.
- Matt Augustine — Academic

Achievement in English I and English I Outstanding student.

- Melissa Augustine — \$100 scholarship and honorable mention in Regional Journalism.
- Nick Baden — Outstanding Achievement English III

- Emily Bailey — \$200 scholarship, Gold Star Service Award, Senior Class President, Who's Who Among American High School Students, Phoebe Harkins Memorial Scholarship, and Colby College Music Scholarship.
- Zach Baird — Outstanding Achievement English III
- Cassandra Barnett — Outstanding Applied Math I Student
- Christopher Barnum — perfect attendance and Board of Regents Curriculum completer.
- David Barnum — Reading Award and perfect attendance.

- Collin Bielser — Jazzman Award and Scholar's Bowl letter.
- Troy Bielser — Academic letter 2001-02.

- Megan Blatt — Academic letter 2001-02.
- Michelle Bremerkamp — Academic letter 2001-02.

- Steve Bremerkamp — Academic letter 2001-02, FFA Scholarship for \$1,000, Pete Henry Scholarship, Ag Crops and Soil Scholarship, Ag Activity Scholarship, Vocational Farm and Ranch Scholarship, Northwest Kansas Corn Growers Scholarship, Thomas County 4-H Scholarship, Diversified Crop Production Proficiency Award, Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Proficiency Award, and Principal's Leadership Award.
- Jessica Brenn — Colby College Dance Team Scholarship.

- Jessie Brenn — KIAAA Scholarship nomination and Heisman nomination.
- Shalin Brogan — Academic letter 2001-02, Honors English II Excellent Student and Spanish II - all A's.

- Lacy Brown — Outstanding Student in World History.
- Shane Carter — Academic letter 2001-02 and Jazzman Award

- Sly Cassidy — Outstanding Achievement English III.
- James Coplin — Forensics letter.
- Jessica Coplin — Forensics letter.
- Joe Cox — Academic letter 2001-02 and Outstanding Achievement English III.

- Josh Cox — Academic letter 2001-02, Geometry Student of the Year, Director's Award, Forensics letter, per-

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Stovall reveals wedding plans

WICHITA (AP)—Attorney General Carla Stovall, who recently pulled out of the Republican race for the governor's office, on Wednesday announced her plans to marry.

Stovall, 45, said she'll marry Larry Steckline, 60, over Labor Day weekend. The Wichita Eagle reported in today's editions. The Aug. 31 wedding will be in St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Grand Lake, Okla.

Stovall, who is president of the National Association of Attorneys General, introduced Steckline to the staff in Attorney General John Ashcroft's office and divulged their plans.

"Everyone is very happy for us. It's been magnificent," Stovall told The Eagle.

And part of that, she said, was her

decision to drop out of the governor's race April 15.

"I like to think I would have had the courage to get out of the race," Stovall said. "It wasn't right for me, even before Larry. It just became more obvious once we started dating."

She said she is relieved to be out of the race and that "it feels like a year and a half ago that I made the decision not to run."

And Steckline couldn't be happier about Stovall's decision. He and Paul Statton, a friend who lives in Grand Lake, wrote a song to prove it.

"Larry and Paul are going to sing it at the reception," Stovall said. "It's called 'Carla, Don't Run for Governor,' and when they sang it to me, I cried."

Briefly

Wind highlights weather

Wind will be a problem Friday and Friday night, advises the National Weather Service in its Colby area forecast issued today. Tonight, partly cloudy, lows in the 40s and southeast winds 10-20 mph. Friday, partly sunny, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms late, highs in the middle 60s to around 70, southeast winds 20-30 mph, with gusts up to 40. Friday night, partly cloudy, a 40 percent chance for thunderstorms, lows in the upper 40s and strong, gusty winds continuing. Saturday, partly sunny, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, highs 70-75. Saturday night, partly cloudy, a 30 percent chance for thunderstorms, breezy, lows in the upper 30s to around 40. Colby's high Wednesday was 70 and the overnight low this morning was 32. Precipitation remains at 0.02 inches for the month. The records for May 9: 98 in 1911 and 30 in 1909. (The temperatures and pre-

cipitation are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Walk Kansas finale noted

The final celebration for the Thomas County *Walk Kansas* program will be Wednesday from 12:10-12:50 p.m. in the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Lunch will be provided for those who register with the Extension office by Friday. Call the Thomas County Extension Office, 462-4582.

Fair board meets today

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday in the 4-H Building to make plans for the fair and conduct routine business. They will also hear reports from 4-H representatives and fair board representatives. The meeting is open to the public.

Basketball 3-on-3 Saturday

The Mid-America Youth Basketball 9th and 10th grade girls team is sponsoring a 3 on 3 street ball tournament on Saturday in the Southwind Plaza parking lot. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. with tournament play to start at 9. There will be three divisions for boys and girls high school age, age 19-30, and age 31 and up, male and female. For more information call Linda Taylor at 462-3058.

Video program Sunday

The annual Colby High School Senior Video Viewing is planned for 7:30 p.m. Sunday in the auditorium. All seniors and their parents are invited to watch the video and then pick up their pictures and video tapes that were ordered earlier. For questions, call Jamie McClure, 462-3024 or Peggy Miller, 462-7383.

College graduation Saturday

Colby Community College will celebrate its 37th annual commencement at 2 p.m., Saturday, in the Colby Community Building.

There will be 376 students awarded associate degrees, said Debbie Schwanke, director of public information. Dr. Duane Dunn, president of Manhattan Area Technical College, will deliver the commencement address, and degrees and certificates will be conferred by Dr. Mikel Ary, president, and Kenton Krehbiel, chairman of the board of trustees.

Also on the commencement program is David and Lois Ferguson for honorary associate degress; presentation of the Mosier Award to this year's outstanding graduate; and presentation of the Tangeman Award to the distinguished teacher in 2001.

