



COLBY FREE PRESS

Tuesday is election day, vote!

Three busts reported, jail full of alleged dealers

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS
Colby Free Press

The Kansas Highway Patrol and the Thomas County Sheriff's Department were busy on Friday with six arrests in conjunction with three drug busts. The first happened around 4 p.m. when a highway patrolman pulled over a vehicle driven by Mariano Cruz-Mora, 25, and Salvador Lopez-Verdin, 36., at mile marker 60 on I-70. Both of the men are from San Jacinto, Calif. Both Cruz-Mora and Lopez-Verdin were booked into jail pending the filing of formal charges for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute. A couple hours later, just after 6 p.m., a Thomas County Sheriff's Deputy pulled over a 1997 Ford Taurus driven by Esteban Guerra, 26, and Ezequiel Gonzales-Sandoval, 39, for not using

a turn signal while changing lanes.

The officer was told by the pair the vehicle belonged to a friend and they were on their way to Indianapolis, Ind. to visit family.

The officer was told they were not carrying any illegal substance and gave permission to search the car, a spokesperson said.

After opening the trunk, the officer noted the fabric covering the back seat and that of the rest of the trunk did not match. Further investigation saw bolts that should have secured the back seat in place were not there, suggesting a secret compartment.

The deputy escorted the two back to the Law Enforcement Center in Colby so a further search could be done. An electrical device which opened a secret compartment was found, and inside the

compartment were 15 kilo bags of what a field test determined to be cocaine.

Both men were arrested and booked with the possession of cocaine with intent to sell.

Within another couple of hours, another highway patrolman pulled over a 1997 Ford Escort driven by Maria Nuñez, 33, and her brother Juan Carlos Nuñez, 21.

After a search of the vehicle, 35 lbs. of marijuana was found under the back seat and hidden in both panels of the rear doors.

Charges for the pair include possession of marijuana, conspiracy to distribute, failing to obtain a drug tax stamp, and illegal use of a communication device.

All six are being held at the Thomas County jail.

Council has full plate Tuesday

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council has a full agenda when it meets for its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, in council chambers.

Among items will be some discussion regarding the penalties on drought/emergency water regulations and fines with respect to residents watering outdoors during the restricted time period from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. daily.

However, Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, did say that overall Colby

citizens have been cooperative and helpful in reducing water consumption.

Also, the council will hear presentations from both the library and recreation on budgets for 2003. In addition, a public hearing will be held on the 2002 city and utility budgets, followed by consideration to approve those items.

The council will also consider a proposed project that would replace the pavement on Fourth Street from Franklin east to the railroad tracks, along with talking about Union Pacific

Railroad rights document for street right-of-way from Franklin to Garfield on the south side of the tracks.

In addition, Armstrong said, there will also be discussion on roof repairs at the Colby Community Building and two bids that were received.

The council is expected to go behind closed doors for an estimated 15 minutes to talk about real estate negotiations, she said.

All meetings are open to the public. For questions or an agenda, call 462-4410 or stop by city hall at 585 N. Franklin Ave., Colby.

Russell dedicates fire truck to chief

RUSSELL (AP) — Fire Chief Earl Hemphill's name is written in gold lettering on Rescue 1, the fire truck he rode to the scene of an accident on the day he died.

Hemphill, 61, was directing traffic at the crash scene in April when he was struck by another fire truck. He died a short time later.

As the city dedicated Rescue 1 to

Hemphill on Saturday, firefighters noted that Hemphill had worked tirelessly to get a new truck for the department he served for 35 years.

"This truck was truly his pride and joy," firefighter Steve Knopp said.

Sam Schmidt, now the department's interim fire chief, said the department always struggled to buy new or improved equipment.

Hemphill worked every day to change that, Schmidt said.

To get a newer fire truck, Hemphill led the department in a citywide door-to-door survey.

The department eventually got a grant from the state Department of Commerce and Housing. Rescue 1 rolled into town in the spring of 2001, Knopp said.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley areas

The numbers
Sunday's high, 98
Low this morning, 63
Year ago today, 102 and 67
Temperature at 11:45 a.m. today, 87
Colby's weekend rainfall, 0.27
Month's total, 0.27
Oakley's rainfall, 0.02
Soil temp, 83
Records for Aug. 5: 107 in 1934 and 51 in 1895

The forecast
Today's high for the Colby and Oakley area is expected to reach 100. Tonight, clear, lows in the mid-60s, south winds 10-20 mph. Tuesday, sunny, high in the upper 90s, south winds 10-20. Tuesday night, clear, lows in the middle 60s. Wednesday, partly sunny, highs in the middle 90s. And the 100-degree mark is expected Thursday through Sunday. *(Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)*

Colby Water Usage
• Aug. 2-3-4 = 2,499 million gallons (average over that time frame)
Levels of Concern
Watch Level 3.5 million gallons
Warning Level 4.0 million gallons
Emergency Level 4.5 million gallons
(Three consecutive days)

Two big questions await the voters in GOP governor's race

By JOHN HANNA

Associated Press Writer
TOPEKA (AP) — For voters in the Republican gubernatorial primary, the race comes down to two simple but overriding questions.

Is a tax increase absolutely unacceptable?

But if a tax increase is acceptable,

who do you trust?

If voters answer those questions in that order, they'll know which candidate best fits their views on the state's biggest issue — its budget problems.

The candidates are State Treasurer Tim Shallenburger; Senate President Dave Kerr, of Hutchinson; and Wichita Mayor Bob Knight.

A fourth candidate, Dan Bloom, a businessman and former Eudora school superintendent, dropped out of the race Friday night and endorsed Knight. The winner from Tuesday's primary advances to the Nov. 5 general election to face Democrat Kathleen Sebelius, who has amassed more than \$1.2 million in funds.

The Republicans have spent much of their time discussing the budget because of the depth of the state's fiscal woes.

An economic slump, made worse by a severe drought and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, caused state revenues to fall. Kansas finished its 2002 fiscal year with \$306 million less in its gen-

eral fund than the previous budget year.

Spurred by fears of cuts in aid to public schools, spending on higher education and social services, legislators approved \$252 million in tax increases.

Shallenburger's message about taxes has been the clearest: He has promised not to increase them.

Briefly

College board schedules meeting

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Colby Community College will be held on today at 5 p.m. in the board room of the Thomas Hall administration building.

School board meeting tonight

The Colby School Board will hold its regular meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in the administration building, 210 S. Range. On the agenda is the preliminary approval of the budget publication for the 2002-2003 school year, discussion of out-of-district attendance requests, and program renewals for school lunch, school breakfast, and special milk.

Special election deadlines reviewed

Persons who are sick or disabled have a special application deadline, said Thomas County Clerk Tracey Perkins today. Those in this situation may apply for ballots any time during the regular application period through election day until the hour the polls close, which is 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 6. Also, she is reminding everyone that all advance ballots must be returned by the close of the polls at 7 p.m. on election day as well.

Sacred Heart enrollment nears

Sacred Heart School enrollment and walk through will be Tuesday, Aug. 13, between 9 and 9:30 a.m. For information or questions, call Dave Evert, principal at 462-2813.

Vendors wanted for sidewalk sale

Vendors are wanted for this year's annual *Sidewalk Sale* beginning at 4 p.m. and concluding around 8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 8. According to organizers from the Colby Downtown Merchants Committee, any groups or organizations that would like to sell items are encouraged to call Bonnie Dinkel at 462-2751.

Volunteers needed for August event

Cheryl Schwarz and Chuck Dempewolf, co-chairpersons of the Relay for Life event are inviting people to take part in this unique fundraising event beginning Friday, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. Kicking off the event, Schwarz said, will be the cancer survivors walking the first lap on Friday night. The luminary lighting ceremony will be held at 9:30 p.m. and if anyone is interested in walking as a cancer survivor, purchase a luminary or to help in any way, call her at 462-3232 or Dempewolf at 462-3481. "The Relay for Life is about being a community that takes up the fight," she said.

Colby school enrollment Tuesday

Enrollment for all returning students in the Colby Public School system is Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Colby High School commons area. Packets have been mailed to all returning students, but parents who haven't received this information should call that particular school office, said Kirk Nielsen, superintendent. New students will be enrolling on Wednesday, Aug. 7, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the respective buildings, he said.

Happy retirement



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Friends, relatives and fellow employees of the Colby Free Press visited Maxine Nelson on Sunday during a special retirement reception held in her honor at Fairview Estates Retirement Community. More than 100 people attended the event to wish her well. ABOVE: Nelson looked at one of her presents, a wind chime with cats, during the reception as her daughter, Paula, of Derby and granddaughter, Hannah, 8, looked on.



Thumbs Up!



√Del & Geri Dack — good luck on your move to Paxton, Neb., where Del has accepted the 7-12 principalship, from all your Colby friends.

√Amy Wilson — Thomas County 2002 Rodeo Queen.

√K-18 Guys — on your State Championship!

√Quinnlyn Woofter — Thomas County 2002 Rodeo Princess.

√Thomas County Fair Board — for an enjoyable week.

√Roger Stockton — for the overview on the drought's effect on local and area crops.

√Richard Strutt, Bev Meade, Nadine Kvasnicka, Martha Heier, Dick & Roxie Strutt, Clara Zimmerman, Oliver Lusk, Fred Schwartz, Emma Nelson, Anna Selenke, Fern Ottley, Janet Hinthier, Marvin & Sheila Honeyman, Matt Wasko, Alyston E. Campbell, Sheila Plummer, Delbert Smith, Brenda Janzen, Donna Dumler, Bea Albers, Stan Gallagher, Rose Redel, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Aschenbrenner, Robert L. Clark, Glen Davis, Lillian Martin, Marilyn Heinrich, James Finnell, Maxine Nickelson — welcome to the expanding Colby Free Press family of readers.
(Call us at 462-3963 to include a name or names for inclusion in this weekly salute.)

