



12 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

Friday

October 25, 2002

50¢

Volume 113, Number 210
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Don't forget

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

It's time to fall back on Sunday at 2 a.m. as daylight savings time will come to an end and standard time returns. It's also during this weekend the Colby Fire Department sponsors its "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery" program, Rick Dickman, assistant chief, said.

He said firefighters will provide a variety of services to anyone who schedules a visit on Saturday.

Appointments can be made from now and on Saturday, Dickman said, by calling the fire department at (785) 462-4454.

Services will include smoke alarms, at cost, which would be delivered and installed; inspection of a residents present smoke alarm and replacement of batteries, also supplied at cost; home fire safety inspections and fire escape plans; assistance in selecting and placing smoke alarms and fire extinguishers; and any fire safety questions someone might have.

"The fire department," he said, "started this public service sometime in the mid to late 1980s and we do it because we want to make sure there are smoke alarms in every house."

The annual program, Dickman said, is in conjunction with the International Association of Fire Chiefs and a well-known brand of batteries.

"This one simple act," he said, "increases your chance of surviving a house fire by 50 percent and of all the fire deaths recorded in the United States each year, 80 percent of those deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms."

Anyone in and around the Colby area is encouraged to participate in the program, he said.

"As we think about changing our clocks this weekend, it's also a great time of the year to make another life saving change," Dickman said.

For those unable to schedule an appointment for Saturday, the fire department is here everyday and we can do this public service whenever it works for you, Dickman said.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Time to get with it! Jeff Horlacher turned back the hands of a grandfather clock at Horlacher Jewelers this morning, in preparation for Sunday's time change. Jeff said that turning back all of the clocks and watches at the store is "pretty much an all day job," and involves Jeff, his father Wayne, and store employees Jackie Norman and Erin Schafer.

Judge says 'no bail' for sniper

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP) — Prosecutors in three states and the District of Columbia are today lining up for the first chance to prosecute the two men arrested in the sniper attacks that killed 10 people and shook thousands from their everyday routines.

John Allen Muhammad, 41 — arrested with 17-year-old John Lee Malvo — made his first court appearance Thursday and was ordered held without bail, hours after the nation's largest manhunt came to an end with their capture at a Maryland rest stop where they were sleeping in their car.

Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose, who headed the sniper task force, said both are considered suspects in the 14 Washington-area shootings since Oct. 2.

Three people were injured; no one was hit in a shooting at a store window.

Moose said prosecutors from the seven jurisdictions where the shootings occurred would meet today to discuss filing charges and jurisdictional issues.

Moose said they would issue a joint statement, but he didn't say when.

"This investigation is not done and the work will continue until we can assure that it is complete," Moose said at a news conference Thursday night.

U.S. District Court Magistrate Beth P. Gesner ordered Muhammad held without bail at an undisclosed location at his first appearance in federal court on a federal firearms charge unrelated to the sniper attacks.

His next scheduled court appearance is next Tuesday.

It wasn't clear when John Lee Malvo, a Jamaican citizen, would next appear in court.

Because he is considered a juvenile, all his federal court proceedings are closed.

Malvo was being held as a material witness, pending charges, in the federal case against Muhammad, which stems from a 2000 court order in Tacoma, Wash., barring him from harassing or using force against his wife and children.

Jim Wyda, Muhammad's attorney, noted that his client has so far only been charged with the firearms offense, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The arguments in Maryland will concern "whether his rights are complied with," Wyda said, "before he's taken back to face the charge in Washington."

Michael Bouchard, special agent with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms and Tobacco, said a Bushmaster AR-15 rifle found in Muhammad's car had been linked by ballistics to 11 of the 14 Washington-area shootings, including one in which no one was injured.

The AR-15 is the civilian form of the M-16 military assault rifle. As a soldier, Muhammad received a Marksmanship Badge with expert rating — the highest of three ratings — in use of the M-16, according to Army records. Police also found a scope and tripod in the car, a law enforcement source said.

Gesner did not mention the sniper killings at Muhammad's court appearance. Muhammad, in handcuffs and a green prison jumpsuit, spoke little during the 10-minute hearing.

When Gesner asked if he understood the charge, he quietly answered, "Yes, ma'am."

Prosecutors finish presenting case in Wichita murder trial

WICHITA (AP) — Prosecutors in the capital murder case of two brothers accused of a nine-day crime spree finished presenting their case to jurors Thursday with DNA evidence linking both men to victims of a quadruple killing.

Defense teams for Reginald and Jonathan Carr told the judge they had no witnesses ready to begin their cases.

Ron Evans, attorney for Jonathan Carr, said he would complete his defense quickly.

Jurors were dismissed early and attorneys reviewed the evidence to decide what remaining items would be admitted before prosecutors formally rest their case. More than 90 witnesses and 800 pieces of evidence have been presented in the prosecution's case, the

judge said.

Attorneys for Reginald Carr had planned to begin their defense today.

In testimony Thursday, a DNA expert said evidence from Reginald Carr's red undershorts as well as from the plaid boxer shorts worn by his brother, Jonathan, tie the brothers to victims of a quadruple killing.

The expert, Sindey Schueler, said

analysis of blood spots found on Jonathan Carr's undershorts matched the DNA profile of Heather Muller and that of the sole survivor.

Analysis of the blood spots on Reginald Carr's undershorts and shirts matched Muller's DNA profile as well, Schueler said.

Defense attorneys for Jonathan Carr did not question Schueler. But John Val

Wachtel, attorney for Reginald Carr, spent hours Thursday in cross examination going line by line through much of the DNA report.

Also killed in the execution-style shootings were Aaron Sander, 29; Brad Heyka, 27; and Jason Befort, 26, the boyfriend of the woman who survived.

The Carrs are being tried on 113 charges.

Amtrak taking steps in wake of FBI alerts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amtrak is increasing patrols of its trains and stations because of an FBI warning about a possible al-Qaida attack soon against passenger railroads.

Officials said the warning, based on information obtained from al-Qaida prisoners in mid-October, suggested that terrorists may try to destroy bridges or key sections of tracks.

"The group has considered directly targeting U.S. passenger trains, possibly using operatives who have a Western appearance," the FBI said Thursday in a statement issued to state and local law enforcers.

Captured al-Qaida photographs of

U.S. railroad engines, cars and crossings raised concern about the threat, the FBI said.

The warning is the second this month. On Oct. 9, the FBI and several federal agencies overseeing high-risk sectors such as transportation, energy and agriculture sent warnings urging extra precautions.

Gordon Johndroe, Homeland Security spokesman, said the agency is coordinating efforts to tighten security with the Department of Transportation, and that other federal agencies, as well as the private sector and state and local governments are cooperating in the effort.

Three tornadoes strike Texas city; one fatality

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — After being pounded by three tornadoes that killed a college instructor and injured at least 14 people, residents may get little time to pick up the pieces before more storms hit.

The National Weather Service said heavy rains were expected for this city of 275,000 people for at least two more days. The weather service has forecast 70 percent chance of thunderstorms today, tonight and Saturday.

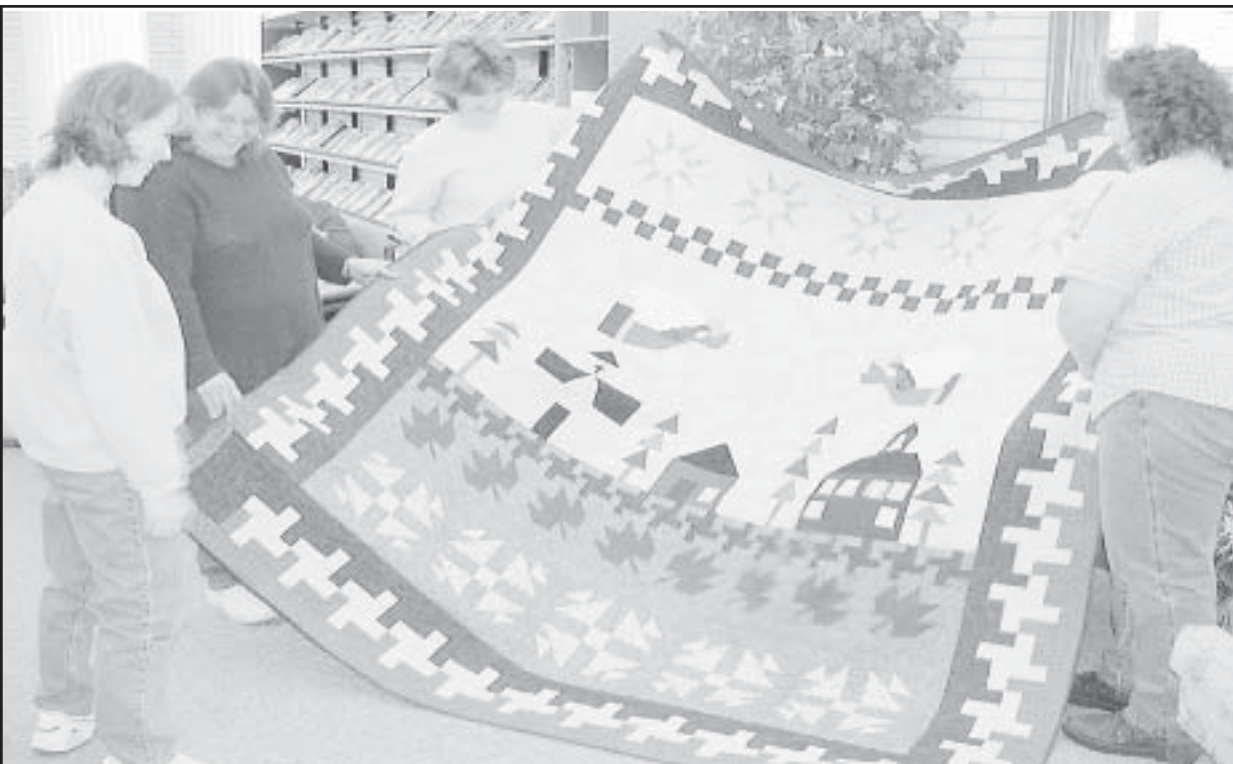
A tornado hit the west campus of Del Mar College between 2:45 p.m. and 3 p.m. Thursday, causing a roof to collapse. The storm, part of a large line of storms moving eastward across Texas,

upended cars and trucks and downed utility poles and power lines. About 13,000 customers of American Electric Power lost their electricity.

"We have extensive damage along the path of the tornado," Corpus Christi Mayor Loyd Neal said. Neal said within an hour and a half of the tornado's strike he had spoken with Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

"He has offered us any assistance we need," Neal said. The death and six of the injuries occurred at Del Mar College.

James R. Gillis of Rockport, an instructor of math and industrial education, was killed.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

The Kansas Prairie Quilters Guild displayed the quilt they made and donated to Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development, which in turn donated it to Pioneer Memorial Library. The quilt will be given away on Dec. 16. Tickets are being sold for the drawing, and the proceeds will be used to update the library's grant writing materials. Guild members displaying the quilt were, left to right: Suzanne Schielke, Chris Moore, Christine Icke and Tracey King.

Quilt aids project at Colby library

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

Organizations and individuals seeking grants will have an updated set of books to use for reference, thanks to Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development, and the Kansas Prairie Quilters Guild. The guild donated a quilt to RC&D, and is selling tickets to win the quilt in a drawing to be held Dec. 16.

Proceeds from the sale of the tickets

will be used by the Pioneer Memorial Library to update its free funding information center. The library is a "Cooperating Collection Center", which makes available for public use sets of private foundation information forms and other resources useful to grant seekers.

In addition to Colby, there are cooperating collection centers in Dodge City, Lakin, Topeka and Wichita. The RC&D obtained financial support

from several organizations in order to secure the library's membership in the Cooperating Collection Network.

"Many non-profit programs have benefited from the use of these materials," said Duane Cheney, coordinator of the Western Prairie RC&D. "Many individuals and organizations have also used this valuable resource."

Tickets for the quilt drawing can be purchased from RC&D, or members of the Kansas Prairie Quilters Guild.

Briefly

Reading event Saturday

Shakespeare Club and Pi Gamma, which are two local organizations involved with the Kansas chapter of the General Federated Women's group are sponsoring a "Make a Difference Day," from 2 to 4 p.m., Saturday at the Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby. The project will emphasize reading hopes to recruit reading mentors. The event is open to pre-school through students in sixth grade and their families. For information, call 462-2081.

Landfill to begin winter hours

The Thomas County landfill will begin its winter hours of operation on Monday, said Larry Jumper, supervisor. The winter hours are: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.

Report cards going home

The Colby School District will be sending report cards home with students for grades K-12. If you do not get a report card, please

send the school a note with your child and they will send another report card home with him/her.

Advanced voting continues

Tracey Perkins, Thomas County Clerk/Election Officer, reminds voters that *advanced voting* continues, and those picking up ballots may mark them at the courthouse at the time they pick them up. She said it isn't necessary that they take their ballots home to mark them, unless they desire to do it that way.

'Recognition Night' tonight

School officials are again reminding all parents of seniors who participated in football, volleyball, cross country, girls' golf, girls' tennis, marching band, drill team, managers and athletic trainers, that tonight has been designated "Senior/Parent Recognition Night." As in the past the ceremony will be held prior to the football game at 7 p.m. Parents are asked to meet at the east end of the football field at 6:45 P.M. Football players will be honored first, followed by band, drill team, golf, tennis, volleyball, cross coun-

try and managers and athletic trainers.

Hospice Auction hours away

The annual Hospice fund-raising auction will be held at the Comfort Inn Convention Center on Saturday. Events begin at 5:30 p.m. and include a social hour, silent and oral auctions and a dinner.

EMTB Course continues

Kathi Wright, Thomas County EMS director, said the EMTB (basic) Course is continuing on Mondays and Wednesdays — through April and additional information is available by calling her at 462-4585.

SHARE delivery arrives

SHARE delivery is Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Sacred Heart School gym. If interested in ordering an October share, call 462-3579. A food share is \$16.50 plus two hours of volunteer time.

Weather Watch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Thursday's high, 32
Low this morning, 22
Year ago today, 59 and 24
Records for Oct. 25, 87 in 1940, 16 in 1975

The forecast

Tonight, clear, lows in the lower 30s. Saturday, cloudy, 30 percent chance for showers, highs in the 40s. Saturday night, cloudy, 40 percent chance for rain or snow, lows in the lower 30s. Sunday, cloudy, 40 percent chance for showers, highs in the upper 40s. Sunday night and Monday, cloudy, 40 percent chance for showers, lows in the 30s and highs in the upper 40s.

