



12 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Robber sentenced

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

A man charged with robbing the Dollar General store in Colby on July 23, 2002 was sentenced today. Gary W. Reynolds, 44, of Gulf Port, Miss., pleaded guilty in Thomas County District Court today. Thomas County took Reynolds into custody on Oct. 14. Ellis County extradited Reynolds from Missouri for prosecution before sending him to Thomas County.

He waived his right to a preliminary hearing and had a formal arraignment this morning. Judge Glenn Schiffner sentenced Reynolds to 59 months to be served consecutively with Reynolds' sentence in Ellis County which is 57 months.

Reynolds robbed a TCBY store in Hays just hours before the Colby robbery. He was arrested in St. Joseph, Mo. within a week of the Kansas robberies. He was caught while trying to rob the Dollar General in St. Joseph. In the Colby robbery, he took an unknown amount of cash from the clerks, leading them to believe he had a gun.

His attorney, Scott Schowalter, entered the guilty plea and Schiffner asked Reynolds a series of questions to make sure he understood his rights and what it meant to waive them. Reynolds told the judge he'd been in prison from 1980 to 2001 and only out of jail 18 months when he robbed the Colby store.

He was on probation and got into debt and "didn't know how to handle it."

County Attorney Allan Taylor said Reynolds is also wanted in Colorado, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Nebraska, but Nebraska has waived its charges against him.



### Cloudy, cool

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie  
forecast

**Tonight...**Mostly cloudy. Lows around 30. East winds 10 to 15 mph. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain showers. Highs around 50. Southeast winds around 15 mph. **Saturday night...**Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain showers. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Lows around 40. South winds 15 to 20 mph shifting to the east 5 to 15 mph after midnight. **Sunday...**Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain showers. Highs in the mid 50s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph. **Sunday night...**Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 30s. Chance of showers and thunderstorms 20 percent. **Monday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.

#### By the numbers:

Thursday's high, 44  
Low this morning, 31  
Records for Oct. 31, 87 in 1950 and 12 in 1905  
Year ago today, 25 and 18  
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
Month's precipitation, 0.23  
Year's precipitation to date, 14.26  
2002's precipitation to date, 12.54  
Soil temperature, 57  
**The sources:**  
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Dr. Victor Hildyard of Colby has probably carved more than 800 pumpkins since he started growing his own patch many years ago. Each one of the pumpkins has its own distinctive look just

in time for Halloween. In addition to the pumpkins displayed on his front porch each year, he also has Frankenstein, spiders and other scary creatures roaming the yard.

## His other practice is pumpkins

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

He even looks after 'patients' out in the field.

That's the side of one Colby doctor few people know about.

For nearly two decades Dr. Victor Hildyard has been adding his own special "treat" to Halloween — dozens and dozens of carved pumpkins.

Each year the family practitioner at Colby Medical and Surgical Center, has cultivated a 150' x 50' plot of land specifically for growing pumpkins, gourds and other ornamental-type melons.

Then as the Halloween season approaches, he harvests the crop by hand and begins the task of separating, cleaning and storing the gourds for later use and preparing the pumpkins for carving.

After so many years, Hildyard has it down to an art.

Nestled in one of the outbuildings behind his home, he goes through the piles and piles of melons deciding which ones will be used for decorative purposes and which ones will make the grade for that year's Halloween.

Located nearby the harvest is his work table and many of the pumpkins he will be carving, along with a knife, spoon, cinnamon, cloves and candles.

While watching his technique, he said he has his own special tips for carving pumpkins.

He said it takes about five minutes to cut the top off the pumpkin, spoon out the insides and carve the eyes, nose and mouth.

When cutting the top, Hildyard said he recommends making a "notch" so that the lid fits better. After spooning out the insides, he artistically cuts a face out. Each pumpkin he carves has its own dis-

tinctive look and he doesn't pencil in any type of outline.

One of his own personal tips for a "great smelling" pumpkin is to add cinnamon and/or cloves in the lid. After the pumpkin is cleaned and carved, he will then sprinkle a generous helping of cinnamon on the inside of the lid. Sometimes, he said, he also like to place whole cloves in the lid as well.

The final step is putting a candle inside, lighting it and replacing the lid. When he has finished, all the pumpkins are hauled to the front of the house for the enjoyment of passersby and the trick or treaters.

On average, Hildyard said he will carve about 50 pumpkins in a season, but this year the pumpkin crop wasn't as good.

"Most years," he said, "we will have at least one or two pumpkins weighing between 100 and 200 lbs., but this year there just weren't a lot

of pumpkins."

Along with the pumpkins, he also said he likes to experiment with table decorations using the variety of gourds. He also will make arrangements using zebra grass and other dried flowers and melons.

In one arrangement, there were gourds hanging from the rafters painted in bright colors, giving them the appearance of huge peanut M&Ms.

With so many hours devoted to his career, Hildyard said his garden serves as a way to unwind. In addition to the pumpkin patch, he also grows many varieties of flowers and grasses wedged inside the rows and rows of trees he planted many years ago.

When asked why he carves so many pumpkins, Hildyard said he just enjoys it.

"It's therapy," he said.

## County pays its share of roadwork near Levant amounting to \$125,000

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Commissioners agreed at their end-of-month meeting today to pay \$125,000 as the county's share of a road project near Levant.

Commissioner Glen Kersenbrock said the county has to pay 20 percent of the tab for redoing three miles of oil road south of

Interstate-70. The state will pick up the other 80 percent of the project.

In other business, Clair Schrock, head of the county road department, wanted to look into buying a couple of new computers for his department.

Kersenbrock told him to figure out how many computers they need and what they want and then they'll look into bids.

"It's only fair," Kersenbrock said.

The commissioners also approved a new water heater for the courthouse for \$250.

County Clerk Tracey Perkins said the building needed either a new valve for the old water heater or it should be replaced.

Also discussed was the possibility of new carpeting at the Thomas County Office Complex.

Kersenbrock wanted to get an idea of how much money there is in the budget for building maintenance before taking bids.

The commissioners will hold their next regular meeting on Monday at 9 a.m. at the courthouse.

Items on the agenda include an executive session to discuss a position at the county health department.

## Briefly

### Names wanted for Heart Tree

The family and friends of the late Dr. Jeff Jennings are once again sponsoring a Heart Tree in his memory. If someone knows of any children in the Colby area whose Christmas wishes should be placed on the tree, call 462-2179.

### College board meets Monday

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. on Monday, in the board room of the administration building for its regular meeting. Items on the agenda include approval of contracts and agreements; vehicle bids; server hardware bid; enrollment initiatives; wellness center; and policy and procedure manual.

### Landfill hours change for winter

The Thomas County landfill has now started its winter hours, said Larry Jumper, supervisor. Effective this week the hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday

from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### Safety taping offered

The Ladies VFW Auxiliary will be safety taping children's Halloween costumes at Dillons on Friday between 4 to 6 p.m. This is a free service providing by the auxiliary to protect youth in the community, organizers said.

### Halloween party scheduled

Wings Upon the Prairie, 485 N. Franklin, will be having a community Halloween game night tonight from 7 to 8 p.m. Games and pop will be available at a small charge. There will be a costume contest with prizes for ages toddler to 3, 4-6, 7-10, 11-13 and 14 and older at 7:45 p.m. Free snacks and hot cider will be provided. Children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent or older sibling.

### Hospital phone numbers change

Telephone numbers at Citizens Medical Center in Colby

will now have the "460" prefix rather than "462," but with one exception, said Tama Unger at the hospital. The only telephone number that was not changed was at the main switchboard, which is still 462-7511. Otherwise all other telephone numbers at the hospital will now be "460." The change was effective on Monday, she said.

For questions, call 462-7511.

### Cheer clinic set for grade schoolers

The Colby Community College cheer squad will host a three-hour cheerleading clinic for girls in kindergarten through grade 6 on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon in the Colby Community Building gymnasium. The cost is \$10.

Those attending will be able to perform with the college cheer squad at the half-time show of the men's basketball game on Sunday Nov. 2 at 3 p.m. Registration Saturday will be at 8:45 a.m.

Questions to Leisa Hansen, Colby Community College cheer coach 462-3984, ext. 275.

## Exchange students like Colby

### Differences are homework, size of classes

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Colby High School has a couple of new faces in its classrooms.

Anett Szigeti from Gyor, Hungary and Watanya Fangsawat of Uttaradit, Thailand are this year's exchange students.

Anett, 15 and a junior, is staying with DeAnn Guy, and Watanya, 17, a senior, is staying with Bruce and Janice Frahm.

Both are enjoying their stay in Kansas, and talked about the differences between the Sunflower state and their home countries.

"I like Colby," Watanya said. "I like the weather here. It's different than Thailand. I'm looking forward to snow."

She said Thailand is hot like Kansas during the summer, except they don't have to put up with Kansas' wind.

Anett's also enjoying the different weather. In Hungary right now, she said it's colder and there's probably already snow on the ground.

American high school is a change for both girls.

Watanya attended an all-girl academy in Thailand. She said the change in Colby is nice because it's co-ed and has fewer students.

Her school at home has approximately 3,000 students.

Anett said the biggest difference here is homework.

As far as classes are concerned, taking American history and government are the biggest change. Watanya's also taking Spanish because she enjoys different languages.

Both are also involved in school activities.

Anett ran cross country this fall and has just joined the dance team. "I like to try something new," she said.

Watanya's looking forward to playing softball because it isn't offered at home.

This is Anett's first exchange experience. She wanted to spend last year abroad but she said she was "too little" to go at 14.

Being in an exchange program is giving her the chance to improve her English. She stressed that in Hungary knowing two languages is important.

Watanya is a second-year exchange student, noting that she spent last year in Hungary and also wanted to improve her language skills.

After high school, she wants to attend university and study political and computer science and computer engineering.

She would like to be an ambassador because she likes contact with people from other countries.

Anett hasn't decided what she wants to do yet but said she would like to go to a university and work abroad.



