



COLBY FREE PRESS

Shootout here leads to more federal charges

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Two men who led five law enforcement agencies through a chase in Thomas and Logan counties on Sept. 22, 2003 will face sentencing on May 17 at the federal courthouse in Wichita, said Kenna Rice, a spokeswoman for the federal attorney's office in Wichita.

Gerald N. Bryant, II of Inyokern, Calif. and Brian E. Berry, also of Inyokern, pleaded guilty to federal charges in United States District Court for the District of Kansas Feb. 27.

The two are currently being held in the Sedgwick County Jail, Rice said.

She said they both faced charges of one count each of conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance aiding and abetting, possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance, interstate and foreign travel in aid of racketeering enterprises, conspiracy to carry a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime, and using and carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

Rice said Bryant pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute and using and carrying a firearm

during the drug trafficking crime.

Berry pleaded guilty to interstate and foreign travel in aid of racketeering enterprises and using and the charge of carrying and using a weapon during the trafficking crime.

She said each man faces 10 years to life for the charges.

County Commissioner Ron Evans said County Attorney Allan Taylor will have to deal with the county charges.

"Whatever the county attorney says, that's his call," Evans said.

"I'm just glad they're taken care of at the federal level and we don't have to in Thomas County."

In Thomas County, Bryant was charged with five counts of attempted first degree murder, one count of possession of methamphetamine, one count of methamphetamine possession with intent to distribute and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia, which is a misdemeanor charge.

Berry was charged with one count of first degree attempted murder, one count of possession of methamphetamine, one count possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Ban lifted in Wichita

WICHITA (AP) — College recruiters from Washburn University are again welcome in the city's public schools.

Last month, upset by the depiction of a Catholic clergyman in a sculpture displayed at the Topeka university, the Wichita school board voted 4-3 to ban recruiters from Washburn.

The city's Catholic high schools had already banned Washburn re-

cruiters.

Board president Michael Kinard asked the school board Monday night to reconsider the ban and apologized for the way it was adopted during a Feb. 23 meeting.

The question was not listed on the meeting's agenda.

Kinard then provided the swing vote in a 4-3 decision to overturn the ban he supported two weeks ago, officials said.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Don Denton of Butch's Body Shop in Colby looks over a Dodge van wrecked in a fatal accident Wednesday morning. Ten passengers were in the van when it struck a guard rail and rolled on

I-70 near the Levant interchange. Two people died as a result of the accident and five were airlifted from Colby for medical treatment.

Names released in fatal crash

TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported today two people died, not three as reported earlier, in the single vehicle accident on Interstate-70 near the Levant interchange Wednesday morning.

The Patrol also reported the Dodge Caravan carried 10 people, not 9 as initially thought.

The dead were identified as Guadalupe Duran, 26, of Mexico,

who died at Citizens Medical Center in Colby and Gomez P. Martinez, 25, of Mexico, who died at the scene of the accident.

His body was taken to Harrison Chapel in Colby.

The white 1997 Dodge Caravan, driven by Angel Garcia-Perez, 35, of Atlanta, Ga. was eastbound on I-70 when the vehicle struck the guardrail at mile marker 43 and rolled, coming to rest in the south ditch, facing north.

The other passengers in the van were Flora Osario-Velasquez, 26, of Mexico; Ines Alfredo Duran, 16, of Mexico; Mary N. Tello, 23, of Chicago; Guadalupe Duran, 26, of Mexico; Gloria Garcia-Duran, 7, of Mexico; Gomez P. Martinez, 25, of Mexico; Jose A. Esquince-Perez, 28, of South Carolina; Jimenez J. Elavisto, 30, of South Carolina and Eberto D. Diaz-Mendoza, 17, of Mexico.

Garcia-Perez (the driver) and the

other passengers were transported to Citizens Medical Center and later five of them were airlifted by Eagle Med for treatment elsewhere — locations not released.

However, Diaz-Mendoza who was transported to Swedish Medical Center in Denver.

None of the vehicle's occupants was wearing seat belts, Highway Patrol officials said today.

City hall, old high school placed on historic rolls

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Two Colby buildings were placed on the National Register of Historic Places recently, which is good news for the city and school district in preserving the past, officials here said today.

The newest additions to the register were the Colby Community High School at 750 W. 3rd St. and Colby City Hall, 585 N. Franklin, said Sue Taylor, director of the Prairie Museum of Art and History.

In addition to the old high school and city hall buildings, the Thomas County Courthouse and Colby Municipal Swimming Pool are already on the register.

"The Thomas County Courthouse was placed on the national register in 1976 and the Colby

Swimming Pool in 2002," Taylor said.

"Placement on the register," she said, "recognizes that the property is significant to the nation, state and community."

Mayor Warren Hixson said it is an honor to have city hall on the register.

"We are preserving the history of our community by being added to the register," he said today.

"There's also opportunity to get preservation grants from the state, which in turn helps taxpayers and keeps the building in good repair."

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, said she agreed with the mayor in preservation efforts.

"It is important to preserve our heritage by maintaining these older historic buildings," she said.

Armstrong added that being placed on the register also opens up possibilities for grant funds to keep the building close to its original look.

Taylor talked about some of the history associated with Colby City Hall noting that it was constructed in 1936 from native limestone from a quarry south of Monument.

"It was also designed with Art Deco influences," she said, "and Suite and Blanchard, from Garden City, were the architects."

The money to build city hall came from Works Progress Administration or WPA funding, which was a way to get unemployed men government funded jobs. Colby Community High School also received that type of funding.

Kirk Nielsen, superintendent of

Colby Schools, said he too is excited about the announcement recently.

"I believe if a building has historic value, it should be fixed up or taken care of," he said. "It bothers me when I see buildings torn down that contain so much history — we need to preserve these structures when possible."

The old high school was built one year prior to city hall in 1935, Taylor said.

In addition, the architects incorporated regional decorative motifs such as half-husked ears of corn, banded reeds, and sheaves of wheat.

"These images reflected and honored the agricultural heritage of the community and the style is evident in the low gabled French tile roof, the arcaded entrance to the auditor-

ium, the arched casement windows, the tower and the asymmetrical plan of the building," Taylor added.

As officials noted, there are many benefits to being on the national register. Among those are grants and state and federal rehabilitation tax credits.

The Kansas State Income Tax Credit of 25 percent, Taylor said, can be used on certified rehabilitation of both Kansas and National Registered properties and the federal investment tax credit of 20 percent can be used on certified rehabilitation.

"I think this shows once again that the Thomas County Historical Society is leading the way in preserving our heritage forever," Nielsen said.

Briefly

Chamber luncheon Friday

The Colby Thomas County Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly luncheon on Friday at the Colby Country Club. All chamber members and their guests are welcome. A presentation by members of the Colby Promotion Committee will be featured. For questions, call Jada Tubbs, 460-3401.

Hydrant maintenance scheduled

The Colby Fire Department is reminding residents that beginning Monday maintenance and flowing work on fire hydrants will take place around the city. The hydrant work is expected to take about one week, weather permitting, said Rick Dickman, assistant fire chief. For questions, call 462-4454.

Early childhood screenings planned

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center staff will be assisting Brewster Public Schools with free early childhood screenings on Thursday, March 25. The screenings will be offered to children with special needs. For an appointment, call Sheri Horney at Brewster Schools, (785) 694-2236.

Share sign up this week

Sign up for Share started Monday and will continue through Friday at the State Farm Insurance Office, 905 E. 4th St., Colby. This month's delivery is Saturday, March 27 at the Sacred Heart School gymnasium. For questions about the Share program or how to participate, call Gene Griffin, 460-3579.

Caregiving class Thursday

The American Red Cross Family Caregiving segment offered Thursday is, "Caring for the Caregiver." Featured speaker will be Elaine Patacek of Heartland Rural Counseling Services. Class begins at 7 p.m. at the Red Barn Senior Center in Rexford. Call 462-7161 to register.

Walk Kansas program begins

Those registered for the Walk Kansas program need to begin recording their miles walked on Sunday (March 14). Any aerobic activity may be used in place of walking using the formula of fifteen minutes of activity equals one mile. For those who planned on participating and missed the registration deadline, D'Ette Scholtz, extension agent, urges

them to call the Thomas County Extension Office as soon as possible at 462-4582.

Chautauqua programming offered

The Chautauqua Committee is looking for groups or organizations who would like to be a food vendor during Chautauqua week. "This could be an excellent fund raiser," said Leilani Thomas, with the committee. Food service is needed each evening from June 11 - 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. Beverages and sandwiches such as sloppy joes, hamburgers, polish sausages, bierock or casserole items would be suggested. Groups interested are asked to call the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643.

Free workshop planned

Colby Community College will host a free workshop on the new Kansas Destination-Based Sales Tax Law on Thursday, March 25, in the Colby College Student Union, Room 106. The 90-minute session will begin at 9 a.m. Larry Barrett, one of the presenters, will review the purpose and methods of the new program and how it affects local businesses. For information call Barrett at (785) 462-6215 or email <mailto:lbarrett@kspeach.com>lbarrett@kspeach.com.



Change coming

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. South winds 5 to 10 mph. **Friday...**Partly cloudy. Warmer. Highs in the upper 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. **Friday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy then mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain showers in the afternoon. Windy. Highs in the mid 60s. West winds 10 to 15 mph becoming northwest 25 to 35 mph in the afternoon. **Saturday night...**Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Windy...Cooler. Lows in the mid 20s.

The numbers

Wednesday's high, 59
Low this morning, 23
Records for March 11, 87 in 1989 and -20 in 1948
Year ago today, 70 and 19
Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00

March total, 0.74
March snowfall, 1 inch
Soil temperature, 45

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.

