

Colby dispatchers recognized during special telecommunications week

Each year, the second full week of April is dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunications.

This week, April 11-17, is set aside to thank the Communications Officers of Colby Police Department for their efforts to assist the Thomas County citizens in their time of need.

In helping to explain the function of the communications officer, Marlene Pfeifer, who is with the office, offered the following information.

The Communications Center is composed of five full-time communications officers and one records clerk.

"We have one dispatcher on each shift to answer phones, assist officers with information, page EMS personnel, take initial fire calls, and help people who walk into the Law Enforcement Center needing assistance," she said.

When there is a crisis, whether it's weather related or crime related, off-duty dispatchers come to the aide of their on-duty co-worker helping where it is needed to keep a calm flow of information to those on the street.

A brief introduction of our employees follows to help you connect the voices on the phone to the name:

Pfeifer said she has been with Colby Police Department since May of 1990; starting out as a Communications

Officer I, became Emergency Medical Dispatch certified in 1994,

was promoted to Communications Officer. II in 1995 and to Chief Communications Officer in 1998. She is also the Terminal Agency Coordinator for the department which includes lots of paperwork for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Kansas Highway Patrol and re-certifying all dispatchers, officers, and deputies on NCIC every two years. My dispatching time has cut back to part-time, but the added paperwork and meetings help to keep her as a full-time employee.

Pfeifer's most recent project was applying for funding which will make Wireless E-911 a reality for Thomas County without adding to the citizen's tax burden.

Keyna Baalman began her employ with the Colby Police Department for the second time around in September of 1991.

"You will usually hear her on the radio on the 11 pm to 7 am shift, Pfeifer said.

"Keyna's initial law enforcement duties began in 1984 as a dispatcher for the Colby Police Department. Between 1985 and 1991, she was a street officer for the Oakley Police Department and a deputy for Morton County.

She returned to Colby in September, 1991. She received her EMD certification in 1996 and was also promoted to Communications Officer II in 1996.

Baalman not only serves the department as a dispatcher; she can also be found giving tours to young

children or possibly at a business or other county event sharing information about 911, fingerprinting children for Ident-A-Kid, participating in the Bicycle Rodeo, or standing along side McGruff the Crime Dog.

Baalman is also in charge of keeping the dispatch section of the Mobile Command Post up to date incase of an emergency.

Darren Touslee has been with the Colby Police Department since April of 1995 as a Communications Officer I having received his emergency medical dispatcher certification in 1996, and promoted to Communications Officer II in 2000. Presently, Touslee works the 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The records clerk, Susan McMahan began working for the Colby Police Department in December of 2000.

She received her emergency medical dispatcher certification in 2002.

Along with her records duties, Pfeifer said, McMahan still helps the other dispatchers when the schedule is tight.

McMahan is also an emergency medical technician with Thomas County Emergency Medical Services.

Tanya Christensen was hired by the police department in December, 2002. She attended the class and tested to received her NCIC certification in March of 2003. Christensen attended a two-day training at Garden City Community College in March to add to her initial in-

house training and will take the second part of this training the end of April.

"Our newest dispatcher," Pfeifer said, "is Tashia Kuper, who joined us this last September."

Along with her initial in-house training, Pfeifer said, she also took the two-day training at Garden City Community College in March and will be returning the end of April for the second part. Kuper also became NCIC certified in March.

"As you can see, we have a blend of the old ways mixed with some new recruits which brings new life, and new ideas, into the Communications Center," Pfeifer said.

"When I first began at the Colby Police Department, the life of a communications officer was about five years."

However, Pfeifer noted that with the years of service Baalman, Touslee and she has, this is no longer the norm.

"Communications is no longer just a stepping stone to other areas of the Criminal Justice system; it can be a career," Pfeifer said. "I am lucky to have some wonderful people working with me and ready to assist you when you need help."

During this special week to recognize the communications officers within the city, Pfeifer encourages everyone to get to know those people who answer the phone.

For questions or other information, call 462-4460 or stop by the Law Enforcement Center, 225 N. Court in Colby.

Houseplant tips offered by experts

MANHATTAN — Indoor plants usually stage a growth spurt in spring, while outdoor plants are leafing out. They're responding to the longer days.

So, houseplants may need to move into a larger pot, even before some of them go outside in May to spend summer in a sheltered site.

"Indoor plants can become root-bound, just as patio and window box plants do. In fact, most houseplants need to be repotted every year, although a few can be unusually fast or slow growers," said Ward Upham, horticulturist with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

The measure of whether an indoor plant needs room is not the same as gardeners use with outdoor container plants or purchased transplants.

"If you can see a clear network of roots on a houseplant's root ball, it needs to move up to a larger pot," Upham said. "The plant may never recover if you wait until the roots are circling the bottom or growing out of the drainage holes."

A much bigger container isn't the next logical choice, though. Too-big pots make preventing

root rot much harder, the horticulturist said.

Plants that are growing in a pot that's 10 inches wide or less should move into one just 1 inch wider than their current home. Plants in pots that are more than 10 inches in diameter should move into one 2 inches wider.

Because checking houseplants' root ball tends to be messy and sometimes difficult, Upham often suggests running the test outdoors on a mild day, several hours after watering the plants.

"With small pots, just slide the plant's stem between two fingers as you place that hand over the top of the pot. Turn everything upside down. If that doesn't make the root ball slide out, rap the edge of the pot on a table or such. Then the plant should come free," he said.

Larger pots can be a bigger challenge, particularly if the roots are crowded.

"Place the pot on its side and rap its top edge with a rubber mallet.

"Turn the pot a few degrees, rap again and keep repeating that procedure until the established root ball comes loose, intact," Upham said.

Wichita seeks to reassure worried visitors

WICHITA (AP) — When any big gathering comes to town, the visitors have questions: Where will I stay? How will I get around? Where's a good place to eat?

With the city's BTK Strangler case still unsolved — and the serial killer back in the news 18 years after his last known murder — the questions become more fearful.

Wichita officials are taking steps to allay any worries that members of the Women's International Bowling Congress might have about visiting for the organization's national tournament, which is expected to

draw more than 42,000 people between next week and July 6.

The expected economic impact is \$25 million for the city and \$55 million for the state.

"These ladies come from all over the world," said John Rolfe, president and chief executive of the Greater Wichita Convention and Visitors Bureau. "It's a big convention, and we want them to feel safe about it."

Other groups planning visits to Wichita will have their concerns addressed as well, Rolfe said.

The bowling group, while ac-

knowledging inquiries about BTK, has also reassured its members.

"We wanted them to know that yes, we are concerned about it, and we are taking the appropriate measures to make sure they'll have a good experience in Wichita," executive director Roseann Kuhn said.

Kuhn said there have been no cancellations yet.

BTK — the name stands for "Bind, Torture, Kill" — killed at least seven people between 1974 and 1978. Last month, shortly after the 30th anniversary of the first

murders, he sent a letter to The Wichita Eagle claiming responsibility for a 1986 killing as well.

Police have said the letter, which contained a photocopy of photos of the victim and her driver's license is authentic.

Police Chief Norman Williams said the department has a security plan in place.

"The profile of this person does not fit coming into hotels and coming into bowling centers and attacking people," Kuhn said. "I'm more concerned about tornadoes and bad weather than a serial killer."

Check each issue of the Free Press for additional TV Listings

TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

WEEKDAYS

APRIL 13 - APRIL 19

	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KLB/ABC (4) (6)	News	Good Morning America					Make-over	Make-over	The View		Hollywood	News
KSNK/NBC (8) (9)	News Cont'd	Today							Live With Regis and Kelly		Martha Stewart Living	
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News		The Early Show			The 700 Club			The Price Is Right		The Young and the Restless	
K15CG (3)	World News	Priscilla-Yoga	Body Electric	Caillou	Boohbah	Barney-Friends	Dragon Tales	Lions	Sesame Street		Clifford-Red	Teletubies
WGN (13)	Changing-Voice	Believer	Celebrity Justice	Hillbilities	Hillbilities	Happy Days	Matlock		In the Heat of the Night		Rockford Files	
NICK (29)	Oddparents	Rocket Power	Rugrats	SpongeBob	Max & Ruby	Rubbadubbers	Dora the Explorer	Blue's Clues	Dora the Explorer	Blue's Clues	Little Bill	Maggie-Beast
FAM (30)	Digimon-Digital	Bayblade	Power Rangers	Digimon-Digital	Growing Pains	Living the Life	The 700 Club		7th Heaven		Full House	Growing Pains
USA (31)	JAG	Varied Programs										
TBS (37)	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Movie				Dawson's Creek		Dawson's Creek		Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell
TNT (38)	The Lost World	The Pretender			Charmed		ER		ER		Judging Amy	
DSC (42)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Assignment Discovery		Varied Programs		Designer Guys	Designer Guys	Rally Round the House	
A&E (47)	Impressionists	Movie					Murder, She Wrote		Murder, She Wrote		City Confidential	
ESPN (49)	SportsCenter	SportsCenter			Sports-Center	Varied	SportsCenter		SportsCenter		Outside-Lines	Baseball Tonight
HBO (7)	Movie Cont'd	Varied Programs				Movie			Movie	Varied Programs		
DISN (17)	JoJo's Circus	Stanley	The Wiggles	JoJo's Circus	The Wiggles	Stanley	Rolie Polie	Rolie Polie	Out of the Box	PB&J Otter	Koala Brothers	The Wiggles
MAX (21)	Movie Cont'd	Varied Programs										

WEEKDAYS

APRIL 13 - APRIL 19

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KLB/ABC (4) (6)	All My Children		One Life to Live		General Hospital		Dr. Phil		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	News	ABC Wild News
KSNK/NBC (8) (9)	News	Family Feud	Days of Our Lives		Passions		Inside Edition	Family Feud	Millionaire	Jeopardy!	News	NBC News
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News	Bold, Beautiful	As the World Turns		Guiding Light		The People's Court		Oprah Winfrey		News	CBS News
K15CG (3)	Reading Rainbow	Mister Rogers	Varied Programs			George Shrinks	Beren Bears	Liberty's Kids	Cyberchase	Arthur	Zoom	Business
WGN (13)	News		MLB Baseball		Varied Programs					Fresh Prince	Home Improve.	Will & Grace
NICK (29)	Max & Ruby	Dora the Explorer	Rugrats	Rugrats	Varied Programs				SpongeBob	Amanda	U-Pick	U-Pick
FAM (30)	Family Matters	Family Matters	Step by Step	Step by Step	So Little Time	Full House	7th Heaven		Switched!	Knock First	Full House	Full House
USA (31)	JAG	Varied Programs									Walker, Texas Ranger	
TBS (37)	Cosby	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Steve Harvey	Steve Harvey	Drew Carey	Drew Carey	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Seinfeld
TNT (38)	Law & Order		NYPD Blue		NYPD Blue		Judging Amy		Angel		Charmed	
DSC (42)	Surprise by Design		Surprise by Design		Rally Round the House		Double Agents		Varied Programs			
A&E (47)	American Justice		Movie				Murder, She Wrote		Murder, She Wrote		City Confidential	
ESPN (49)	Varied Programs						NFL Live		Around the Horn	Interruption	SportsCenter	
HBO (7)	Movie Cont'd	Varied Programs		Movie			Varied Programs				Movie	Varied
DISN (17)	JoJo's Circus	Stanley	Winnie-Pooh	House of Mouse	House of Mouse	Recess	Lilo & Stitch	Recess	Kim Possible	Proud Family	Even Stevens	Sister, Sister
MAX (21)	Movie		Varied Programs				Movie		Varied Programs			

TUESDAY

APRIL 13

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KLB/ABC (4) (6)	(5:59) News	Ent. Tonight	8 Simple Rules	I'm With Her (CC)	Accord-ing-Jim	It's All Relative	NYPD Blue: The Brothers Grim (PA)	News (CC)	News (CC)	Nightline (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (CC)	
KSNK/NBC (8) (9)	News	Wheel of Fortune	Whoopi (N) (CC)	Happy Family	Frasier (CC)	Scrubs (CC)	Law & Order: Special Victims	News (CC)	News (CC)	The Tonight Show (N) (CC)	Late Night (N)	Late Night (N)
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News (CC)	Friends (CC)	Navy NCIS Sub Rosa (CC)	The Guardian The Vote (N) (CC)	The Guardian The Vote (N) (CC)	Judging Amy Kilt Trip (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	Late Show Chris Rock (N) (CC)	Late Show Chris Rock (N) (CC)	Late Show Chris Rock (N) (CC)	Late Show Chris Rock (N) (CC)
K15CG (3)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Nova Life's Greatest Miracle (CC) (DVS)	Innovation Miracle Cell (N) (CC) (DVS)		Now With Bill Moyers (CC)	World News	That's My Boy (CC)	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)			
WGN (13)	Will & Grace	Home Improve.	Movie: Gid-on Oliver: Tongs ** (1989, Adventure) Louis Gossett Jr.			WGN News at Nine (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Elimi-date (N)	The 5th Wheel		
NICK (29)	Rugrats (CC)	SpongeBob	Oddparents	Sabrina-Witch	Full House	Full House	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Rose- anne	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Cosby Show
FAM (30)	7th Heaven...And a Nice Chianti (CC)		Movie: Babe **** (1995) A young pig becomes a champion sheep herder. (CC)			Whose Line? (CC)	Whose Line? (CC)	The 700 Club (CC)	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)			
USA (31)	JAG Ready or Not (CC) (DVS)		Law & Order: Special Victims		Movie: Training Day *** (2001) A rookie cop is partnered with a corrupt detective. Denzel Washington. (CC)		Law & Order: Special Victims		Karen Sisco			
TBS (37)	Seinfeld (CC)	Friends (CC)	Seinfeld (CC)	Seinfeld (CC)	Movie: Grosse Pointe: Blank *** (1997, Comedy) (PA) John Cusack. (CC)		Movie: The Big Hit *** (1998, Action) (PA) Mark Wahlberg. (CC) (DVS)					
TNT (38)	Law & Order: True North (CC) (DVS)		Law & Order: Turnstile Justice		Law & Order: Equal Rights (CC) (DVS)		Charmed My Three Witches (CC)	Angel: First Impressions (CC)	The X-Files Ghost in the Machine (CC)			
DSC (42)	The FBI Files (CC)		The FBI Files Radical Agenda (N)		Animal Face-Off Hippo vs. Bull Shark		MythBusters: Exploding Toilet	The FBI Files Radical Agenda	Animal Face-Off Hippo vs. Bull Shark			
A&E (47)	American Justice: The Rosenbergs		Biography: John Belushi: Funny-Ask		Cold Case: Files A woman reports her boyfriend as a killer. (N) (CC)		Third Watch History of the World (CC)	Biography: John Belushi: Funny-Ask				
ESPN (49)	SportsCenter	NHL Hockey: Western Conference Quarterfinal Game 4 -- Detroit Red Wings at Nashville Predators. (Live)			MLB Baseball: Seattle Mariners at Anaheim Angels. Angel Stadium of Anaheim. (Live) (CC)							
HBO (7)	(5:30) Movie: Ice Age *** (2002)		Movie: Basic ** (2003, Suspense) John Travolta. (CC)	Man on Fire		Real Sports (N) (CC)	The Sopranos (CC)	Movie: One Hour Wheel *** (2002)				
DISN (17)	Sister, Sister	Lizzie McGuire	Movie: Going to the Mat ** (2004) Andrew Lawrence. (CC)	Recess (CC)		Sister, Sister	Boy Mts. World	Kim Possible	Proud Family	Even Stevens	Sister, Sister	Sister, Sister
MAX (21)	(5:15) Movie: Sister Act ** (1992) (CC)		Movie: Some one to Watch Over Me ** 1/2 (1987, Drama) Tom Berenger. (CC)			Movie: Ballistic: Ecks vs. Sever ** (2002, Action) (CC)		Bedtime Stories	Movie: Forbidden (2001) Renee Rea.			

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 14

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KLBY/ABC (4) (6)	(5:59) News	Ent. Tonight	My Wife and Kids	The Big House	The Bachelor (N)		Extreme Makeover (N) (CC)	News (CC)	Nightline (CC)		Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (CC)	
KSNK/NBC (8) (9)	News	Wheel of Fortune	The Apprentice: Down to the Wire		DateLine NBC (N) (CC)		Law & Order (N) (CC)	News (CC)	The Tonight Show (N) (CC)		Late Night (N)	Late Night (N)
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News (CC)	Friends (CC)	60 Minutes II (CC)		King of Queens	King of Queens	48 Hours Investigate's (CC)	News (CC)		Late Show (N) (CC)	Late Show (N) (CC)	Late Show (N) (CC)
K15CG (3)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Small Ball: A Little League Story (N) (CC)		Movie: Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport (2000)		Two's Company		Charlie Rose (N) (CC)			
WGN (13)	Will & Grace	Home Improve.	Movie: Gid-on Oliver: By the Rivers of Babylon ** (1989) Louis Gossett Jr..		WGN News at Nine (CC)		Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Elimi-date (N)	The 5th Wheel		
NICK (29)	Rugrats (CC)	SpongeBob	Oddparents	Sabrina-Witch	Full House	Full House	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Rose- anne	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Cosby Show
FAM (30)	7th Heaven And the Home of the Brave		Movie: Celeste in the City (2004, Romance-Comedy) Majandra Delfino. (CC)		Whose Line?		Whose Line?	The 700 Club (CC)		Home Videos	Home Videos	
USA (31)	JAG When the Bough Breaks		Law & Order: Special Victims		Law & Order: Special Victims		Karen Sisco (N)		Law & Order: Special Victims		Movie: First Blood *** (1982) (CC)	
TBS (37)	Sci-Fi:Id (CC)	Friends (CC)	Sci-Fi:Id (CC)	Sci-Fi:Id (CC)	Sci-Fi:Id (CC)	Sci-Fi:Id (CC)	Movie: The Fifth Element *** (1997) A cable finds a woman who may save Earth from disaster. (CC)			Movie:		
TNT (38)	Law & Order We Like Mike		Law & Order School Daze (CC) (DVS)		Law & Order: The Collar (CC) (DVS)		Movie: Out for Justice: ** (1991, Drama) Steven Seagal. (CC)			The X-Files Fallen Angel (CC)		
DSC (42)	Justice: Fies Power, Corruption & Lies		Extreme Surgery (CC)		Death of Princess Diana (CC)		Surv'n Wonders Of... (N)		Extreme Surgery (CC)		Death of Princess Diana (CC)	
A&E (47)	American Justice: Murder		Biography (CC)		American Justice: Strangers		City Confidential (CC)		Third Watch (CC)		Biography (CC)	
ESPN (49)	NHL Hockey: Eastern Conference Quarterfinal Game 4 - Philadelphia Flyers at New Jersey Devils. (Live)		Conference Quarterfinal Game 4 - Philadelphia Flyers at New Jersey Devils. (Live)		NBA Basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Houston Rockets. Toyota Center. (Live) (CC)						SportsCenter (Live) (CC)	
HBO (7)	(5:15) Movie: The Transporter (2002)		Looking for Fidel (N) (CC)		The Sopranos (CC)		On the Record Bruce Willis. (CC)		D-aadwood Here Was a Man (CC)		Movie: Identity *** (2003) (CC)	
DISN (17)	Sister, Sister	Lizzie McGuire	Movie: The Other Mc (2000, Comedy) Andy Lawrence. (CC)		Kim Possible		Sister, Sister	Boy Mtd. World.	Kim Possible	Proud Family	Even Stevens	Sister, Sister
MAX (21)	(5:00) Movie: XChange (2000)		Movie: Murder by Numbers ** (2002, Mystery) Sandra Bullock. (CC)				Movie: Malibu's Most Wanted ** (2003) Jamie Kennedy.		Erotic		Movie: Falling Down ** (1993)	