



COLBY FREE PRESS

Year-old rape case surfaces

By JAN KATZ ACKERMAN

Colby Free Press

A Scott City man has been charged with raping a Nebraska woman over a year ago when both were students at Colby Community College.

Jeremy D. Brown, 24, has been charged with the alleged rape of an Imperial, Neb. woman who was reportedly intoxicated at the time of the incident.

Colby Police Investigator Gary Shull said this morning both Brown and the victim were at an off-campus party when the alleged incident took place.

According to court documents, the alleged rape took place "on or about Dec. 12, 2003."

Although former Thomas County Attorney Allan Taylor issued a warrant for Brown's arrest in January of this year before he left office, Brown was not arrested until Jan. 20. Scott County Sheriff Glenn Anderson said this morning Brown was arrested in Scott County and held there for a "couple hours" until Thomas County authorities could arrange his transport to Colby.

Charges were not formally filed against Brown until last Thursday. Shull said he does not know why the former county attorney took so long in filing the case.

"It was near the Christmas break and that's why it took a long time for us to get all the witnesses talked to and getting the information to the (former) county attorney, but I don't know why it took so long to file. No rape case is easy," Shull said.

Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick has assumed the role of prosecuting the case.

Brown has bonded out of jail.



J. Brown

Ladder of success



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Marvin Urban watched Kayla Weber climb a rope ladder during Sacred Heart Catholic School's annual carnival Sunday. Families played games and took part in other activities, including test driving two new vehicles from Taylor Motors, which through the Chrysler Corporation, donated \$5 to the school for every person that took a test drive. Proceeds from the carnival will be announced later in the week.

Colby youth dies Saturday in car accident

From staff reports

A Colby man was killed in a one-car accident early Saturday morning in rural Thomas County.

Jordan Harris, 20, was traveling along a private road which extends east from E. 9th Street about 12:35 a.m. when the accident occurred.

According to Thomas County Undersheriff Jason R. Moses, Harris was driving a 1996 Chevy Blazer westbound when he lost control of the sport utility vehicle.

Moses said the SUV rolled into the ditch and Harris was ejected.

Harris, along with his three passengers, Tanner Brown, 20, and Steve Young, 20, both of Colby, and Tyler Baker, 20, Fort Collins, Colo., were transported to Citizens Medical Center by the Thomas County Emergency Medical Service.

Harris died as a result of his injuries, according to authorities. All three passengers were treated for minor injuries.

None of the four occupants of the SUV were wearing seat belts.

The Thomas County Sheriff's office is continuing its investigation,

with the assistance of the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Earlier today, Kanas Highway Patrol Cpt. Kelly McGuire in Hays said the highway patrol "mapped" the accident scene in an effort to reconstruct the incident.

Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn also said today that freshly-laid sand could have also been one of the mitigating factors that caused Harris to lose control of the vehicle.

"This is an on-going investigation," Baughn said.

Harris was a 2003 graduate of Colby High School and was on the Colby Community College basketball team.

After news of Harris' death earlier on Saturday, college officials canceled both the men and women's games that would have been played in the Colby Community Building that night.

In high school, Harris was one of two Colby seniors making the first team selection on the All-League basketball team in March of 2003. Landon Stover was the other.

Funeral information is on page 3.

Brewster teenager dies near Cimarron

A Brewster teen-ager died Sunday when his car ran head on into a Greyhound bus on U.S. 50 two miles west of Cimarron, about halfway between Dodge City and Garden City in Gray County.

The victim was Sean M. Swanson, 19, son of Michelle Swanson and Roger Engler.

Trooper Steven Sites of the Kansas Highway Patrol reported that

Swanson was driving a 2004 Pontiac Vibe west on U.S. 50 at 7:40 a.m. when it veered into the left lane, striking a 1995 Greyhound bus.

Swanson was taken to Western Plains Medical Complex hospital in Dodge City. Troopers notified his mother at 11:31 a.m. The patrol said officers couldn't tell whether he was wearing a seat belt.

Sixth victim in Colby College dorm thefts comes forward

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

A sixth Colby Community College student has reported property stolen from his dormitory room with the theft having taken place last month.

Colby Police Investigator Gary Shull said Aaron Keiser, Benkelman, Neb., has come forward and reported items were stolen from his dormitory room sometime on Saturday, Jan. 1.

In mid-January, Bryce Rund-

back, Quenton Mortensen, Travis Austin, Bradley Mills and Shane Laverenz reported items taken from their rooms.

Property missing includes mostly electronic property such as laptop computers, televisions, DVD and CD players and DVD movies.

Shull said the know property loss was close to \$4,000.

Joseph, DeLancey, 18, a former Colby College student from Benkelman, Neb., Cody E. Graham, 18, Parks, Neb., and Jeremiah Bell, 21,

a Colby College student from Morland were arrested for the thefts.

Bell and DeLancey were arrested Jan. 17, and Graham turned himself into authorities late last week.

Shull said Keiser's stolen property was recovered at the onset of the investigation, but he had not yet come forward where the items were located.

Property from the dormitory rooms was recovered during four consent searches conducted in

Colby, rural Thomas County and McDonald, along with three search warrants which were executed as part of the investigation.

Most, but not all of the property was recovered. Some of the recovered property was damaged and additional individuals may be charged in connection with the crimes, Shull said. Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick has filed charges of felony theft and altering a computer against Bell, and one count of felony theft against DeLancey.

Depending on the outcome of a presentence investigation, if convicted, Bell faces a term of probation or a maximum prison sentence somewhere between 10 to 34 months.

DeLancey, should he be convicted, depending on the outcome of a presentence investigation, faces a term of of probation or a maximum prison sentence of five to 17 months.

Graham has been charged with possession of stolen property and

possession of drug paraphernalia for having a pipe used or intended for unlawful use with a controlled substance.

He, if convicted, and depending on the outcome of presentence investigation, faces a term of probation or a maximum prison sentence of five to 17 months for the stolen property charge.

Graham also faces a sentence of up to one year in the county jail and a fine of up to \$2,500 on the drug charge.

Briefly

Parent-teacher conferences to begin

Parent-teacher conference cards were mailed earlier this week for Colby Public School students. Conferences are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday, Feb. 8 and 10. For those who did not receive this information, said Terrel Harrison, principal at Colby Grade School, are asked to call the appropriate office. For students in the grade school, 460-5100; middle school, 460-5200; and high school, 460-5300. For other questions or general school information, call the administration office at 460-5000.

NASA scientist here Tuesday

Colby residents will get a chance to learn more about the country's endeavors in space. Dr. Jack Bacon, an engineer with NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston is the featured speaker at Tuesday's "Booked for Lunch" program at noon at Pioneer Memorial Library. Bacon will also be at Colby Middle School Tuesday morning from 9 to 10 a.m.

Massage clinic continues Tuesday

The massage clinic at Colby Community College, which started today, will continue on Tuesday from 5 to 9 p.m. To make an appointment, call 460-4797 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Walk-ins are also welcome. The clinic will be held in the Health Science Building Room 804.

Pet wash Saturday

The Student Veterinary Technology Association at Colby Community College is hosting a Pet Wash on Saturday in the Stanley Carr Agricultural Center. Appointments can be made by calling 462-3984, ext. 260.

Singing telegram orders available

The Colby Community College Sunflower Singers will be delivering singing telegrams from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Valentine's Day. "This could be a great way to surprise your special one with a Singing Valentine on

Monday, Feb. 14," said Dr. Philip Shuman. To place an order, call 462-3984, ext. 311.

Free income tax help available

For those retired and over 60 or with people with low-income, a special free service is available for filling out 1040s or uncomplicated income tax paperwork. Anyone who would like assistance on their 2004 Income Tax is asked to bring all W-2 information and other related documents to Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. 4th, Colby from 1 to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays only, said Alvin Volk, assisting with preparations. This service will be provided every Wednesday through April 15. For questions or other general information, call Volk at 460-2645.

Tsunami fund raiser set

The Colby Council #2647 of the Knights of Columbus will held a "Tsunami Victims Pancake Feed" on Saturday, Feb. 12 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the basement of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1065 W. 5th. The feed is open to the public with a free-will offering being accepted. Proceeds will be directed to the Catholic Relief Services to provide food, shelter and medical care in those areas most affected by the tragedy. The Knights of Columbus will be assisted by the Catholic Youth Organization.

Army band to perform in Colby

Captain Paul R. Bamonte, commander and conductor of the Army Ground Forces Band, will bring his organization to the Colby Community Building for a 7:30 p.m. free concert on Monday, Feb. 14.

Conservation District reservations due

The Thomas County Conservation District will have its annual meeting and awards banquet on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the 4-H Building. There is no charge to the event; however, reservations must be in no later than Friday, Feb. 11, said Lynette Koon, conservation district spokesperson.

Colby
Hoxie
Oakley



Little more snow likely

Tonight...Cloudy with periods of light freezing drizzle and chance of snow. Lows in the lower 20s. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 40 percent. **Tuesday...**Cloudy. Snow likely in the morning...Then slight chance of snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Highs in the lower 20s. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Gusts up to 30 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 60 percent. **Tuesday night...**Decreasing clouds. Lows around 10. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph with gusts to 30 mph shifting to the west up to 5 mph after midnight. **Wednesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 30s. Southwest winds up to 5 mph. **Thursday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s.

The numbers

Sunday's high, 28
Low this morning, 20
Year ago today, 27 and -4
Records for this date, 72 in 1943 and -20 in 1895
Precipitation past 48 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.10
February total, 0.10
February snowfall, 2.2 inches
Soil temperature, 36

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.

