



Happy Easter!



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Footprints in the snow



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

A woman walked down a downtown Colby alley this morning as winter tried making one last comeback with a light covering of

snow, just in time for Easter. Weekend temperatures are expected to remain chilly, but no more snow is expected.

Authorities wait to nab two suspects

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Two Oberlin men were taken into custody Thursday for allegedly stealing copper and other wire bundles from a Colby business.

But the arrest was more confusing than first expected.

In the initial 911 call at 12:40 p.m., Colby Police Chief Randy Jones said two people in a 1999 white Chevrolet van were suspected of stealing items from an auction at the former J & J Oil location at College Drive and South Range Avenue.

"In reality, the items were not stolen from the auction, but instead from a Western Sprinkler's lot to the west, which made it a county case not a city one," Jones said.

The lot behind Western Sprinklers is not within city limits falling under the jurisdiction of the



Jones

Thomas County Sheriff's office.

Until a Thomas County Sheriff's deputy could make the arrest, Jones said he followed the van west on College Drive Road, north on Kansas Highway 25 where it continued on a dirt road west on Thomas County Road W and then east back to Kansas Highway 25.

Thomas County Deputy Ken Patton caught up to the vehicle in the 2400 block of North Country Club Drive to make the stop.

Assisting Patton was Sheriff Mike Baughn, Undersheriff Jason Moses and another deputy.

John David Clapper, 40, and Ralph Lesley Clapper, Jr., 50, were arrested and charged with criminal trespass and theft.

Ralph was also charged with driving on a revoked license.

Prior to the deputy stopping the Clappers, Jones said the two tossed the alleged stolen items out of the van near Experiment Station Road.

"We are in the process of taking over the case and finishing up the paperwork today," Baughn said.

Comedian laughs at the critics while crowds laugh

By John Van Nostrand

Colby Free Press Publisher

If you see a man on a motorcycle on the side of Interstate 70 pointing a hair drier at traffic, don't be concerned. It's just Ken Davis being himself.

Davis will bring his comedy act to Colby at 6 p.m. April 14 at Colby High School.

Davis, 60, said he has been involved in comedy "ever since the doctor slapped me and said 'It's a boy.'" His career in comedy and public speaking began in 1973.

He had made several public speeches and the response from those moments were so great he said he could not ignore the opportunity to make it a full-time job.

"I did that through ministry work in Youth for Christ," he said.

Since then, he has developed his comedy material to what he wants. Davis did not like the material, including obscenities and sexual innuendoes, used by other comedians he had seen at nightclubs.

"I was successful at nightclubs and broke some attendance records and made friends," he said. "But I did not want to be a nightclub artist. If there are limitations, I put them on myself," he said. "I want to be as creative as I can possibly be."

The response from his nightclub work varies.

"I can walk into a nightclub and my material is accepted. I'm considered unique," he said.

But Davis knows not everyone is laughing with him.

"My audience is laughing but critics say that I am bland because I didn't use all those words. Since I didn't use all those words and dive into the gutter to get material, I'm bland."

One of those critics called Davis bland on an interesting night. In the 1980s, Davis' show broke an atten-

dance record at the Comedy Works in Colorado.

"I can't be that bad," he said.

Forbes magazine compared Davis' work to the legendary Bill Cosby.

"He's been called bland, old fashioned," Davis said.

Davis said he does not let the critics get to him. Who is in front of him is more important.

"I don't care about those things, I care about the audience. I still sell out 80 percent of my shows."

Davis' material is a majority of his own observations.

"There are no jokes. It's observation from my own life. I'm a little bit strange. I sit on the a motorcycle on the highway with my wife's hair drier," he said.

Davis also likes to use his grandchildren's comments about adults in his work. One of his grandchildren noticed his wife's wrinkles on her face.

"There's creams for that," Davis said his grandchild said.

Some of his past observations happened in Kansas. Two years ago driving across the state, Davis hit a stranded cow on the highway.

"There is not a lot of topography in Kansas," he said. "We played the car games and wheat kept coming to our lips. Then we hit a cow doing 70 miles per hour, we were, not the cow."

Davis said he turned that moment into a comical bit and received a letter from an angry audience member.

"The letter said next time you eat meat, you jerk, think about Kansas in a different way," he said. "There are some people you just can't



Davis

"I teach people if they know where they are going, they can take anybody with them. I'm focused, determined what I want to do with my life."

Ken Davis, comedian and public speaker trainer

please," Davis said.

Davis, who lives in Franklin, Tenn., had pleased a group of people so much they offered him a spot on a televised comedy show, similar to the Blue Comedy Tour which uses a variety of comedians.

"I turned it down," Davis said. "It didn't fit what I decided what I wanted to do. There's nothing wrong with that, it's just not in a direction I wanted to go."

Direction is important to Davis. When not making people laugh, he teaches public speaking skills to pastors, CEOs and other people who regularly speak in public.

"I teach people if they know where they are going, they can take anybody with them," he said. "I'm focused, determined what I want to do with my life. I want to use this gift to tell people the hope Christ can bring to their life."

For ticket information, contact J&R Marketing at 443-1994.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Peggy Young, left, and Sharon Bieker, right, looked over items at the Colby Community College endowment auction Saturday at City Limits Convention Center. The auction featured 250 items to raise money for scholarships.

College endowment raises \$66,000

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Colby Community College's 2007 endowment auction exceeded last year's total.

Nick Wells, endowment director, said the event, held at City Limits Convention Center Saturday raised \$66,000, \$8,000 more than last year.

Last year's auction raised \$58,000.

More than 350 people attended.

"It was better than last year," Wells said. "We had a capacity crowd."

Two-hundred and fifty items were sold during the live and silent auction. The high selling item, an in-home concert by contemporary Christian recording artist Mark Schultz, sold for \$3,400. It was purchased by Kenton and Sheila Krehbiel of Colby.

The second highest item was a one-ounce gold Krugger and, a coin from South Africa. That sold for

\$2,400. Lou Hines of Colby was the winning bidder.

Money raised from the auction goes to scholarships and it is the biggest single fundraiser for the endowment association for the year.

Though the auction is a signature event, work in Wells' office is ongoing.

"The fundraising never stops here," he said. "I thank the community for their support, and the items donated for the auction."