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Colby store robbed Tuesday

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Police are asking for the public's help in locating a woman suspected of robbing a Colby business Tuesday afternoon.

"The Colby Police Department was notified about 3 p.m. after receiving an alarm notification indicating a holdup at the Unicel Phone Store, 1933 S. Range Ave.," said Det. Sgt. Gary Shull today.

After officers arrived at Unicel, the clerk, who was not injured in the holdup, told authorities that an undetermined amount of money had been taken from her at gun point, he said.

The clerk described the suspect as a white woman in her mid 30s with a dark tan, thin build, 5' 10" to 6' tall, noticeably bad teeth, dark hair held back with an orange headband and do-rag.

"She was wearing khaki-colored shorts, blue T-shirt and no glasses," Shull said.

Shull said police have no information on a vehicle.

"As of this time, no one is in custody and we have no suspect identified," he said.

"Anyone having any information, or may have seen someone matching this description in the Colby area," he said, "is asked to please call the Colby Police Department at (785) 460-4460."

Shull said individuals can also E-mail any information to Police-Tip@cityofcolby.com.



Shull



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

ABOVE: Willie Engelhardt, a member of the Colby honor guard, took part in the 21-gun salute during Memorial Day services Monday at Beulah Cemetery in Colby. **RIGHT:** Thurman Cox of Colby was the guest speaker during the Memorial Day ceremony. Cox is a World War II veteran.

WWII veteran reflects on horrors of war

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

More than 75 people attended the this year's Memorial Day Services Monday at Beulah Cemetery in Colby sponsored each year by the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars and auxiliaries.

"We are here to honor those who have gone before us," said

Brian Emmot, newly-elected 6th District Kansas American Legion Commander. "We are here to honor those in time of peace and war and remember still those veterans who have not returned home."

Thurman Cox, a WW II veteran, was the guest speaker, who talked about the suffering veterans have endured.

Recalling the horrors of war, Cox spoke of a gunner responsible for

shooting down 12 Japanese aircraft, who later was interviewed by "Look" magazine.

"Somehow the Japanese acquired a copy of that magazine, targeted the gunner's aircraft, and shot it down," he said. "When captured, the Japanese told him they were going to make an example of him and cut off both his hands at the wrist."

The message to Americans was

that if any gunner shoots down Japanese aircraft, the same thing would happen to them.

"It was inhumane what was done to our soldiers," he said.

In war, Cox talked about the "brotherhood of man" and how soldiers would save their buddy's life — whatever it took.

"So many WWII veterans are getting up in age," he said.

"Boys become men with the rig-

ors of Army life — it makes a man out of you," he said.

"The freedom we have and what we can do here, we can't do in other countries," Cox said, "and whether or not we approve of war, we need to remember those men who served — served their country honorably."

Cox said that he believes we live in a great country and it was an honor for him to serve.

New computers could cost Colby schools \$375,000

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Technology needs are coming to a head for the Colby School District.

Phil DeYoung, technology director, said many computers need replaced during the school board's May 21 meeting.

The estimated cost is \$375,000.

"That's just for computers, not training or anything else," he said.

The needs are 10 personal computers for

the drafting lab; 75 laptops to replace aging teacher desktops; 80 iMacs for labs; three new servers; and three laptop carts with 14 machines each.

Nothing was decided, but the board told DeYoung to come up with a lease proposal by July.

One possible solution would be a three or four-year lease, spreading out the cost.

DeYoung proposed a precursor to a one-to-one laptop initiative.

That would mean a laptop for each stu-

dent in high school. That would not happen until two or three years after other needs are taken care of.

Board member Kevan Taylor expressed a need to do something.

"We need to get a plan in place," he said. "We need to pay for this year one."

DeYoung said the district does not have any leases this year.

He suggested the district could stagger the implementation of the proposal by delaying the laptop carts.

They could go ahead with the teacher machines, because of priority.

Another concern is a phone system that is becoming obsolete.

DeYoung said replacing it with voice over Internet would help. He said the district does not pay much for phone service, but equipment is the issue.

Money for transportation was also discussed.

Superintendent Kirk Nielsen said the district needs a new bus and a sport utility

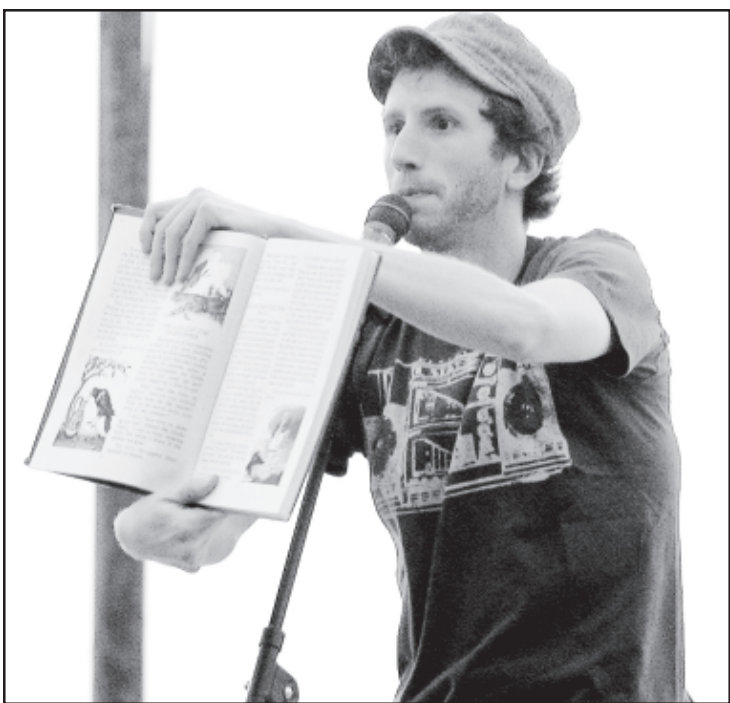
vehicle. The board passed on letting bids, and decided to go another route.

However, instead of buying either, he recommended buying a van or smaller SUV to alleviate mileage on the district's Suburbans.

Taylor said as long as the amount is under \$20,000, Nielsen does not need board approval to buy a vehicle.

Nielsen said he will talk to local dealerships about the vehicles and see if they are available.

New Year's Eve rewind



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

RIGHT: Rapper John Reuben used a children's storybook as a prop during his concert Sunday at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Reuben was the featured attraction in New Year's Eve

Rewind. The concert was initially scheduled New Year's Eve, but was postponed because of the blizzard that occurred that weekend. **LEFT:** RPM performed along with many other bands.

Cost of courthouse roof could skyrocket

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

A new roof for the courthouse could have a cost that is through the roof. The Thomas County commissioners received a quote at their meeting Tuesday from Roofmasters Roofing, Inc. of Colby to replace the roof.

Chairman Ken Christiansen said the estimate was \$120,000, and the commissioners took no action on it.

"Someday we're going to have to," he said. The roof has been repaired a couple of times over the past few years, replacing shingles from wind damage and the other assorted problems that come from having an older building.

"We have no more problems than usual right now," Christiansen said.

The commissioners also talked about county road conditions. They took a road trip to the western half of the county to look at how road work is progressing.

Winter snow and ice was hard on county roads, but that damage is getting fixed.

Some of the roads traveled Tuesday have benefited from Federal Emergency Management Agency money the county received.

Christiansen said some of those roads were graveled using the federal money.

He said the road department is also keeping on top of mowing.

Sheriff Mike Baughn was supposed to be at the meeting to talk about bulletproof glass for the Law Enforcement Center lobby, but did not appear. The commissioners will take up the issue at a future meeting.



Christiansen