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Colby woman arrested on theft

By Jan Katz Ackerman
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A Colby woman has been charged with stealing the identity of her child and using it to benefit herself.

Karen Rogers, 46, is alleged to have used the Social Security number of her son to sign up for utility services with the City of Colby during the latter part of May.

“Following a brief investigation into the matter we recommended that the county attorney filed criminal charges of identity theft and (using) false information,” said Colby Police Chief Randy Jones. If convicted, and depending on her criminal history background, Rogers faces seven to 23 months in prison and a fine up to \$100,000 on both charges.

Charges against Rogers were filed in Thomas County District Court in Colby. In an unrelated case, charges were filed in Thomas County District Court against Timothy Sutton, 21, of Colby who was arrested for allegedly taking \$100 from Jolynda Chase while working together at the Wendy’s restaurant in Colby.

Sutton has been charged with theft, punishable by a year in the county jail and a fine of \$2,500. While being booked into the Thomas County Jail, deputies determined Sutton was in possession of a controlled substance, a prescription drug percocet.

He has been charged with possession of a narcotic drug, which carries a penalty of 3 to 14 years on prison and a fine up to \$300,000.

Sutton was additionally charged with trafficking contraband into a penal institution for having the drug on him while being booked into the jail.

Trafficking drugs into a jail carries a penalty of 3 to 11 years in prison and a fine up to \$300,000.

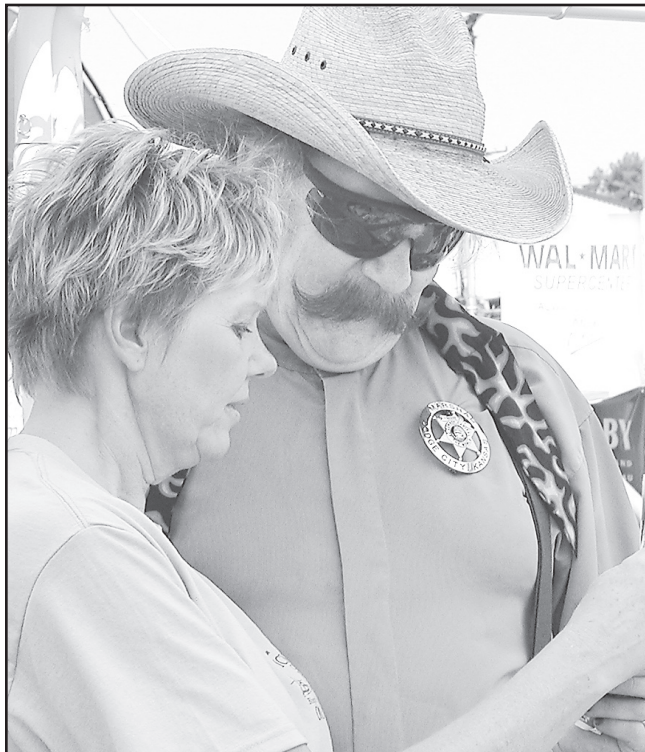
A foot-stompin’ good time



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

ABOVE (Left): Brandon (left) and Blake McLemore (right) with Larry Booth (middle) were among the many bands performing at this year’s 13th annual Pickin’ On the Plains Bluegrass Festival Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Hundreds of people attended the event in spite of temperatures hovering around 100 degrees. **ABOVE (Right):** Jaylee Readle, 2, of Hays, played in the sprinkler system to stay cool while other family members listened to the bands. **BELOW (Left):** Susan McLemore, one of the original bluegrass festival organizers,

talked with Marshal Allen Bailey (Silver Bullets) about the weekend schedule. Bailey is emcee and host of Western Swing and other programs on High Plains Public Radio. **BELOW (middle):** Among the many food booths and other concessions, one woman sold gourd jewelry at the festival. **BELOW (Right):** Colby resident Joan Albers got help with her admission bracelet from Janet Harper in the ticket booth Saturday. The event brought 10 different acts to Colby, along with free pony rides, craft make and take items and much more.



Congressman stops in Colby

By Michelle Myers
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In an effort to promote Kansas health care, Congressman Jerry Moran (R-KS) toured Citizens Medical Center today, visited with doctors and patients and viewed new additions to the hospital.

“I’m here to see how health care is being delivered in Kansas,” he said. Janice McCart, President and Chief Executive Officer, coordinated the tour of the 126-year-old hospital this morning.

Moran has not visited the hospital since 2004, but has made numerous stops in Colby through the years.

His traditional listening tours through the “big first district”

frequently bring him to Colby.

While serving his sixth term in the House of Representatives, Moran concentrates on agriculture, veterans, transportation, energy, health care and education.

He said his top two priorities are health care and agriculture.

“Health care costs - those of prescriptions, services, equipment and insurance - are increasing at a faster rate than incomes, resulting in many people no longer being able to afford the care they need,” he said.

As a member of the House Rural Health Care Coalition’s steering committee, Moran focuses on providing strong health care for patients in rural areas.

His weekly newsletter reported that he successfully encouraged the Senate to pass the Medicare Improvements for Patients and

Providers Act, which has been sent to the President for his consideration.

“I spoke on the House floor and highlighted the perspective of a Kansas physician and the impact the Senate’s inaction would have on the rural health care delivery system,” he wrote in the newsletter.

“Medicare programs are huge in D.C. right now and they affect this hospital,” he said. About 50 percent of Colby’s patients are Medicare patients, which indicates a younger population for Colby, said McCart.

She added that 70 percent of patients at most hospitals are Medicare patients, illustrating a more senior population.

Moran said he will “kiss my wife and kids” before flying back to Washington D.C.



MICHELLE MYERS/Colby Free Press

Congressman Jerry Moran stopped at Citizens Medical Center today as part of a hospital tour across the state.

Area town gets new tornado siren

By Karen Krien
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St. Francis now has a new tornado siren which can be sounded at a moment’s notice anytime — night or day.

Carol Gamblin, dispatch director, reported that the siren was installed recently after equipment was back ordered many times.

The old siren, located at the power plant, could be sounded immediately if it was during working hours.

The tornado siren has sounded several times this summer as

tornados were spotted in the immediate area.

Fortunately, there had been no tornado warnings during the evening and night.

A tornado siren is the wavering or up and down sound. The all-clear is a steady siren.

Mrs. Gamblin said the all-clear siren will only sound for 30 seconds.

In the future, there will be some test tornado warnings. They will be scheduled and announced in the newspaper.

However, if the weather that day appears to be stormy or there could be a tornado, the test will be canceled until another time.

Briefly

Museum plans reception

Colby artist Bev Kern will exhibit her paintings throughout the month of August at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin Ave. in Colby. In addition, the High Plains Art Club will honor Kern, who is also a club member, with a reception at from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 3. During the reception, Kern will talk about her paintings and answer questions. Her favorite mediums are acrylic and oil, although she sometimes uses acrylic in the same way one might use watercolor by thinning it with water to achieve a more delicate effect. The reception is open to the public.

Tractor show date changes

The Antique Tractor show will no longer be held in conjunction with the Wednesday night Thomas

County Fair’s free barbecue, officials said. It has been moved to Saturday, Aug. 2, after the parade. This is in order to allow the tractor owners to participate in the parade without having to haul their tractors to town twice. The show will begin at about 11 a.m. in the 4-H Building parking lot and run until about 3 p.m. “There will be lots going on at the fairgrounds Saturday, so everyone is encouraged to come out for the EMS barbecue, Antique Tractor show and other activities,” said a fair board spokesperson.

Class of ‘98 reunion Friday

Members of the Colby High School Class of 1998 are planning a 10-year reunion. The plans are to meet at 8 p.m., Friday, at City Limits fireside lounge for a social, then at noon, Saturday, July 26 at Fike Park for a brown bag lunch with families, pets etc., said Jada Tubbs, one of the organizers. Also on Satur-

day, at 6:30 p.m., the class will be dining together in Montana Mike’s conference room, finishing at 8 p.m. and returning to City Limits fireside lounge for another social. “We hope all are able to attend and please update your contact information at www.eaglesalumni.org,” she said.

Enrollment dates set

Enrollment for K-12 returning students will be from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 7, at Colby High School in the commons area. New student enrollment will be from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aug. 8, at the respective buildings. Enrollment details will be published in the July 30 edition of the *Colby Free Press* and parents should receive their enrollment packets by August 4. In addition, the 2008-09 activity calendars will not be available until enrollment (Aug. 7). For questions, call 460-5000.

Cemetery sets new hours

Following some minor theft incidents and recent acts of vandalism, the Beulah Cemetery Board of Directors made the decision to start closing the cemetery when the caretakers are not on the grounds. Effective immediately, the cemetery will begin closing to the public at 4 p.m. and reopen at 8 a.m. the following day until further notice. For questions, call the cemetery office, 462-3188.

Glassware wanted

Anyone who has glassware they would like to get rid of are encouraged to contact the Thomas County Amusement Association at (785) 462-5857 or 462-6132 or any of the board members to include: Kerry Wark, Tina Harris, Daman Glover, Melinda Morton, Tom Wallsmith or Johnny Maupin.