



8 pages

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Swan dive or belly buster? Clay Williby, son of Jo and Travis Williby, flew through the air off the high board, on opening day Monday at the Colby pool. His friend, Kevin Besser, son of Barbara Besser, was ready to mimic his swimming buddy on the second high board. About 65 kids braved the newly filled pool; most said it wasn't too cold once you got used to it.

Three charged in college burglary

By Andy Heintz
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Three Colby Community College students have been arrested for allegedly stealing a laptop computer, an iPod and a pair of shoes from the dorm room of two other student-athletes, said Colby Chief of Police Randy Jones.

Jones said freshman Maria Rodriguez, a runner on the women's cross country and track teams at the college, and freshman Roberto Romero, and sophomore Anthony Whiteman, both members of the cross country team, are accused of stealing from the room of Apollo and Jernato Harris, freshman brothers at the college and members of this year's Trojan's

wrestling team.

The police department received a call on a burglary and theft at the college on April 8, the chief said. Cpl. Ron Alexander, Officer John Dixon and Detective Richard Barrett investigated the case. The Harris brothers told the police the items had been stolen from their room between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. while they were having dinner, he said. Based on conversations with people, the officers contacted Rodriguez, who agreed to let them search her car.

Jones said they found an iPod, a laptop computer and pair of shoes in her trunk. A conversation with Rodriguez led the police to Romero and Whiteman. All three were taken into custody.

Rodriguez, a 19-year-old from

Nebraska, was charged with aiding and abetting theft and burglary and possession of stolen property. Romero, a 20-year-old from Nebraska, and Whiteman, a 20-year-old from Colorado, were both charged with theft and burglary.

The three were released from the Thomas County Jail on signature bonds. Rodriguez was released on the day of her arrest, Whiteman on April 10 and Romero on April 11. No court date has been established for the three as of yet, said Jones.

The chief said said there was no evidence the theft was linked to the thefts of television and video equipment stolen from the Health Sciences Building and Ferguson Hall buildings on campus in early February.

Midwest states join forces for emergency training event

TOPEKA (AP) — Four Midwestern states are working together this month to improve their response to natural disasters, terrorism and foreign animal disease.

The event is a National Guard and Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region VII exercise called Vigilant Guard '09. It involves local, state and federal emergency response agencies from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

This week, the states are simulating an introduction of foreign animal disease in Iowa, with Kansas activating its emergency operations center

when the disease moves to the state.

Kansas also will put on parts of the event at Crisis City, a training area at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina.

The event concludes Wednesday, June 24. It is designed to identify gaps that may exist between response organizations.

Thomas County Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan said the training event will be for the state's emergency response agencies and that the county's agencies will not be involved.

Deputies to train on vehicle checks

By Vera Sloan
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Thomas County residents may soon be able to get the vehicle identification number on a used car they want to register from the county sheriff's department, instead of waiting for a state trooper out of Oberlin.

Sheriff Rod Taylor told the county commissioners on Monday that he plans to have training later this summer for the vehicle identification number program. Officers will learn how to perform number checks to identify vehicles for change of ownership or insurance purposes.

Taylor said the specialist who had been doing

checks for Thomas County will get his men the training they need.

"As time passes, and if we get to the edge on salaries, we might bump a vehicle and get by, on the budget," he said.

The sheriff also talked about cleaning and custodial service at the Law Enforcement Center, which his office shares with the Colby Police Department.

"Right now, it is on a hit-and-miss basis," Taylor said.

The commissioners asked who was taking care of the restroom, and the deputies laughed and said, "the sheriff."

"We'll look into it and see if either one of the

See "SHERIFF," Page 3

Kyle Railroad paid off after 25 years

By Tom Betz
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More than 25 years ago, when the Rock Island Railroad was in bankruptcy and a judge had ordered liquidation of its assets, a regional group of 14 counties in northern Kansas founded a coalition to save 400 miles of main line.

After more than two decades of service to area farmers and industry, and 25 years of lease pay-

ments, the line was transferred to the Kyle Railroad on June 1.

The Mid-States Port Authority was formed after a bankruptcy judge ordered the failed Rock Island to liquidate in January 1980. The authority has owned the 400 miles of track since April 1984, when it got an \$18 million loan from the Federal Railroad Administration and raised \$1 million in private money.

On the same day, the port authority entered into an agreement with Kyle to operate the track. To-

day, Kyle is owned by RailAmerica, a Florida-based short line railroad company.

"It was probably the greatest economic endeavor in the state in the 1980s," said John Golden of Goodland, who has been chairman of Mid-States since 1987 and was one of the founding members. "It's impacted a lot of people for a long time."

In the agreement with Mid-States, he said, there was an option

See "RAILROAD," Page 3

By Vera Sloan
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Living in the world's largest city, with a metro area population of more than 33 million, is right at the top of Kim Gerstner's list of places to spend her summer.

As an International 4-H Youth Exchange student, the Thomas County 4-H'er will spend two months this summer sizing up city living as a foreigner in Tokyo, Japan.

"I had a choice of living with a farm family in other locations," she said, "but since I live in a rural area, I wanted to see what it's like to live in a city."

Gerstner leaves Thursday from Denver and will meet her new family, which includes a stay-at-home mom, a computer-salesman dad, and sisters, Saori, 18, and Yukino Kawakami, 10.

She said she will spend the first month in intensive language classes, learning how to speak, read and write Japanese. To get to the language classes, Gerstner added, she must ride a train for an hour to the school.

After she finishes language school, she will spend a month with another family who will be on vacation, so she anticipates getting to see lots of interesting places.



VERA SLOAN/ColbyFreePress

Visions of new experiences filled Kim Gerstner's thoughts Monday as she began packing for a two-month visit to Japan. She will live with two different families this summer as a part of a 4-H International Youth Exchange program.

The second family consists of the dad, a banker; a stay at home mom; and sisters Sato, 16, and Rikako, 11.

Gerstner said she hasn't really tried Japanese cuisine, but is ex-

cited to try whatever is put in front of her.

"My grandpa was in Tokyo during World War II," she said, "and

See "JAPAN," Page 3

Briefly

Team plans car wash, bake sale
The Colby High School dance team will hold a car wash and bake sale from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday in the Dillons parking lot. Proceeds will help the team pay for dance camp. Pre-sale tickets are available by contacting any member. For information, call Karen Raymond at 443-0952.

Racers gear up for summer
The "Racing for Christ" remote control car club will resume at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Colby First Baptist Church. Families are invited to help kick off the summer season with races and an ice cream social following at 5 p.m. For information, call the church at 462-2867.

Food signup is this week
Sign up for Prairie Land Food will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and Friday at the State Farm Insur-

ance office, 905 E. Fourth St. Delivery will be 10 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 27, at the Sacred Heart School gym, 1050 W. Sixth St. For information, call Gene Griffin at 460-3579 or State Farm at 462-7525.

Library offers cool retreat
The Pioneer Memorial Library is inviting families to "Cool Off From Summer" at 7 p.m. next Thursday in the library basement. Nancy LePell will be talking about her travels through the South Pacific on a sailboat. Refreshments will be served. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

City to spray for mosquitoes
The City of Colby will fog for mosquitoes weekly, beginning next week. On Mondays or Tuesdays, crews will fog from Webster Street south. On Thursdays or Fridays, they will work from Webster Street

north. Please check your yards and empty anything that holds stagnant water — such as cans, swimming pools, tires and the like — to help keep the mosquito population to a minimum. For information, call the Public Works Department at 460-4420.

Camp set for Tuesdays
The Colby Wesleyan Church is offering "Tuesdays @ 10," a free summer day camp for children 4 to 12. Kids are invited to participate in the food, fun, games and God's love from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday through July 28. This year's "Son Rock Camp" will include nature hikes and outdoor activities with lunch. To register, or for information, call the church office at 462-8391.

Church offering Bible study
The Colby Wesleyan Church will offer a 12-week Beth Moore Bible study, "Daniel: Lives of Integrity,

Words of Prophecy," from at 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Aug. 19 at the Pioneer Memorial Library's community room. No homework is required and discussion will focus around the videos. For information, call the church at 462-8391.

College pool open weekdays
The Colby Community College indoor swimming pool is open to the public for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Open swimming is 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Cost for general admission is \$3. Monthly and yearly passes are available. Call Kipp Nelson at 460-5476 for additional information.

