

FRE PRESS

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Landon Phillips (left photo) shook hands with one of the children at Kids Port Group Child Care on Thursday morning. Phillips, along with Michael Allen (left) and Tyler Gilliam (middle), is on a cross-country bike ride to raise money and awareness for child sexual abuse. The riders talked to the kids about bike safety and showed them how to change a tire, something the men have had to do frequently on their

trip.
KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Pedal for Prevention

South Carolina cyclists stop by on cross-country awareness ride

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press kbottrell@nwkansas.com

Tall, thin and with bad farmer's tans, three men from South Carolina rode into town Wednesday in the middle of a 4,000mile bike tour promoting awareness and prevention of child sexual abuse.

Tyler Gilliam, Michael Allen and Landon Phillips, from Charleston, S.C., arrived about 10:30 a.m. Wednesday morning and spent the day talking to people in Colby about sexual abuse of children. They got a tour of a Thomas County farm and the Red River Commodities sunflower-seed plant courtesy of

The next morning, they visited Kids Port day care center to talk about their trip and about bike safety. They talked to the kids, ing from his organization. mainly 4 and 5, about bike helmets and shoed them how to change a tire.

Gilliam, who thought up the ride, works for Darkness to Light, an organization that trains people to be facilitators adults. so they can in turn train others on how abuse. Paige Campbell of the Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center is one of these facilitators. She said she and the five others in this area set up training for organizations by request.

Gilliam said he works with social me-

a volunteer firefighter who works there. dia and the Internet at Darkness to Light. more than people think, Gilliam said. Out He said it is good to meet with people across the country who have gotten train-

> Gilliam said he created the ride as a way to get people talking about the issue and about adult responsibility. The riders are trying to raise \$40,000 to help train

"You can't expect a 4-year-old kid to to prevent, recognize and react to sexual be a spokesperson," Gilliam said. "Children don't really have a voice, so it's up

> Allen and Phillips, friends of Gilliam's, said they joined the ride both for the cause

and the challenge.

of 12 people they spoke with in St. Louis, 11 had been affected or known people affected by child sexual abuse.

"No one would know, because no one likes to talk about it," Phillips said.

Survivors especially, he said, don't want to talk about abuse, but once the subject is broached it becomes easier, and the more people talk about abuse, the easier it is to prevent it.

The riders said they have gotten a great response. Wherever they go, people want to donate, give them tours or directions, find them places to sleep or just talk.

"When you're doing something good, Child sexual abuse happens to kids a lot people just open up," Allen said.

By Kevin Bottrell

Since all of the money raised during the ride goes to Darkness it Light, Gilliam said, the men needed money for the trip. He raised that from Charleston corporations and got bikes donated from a shop.

If people want to donate, he said, they can go to www.pedalforprevention.com or send a check to Darkness to Light at 7 Radcliffe Street, Suite 200 Charleston, S.C. 29403. Donations will be earmarked for training in the donors' own communities, Gilliam said.

The three riders have been on the road for more than a month, but Thursday was their last day in Kansas. They took U.S.

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chief said.

Suspects run away;

one hit with Taser

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Colby police broke up a fight

outside City Limits about mid-

night Thursday night, but the men

ran away as officers arrived and

they had to use a Taser stun gun to

Officer John Dixon responded

to a call that three men were fight-

ing outside at 11:54 p.m. Chief

Randy Jones said the men had

heard that someone had called

the cops and ran away. Jones said

Dixon got a tip they were hiding

in the trees north of the Village

Inn, which is across the parking

bring one suspect down.

lot to the north.

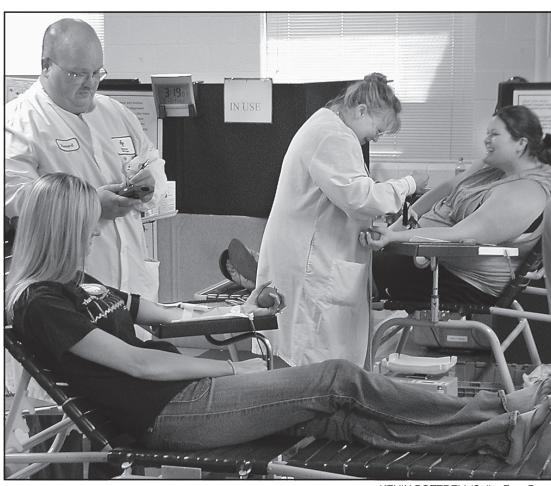
High school honor group volunteers at blood drive

Fifteen to 20 members of the National Honor Society at Colby High School volunteered to help unload trucks, carry equipment and perform front desk duties for the American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday.

"We were given a list of service projects to choose from," said Brittany Bange, chapter president, "and we picked the blood drive, which gave us a start-off project for the new school year."

Bange said this was a first for the Colby Chapter, but the members hope to be involved in a community project every month throughout the school year.

She said the students escorted donors to their stations, helped them to the canteen after they had donated and served snacks. They were on hand to help wherever someone needed it throughout the day.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

American Red Cross volunteers drew blood from a steady stream of donors Thursday at the Colby Community Building

Briefly

No trash collection on Monday The Colby Sanitation Department will not pick up

trash on Monday because of the Labor Day holiday. Monday's route will be picked up Tuesday. Cans should be out to the curb by 8 a.m. For information, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.

Coalition offers chance for lunch

Come join the Thomas County Coalition at noon Thursday at El Dos De Oros restaurant. You will have a chance to win lunch and become a partner in building a healthy community. For information, call 460-8177.

Convoy kickoff features concert

Special Olympics Kansas will hold a kick-off party for the World's Largest Convoy fund raiser from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10, at the Thomas County Fairgrounds with a barbecue and live concert, fol-

lowed by fireworks after dark. Donations will be accepted to help with medals, ribbons, equipment and meals for athletes. The convoy will parade through town at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11. For information, call Jane Mentlick at 443-1682.

Outdoor skills day next Friday

The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department and Colby Community College will hold the Northwest Kansas Youth Outdoor Skills Day and Outdoor Expo from 9 to 5 p.m. next Friday and Saturday, Sept. 10 and 11, at the college and the Colby Trap Club. Register at Colby Lumber by Wednesday. For information, call Biologist Matt Bain at 462-3367.

Wildlife Dept. offering hunter ed

The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department is offering its hunter education course, required for most people to buy a license, online this year, with a field

day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Club, four miles west on U.S. 24, one mile south and Colby Trap Club. Registration is required. Online instruction and quizzes are available now, with classroom instruction and the test from 5:30 to 10 p.m. next Friday at Colby Community College. For information or to register, call Biologist Matt Bain at 462-7993 or 462-3367.

Walk, run for Recovery Month

at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Colby Community Wilks at 460-4470.

The Thomas County Coalition will hold a 5K Awareness Walk/Run for Celebrate Recovery Month Building. The coalition will provide hot dogs, chips and soda afterward. For information, call Melany

Foundation plans fun shoot

The Citizens Foundation will hold a benefit fun shoot at 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, at the Colby Gun

out incident by the deputies. Police have been unable to find the third man. Dixon called a Thomas County ambulance to check on Carillo, but he was uninjured and was re-

They took off west across Range Avenue. Dixon and two sheriff's

deputies pursued the men, the

Carillo refused to stop and Dix-

on had to use his Taser to bring

him down. Morin was taken with-

leased so he and Morin could be taken into custody. They got tickets for obstruction.

Jones said the men have been uncooperative and told officers only that they, "got into a fight with their boss." He said that as of He found two men hiding there, Friday morning, it was unclear if later identified as Justin Carillo the men were in town on a work and Ernesto Morin of Dodge City. crew or for other reasons.

The **Colby Free Press** office will be closed Monday for Labor Day. We will be open regular hours Tuesday.

> one mile west. Registration is \$50. Proceeds will go for medical equipment and education at the hospital. For information, call Tama Unger at 460-1214.

Orchestra looking for players

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will have a rehearsal and meeting for new and returning members at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 13, in the Colby Community College band room. The rehearsal will be from 7:30 to 9 p.m. New musicians are not required to audition; just show up. For information, call orchestra President Mary Shoaff at 462-2159 or e-mail comments@ prairieorchestra.com.

