



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

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Tall, thin and with bad farmer's tans, three men from South Carolina rode into town Wednesday in the middle of a 4,000-mile 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 a volunteer firefighter who works there. The next morning, they visited Kids Port day care center to talk about their trip and about bike safety. They talked to the kids, 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 so they can in turn train others on how to prevent, recognize and react to sexual 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 media and the Internet at Darkness to Light. He said it is good to meet with people across the country who have gotten training from his organization. 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 adults.

Since all of the money raised during the ride goes to Darkness to 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.

Gilliam said he works with social me-

Child sexual abuse happens to kids a lot

more than people think, Gilliam said. Out of 12 people they spoke with in St. Louis, 11 had been affected or known people affected by child sexual abuse.

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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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.



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

Suspects run away; one hit with Taser

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Colby police broke up a fight outside City Limits about midnight Thursday night, but the men ran away as officers arrived and they had to use a Taser stun gun to bring one suspect down.

They took off west across Range Avenue. Dixon and two sheriff's deputies pursued the men, the chief said. Carillo refused to stop and Dixon had to use his Taser to bring him down. Morin was taken without incident by the deputies. Police have been unable to find the third man.

Officer John Dixon responded to a call that three men were fighting 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 lot to the north.

Dixon called a Thomas County ambulance to check on Carillo, but he was uninjured and was released so he and Morin could be taken into custody. They got tickets for obstruction.

He found two men hiding there, later identified as Justin Carillo and Ernesto Morin of Dodge City.

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 Friday morning, it was unclear if the men were in town on a work crew or for other reasons.

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

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.

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.

Walk, run for Recovery Month

The Thomas County Coalition will hold a 5K Awareness Walk/Run for Celebrate Recovery Month at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Colby Community Building. The coalition will provide hot dogs, chips and soda afterward. For information, call Melany Wilks at 460-4470.

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.

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.

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

Foundation plans fun shoot

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

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-

