



Charges filed in Decatur murder case

An Oberlin man has been charged with first degree murder in the killing of an Air Force enlisted man home on leave.

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt filed the charges against Dylan Robert Coryell Jr., 24, of Oberlin, on Monday. He was charged with first degree premeditated murder and an alternative count of first degree felony murder in the death of Airman Corey Cook, 22, also of Oberlin. Coryell was also charged with aggravated battery and aggravated burglary.

Coryell was taken into custody Sunday after Decatur County sheriff's deputies responded to a rural home on the report of a person being shot. Bond has been set at \$500,000 cash or surety.

County Sheriff's Department on Sunday said that the call came in around 1:34 a.m. of a person being shot at the house at 2048 N Lane, in the Big Timber district of Altory Township, northwest of Jennings.

Cook was taken by ambulance to the Decatur County Hospital, then flown to the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb.

Coryell was reportedly with two friends when he went to the house.

The case is being investigated by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Decatur County Sheriff's Office and the Oberlin Police Department, the sheriff's release said.

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Two arrested on drug charges

After investigating suspicious behavior on South Court Avenue on Sunday, the Thomas County Sheriff's Office made two arrests on drug charges.

Daniel Zimmerman was arrested for possession of marijuana with intent to sell or distribute and

Calvin Bare was arrested for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Both men were booked into the Thomas County Jail.

The Colby Police Department and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation assisted.

Dairy planning multiple expansions

By Christina Beringer
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The Thomas County Commissioners met with representatives from the McCarty Dairy, Penco and the road and bridge department Monday morning regarding road improvements around the McCarty facility and the company's planned expansion at several

ing upgraded to concrete from U.S. 83 to the dairy but contracts need to be finalized before work can begin. Commissioner Paul Steele informed Dale Owings of Penco that certain state-required language needs to be included in the contracts.

Penco is providing contractor and engineering services for the job. It has been involved with many road projects in Thomas

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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

American Legion National Commander Fang Wong shook hands with his Legion Riders escort after arriving at the Colby Legion post on Tuesday. The Colby Legion Riders escorted Wong into and out of town.

National Legion commander visits

By Kevin Bottrell
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It's not often that a town like Colby gets a visit from the head of a national organization, so when American Legion National Commander Fang Wong visited for lunch Tuesday, about 50 people came to hear him speak.

Wong, a Vietnam veteran who was recently elected national commander, said Kansas is the third stop on a tour of all 55 districts. He recently visited Montana and Indiana. The Indiana trip coincided with the state Legion convention, he said, so it did not require much traveling. In Kansas, however, Wong will be traveling all around the state through the course of the week, stopping at Legion posts for quick hit and run meetings.

"Actually it's been more like eat and run," he joked.

Wong said he has been speaking to Legion members about what is going on in Washington, D.C., that affects veterans. The Department of Defense is facing drastic cuts as Congress haggles over where to reduce spending to reduce the deficit.

After lunch, Wong took questions from the audience. Legion member Phil Finley asked



Wong spoke to a crowd that included Rep. Rick Billinger, a representative from Sen. Jerry Moran's office and other local elected officials as well as Legion members and citizens.

Wong if Veterans Affairs is due for a budget reduction in the next fiscal year. Wong said

that currently the Veterans Affairs budget is exactly where it was in 2009, since no new budgets have been approved since then. The government has been running on continuing resolutions for two years.

However, he said, the Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction, better known as the "Super Committee," has been tasked to come up with recommendations to reduce spending and raise revenue to save \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years. If they can't get those recommendations passed by Thanksgiving, the entire government budget gets cut across the board to get up to that \$1.5 trillion.

Wong said he went to several senators to discuss the budget, including Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who asked Wong where the line in the sand should be. Wong took that question back to the Legion, who passed a resolution saying the organization would not accept any further cuts to the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs budgets.

Veterans are only 8 percent of population - about 24 million. Wong said the remaining 92 percent should be asked to take the budget reductions, because the 8 percent have already done their service.

With more than one million veterans out

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Collecting acorns



KYLIE FREEMAN/Colby Free Press

A class from Puddle Duck Preschool collected acorns all over downtown Colby on Friday morning. The preschool took another class collecting in the afternoon.

Feds blame listeria outbreak on water pools, dirty equipment

By Mary Clare Jalonick
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Pools of water on the floor and old, hard-to-clean equipment at a Colorado farm's cantaloupe packing facility were probably to blame for the deadliest outbreak of foodborne illness in 25 years, the Food and Drug Administration said today.

Federal investigators found positive samples of listeria bacteria on equipment in the Jensen Farms

packing facility and on fruit that had been held there.

In a six-page assessment of the conditions at the farm based on investigators' visits in late September, the administration said Jensen Farms had recently purchased used equipment that was corroded, dirty and hard to clean. The packing facility floors were also constructed so they were hard to clean, so pools of water potentially harboring the bacteria formed close to the packing equipment.

The equipment - purchased in July, the same month the outbreak started - was previously used for a different agricultural commodity, the agency said, and the listeria "could have been introduced as a result of past use of the equipment," according to the report.

The agency said the contamination likely happened in the packing house, but the way the cantaloupes were cooled after coming off the fields may have contributed.

Drought taking toll on reservoirs

By John Milburn
The Associated Press

TOPEKA - Prolonged drought conditions are taking a toll on Kansas reservoirs, where declining levels are raising concerns about sustained water supply and the possibility of algae blooms, a water office official said Tuesday.

Earl Lewis, assistant director of the Kansas Water Office, told the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment that the shrinking reservoirs could have an impact on communities into 2012 and that the drought's intensity is spreading north and east.

"It's really one of the worst on record. In fact, it is the worst on record for southwest Kansas," Lewis said.

Lewis said one lake of particular concern is John Redmond Reservoir, which is a source of water for

the Wolf Creek nuclear plant in eastern Kansas. The reservoir is about 54 percent of its conservation pool level, and that could decline to 34 percent by mid-November.

The nuclear power plant draws water from the reservoir to fill a lake used for cooling the power plant during operations. Lewis said the water level at John Redmond was down about three feet because of the normal recharging by Wolf Creek and the drought.

The lake usually recharges each spring, but Lewis said that if the drought continues through early 2012,

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