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Car chase ends in Colby



The driver from a high-speed chase (above) was cuffed by Colby Police Officer Jared Lange with the help of Interim Police Chief Ron Alexander (left) and Mitch Nollette, a state trooper from Oakley, today on French Street in Colby. At least eight Kansas Highway Patrol units chased the suspect through town before he was cornered and captured (right) by officers, including Alexander and Doug Carr, a trooper from WaKeeney. The man was driving a white four-door Nissan Altima with Minnesota plates. It was searched by Trooper Charles Brattin of Colby (left) and Agent Mark Kendrick of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press



Semi-trailer rig crashes, blocks I-70

A semi-trailer rig hauling merchandise for Home Depot crashed early this morning on Interstate 70, blocking both westbound lanes for several hours.

Traffic was rerouted to Old U.S. 24 between the Brewster and Edson exits between about 6:30 and 10:30 a.m. (Central Time).

Brian James, Sherman County fire chief, said the truck, hauling inventory items for Home Depot, caught a lip on the side of the road with the trailer tires. The driver overcorrected and the truck rolled onto its side and slid about 30

feet, knocking over the mile post 30 sign.

James said a passenger sleeping in the cab was awakened by the crash. The passenger was uninjured, but the driver was complaining of pain in his left ribs. James said the driver was already out of the cab when he arrived.

The truck was leaking some oil, James said, and the rural fire department out of Goodland covered the spill. The Brewster Fire Department helped divert westbound traffic onto Old U.S. 24 at the Brewster Exit.

The westbound lanes on I-70 were reopened at 10:30 a.m. after a tow truck removed the battered Schnieder National rig.



A wrecked semi-trailer rig was towed off of Interstate 70 at the Edson exit about 10:15 a.m. this morning. The westbound lanes

Man leads chase through town

By Steve Haynes
Colby Free Press
s.haynes@nwks.com

A man wearing military fatigues let Kansas Highway Patrol troopers on a wild chase around Thomas and Logan counties this morning, dodging traffic road spikes as he scribed a large square between Colby and Oakley, then ending near the railroad tracks west of Range Avenue.

Trooper Tod Hileman, spokesman for Troop D of the Highway Patrol, said the chase began on Interstate 70 when a trooper tried to stop the car near mile marker 43, about 12 miles west of Colby and two west of the Levant exit. During the stop, the driver took off, racing east on the freeway with the trooper in pursuit.

Colby police officers tried to block both exits from the Interstate to keep the chase out of town, said Ron Alexander, interim police chief, but the man went around a car at the west exit and sped south on K-25.

The chase went south to U.S. 40 in Logan County, winding through

two sets of curves near the county line. A Logan County officer set up spikes at the county line, just north of the U.S. 40 junction, but the man, driving a white Nissan Altima with Minnesota plates, managed to avoid them.

Other deputies rushed to set up spike strips west of Oakley as the chase proceeded east at speeds reported at 120 mph. A trooper reported the car moving at 115 through the small town of Monument.

Approaching the intersection west of Oakley, officers reported eastbound and westbound traffic on U.S. 40.

"It's going to be tight," an officer said.

Near Oakley, the driver got around the spikes, though they did flatten the tires on at least one Highway Patrol car. One patrol cruiser went into the ditch there.

David See, Logan County undersheriff, said a Gove County deputy was trying to place spikes west of Oakley when the man drove right at him. The deputy

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Airport group stops work on ordinance

By Sam Dieter
sdieter@nwks.com
Colby Free Press

Following a heated meeting Monday, a city subcommittee has stopped working on an ordinance to regulate the height of structures and other hazards around the municipal airport, and the City Council says it will work to accommodate plans for a wind farm south of town.

The Airport Airspace Protection Committee, formed to draft an ordinance to regulate the airspace and possible hazards, voted to disband during a meeting Tuesday morning at the airport, citing a lack of support. The vote followed protests from energy company Acciona, which plans a 36-turbine wind farm south of town.

"This ordinance was going to introduce another layer of regulation," said County Commissioner

Paul Steele, a private pilot who had chaired the committee. "What I finally got a motion for was, 'Let's go out of business.'"

Steele tried to put forward several other motions, but had difficulty keeping order among an often-hostile crowd of about 20 business representatives and landowners. Criticism over the effects of additional regulation was largely directed toward consultant Brad Weisenburger and airport manager Mark Ostmeyer as they tried to explain the substance of the ordinance draft.

"All the ordinance (would do) is give the airport sponsor the ability to say yay or nay," Ostmeyer said afterward.

He added that the Federal Aviation Administration does not ban the construction of towers, and the city would only regulate their

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SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

of the Interstate had been closed for nearly three hours when crews righted the rig, which overturned blocking the highway.