



Man leads deputies on car chase

By Sam Dieter
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A St. Francis man driving a car allegedly stolen Sunday in Atwood led sheriff's deputies on a chase through Sherman and Wallace counties before taking off through pastures and wrecking the car north of Sharon Springs just before 3 p.m.

When he lost control of the 2008 Dodge Charger on Wallace County Road R, the Kansas Highway Patrol reported, the car stopped more than 800 feet off roadway. The driver was taken to the Goodland Regional Medical Center for treatment.

The driver, Floyd Clifford Coates Jr., 35, was spotted driving on old U.S. 24 in Sherman County near the Thomas County line west of Brewster, said Sherman County

Sheriff Burton Pianalto. He was driving a 2008 Dodge Charger matching the description of a car that had been reported stolen in Atwood.

"The individual took off through the county, kind of zig-zagged through the county and into Wallace County," Pianalto said.

Doug Whitson, a part-time Sherman County sheriff's deputy, was joined by Scott Baker of the Kansas Highway Patrol as he chased Coates into Wallace County, Pianalto said. He added that Sherman and Wallace County deputies and more state troopers joined the chase. They finally cornered the vehicle on Wallace County Road S, east of K-27 highway.

"He took off cross country through a wheatfield and through a ditch," Pianalto said, adding

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Volunteers will be honored

Retired volunteers will be recognized for their work later this month by Colby's mayor at the annual banquet for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program on Wednesday, April 17.

Mayor Gary Adrian will appear at the banquet and plans to sign a proclamation thanking the volunteers.

His effort is part of the National Day of Recognition, an initiative for mayors to recognize volunteers, said Laura Withington, director of the senior program northwest Kansas.

"Of course, our mayor was the first to jump on the bandwagon," she said.

Michael A. Nutter, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors,

organized the initiative, Withington said. The day itself is Tuesday and she had the idea of him thanking the volunteers at the banquet.

"I gave him a call and he said, 'You betcha,'" she said. "He's very supportive of the program."

After signing the proclamation, Adrian will be part of a receiving line where, Withington said, he personally shakes their hand and thanks each one of them, she said.

She added that the northwest Kansas branch of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program has 200 volunteers, mostly in Thomas County, but also in Logan, Sheridan and Phillips counties. It is sponsored by Colby Community College.

Medical workers train in hazmat

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Motorists going down Range Avenue on Thursday evening may have noticed a crowd of medical workers on the fairgrounds, gathered for a hazardous materials drill.

Almost 80 people participated in the drill, including emergency medical technician students, students from area colleges, instructors and firefighters, said Candy Bryant, education coordinator with Thomas County Emergency Medical Services. They were

practicing what they would do if someone found a meth lab.

"It was staged that someone was coming out of that," Bryant said, "that someone was smelling the fumes ... and had reported it."

She said emergency medical technicians need some sort of experience with a hazmat situations as part of their training. There were a dozen of them at the drill Thursday, along with more than two dozen students and instructors from Colby Community College and the Northwest Kansas Technical College.

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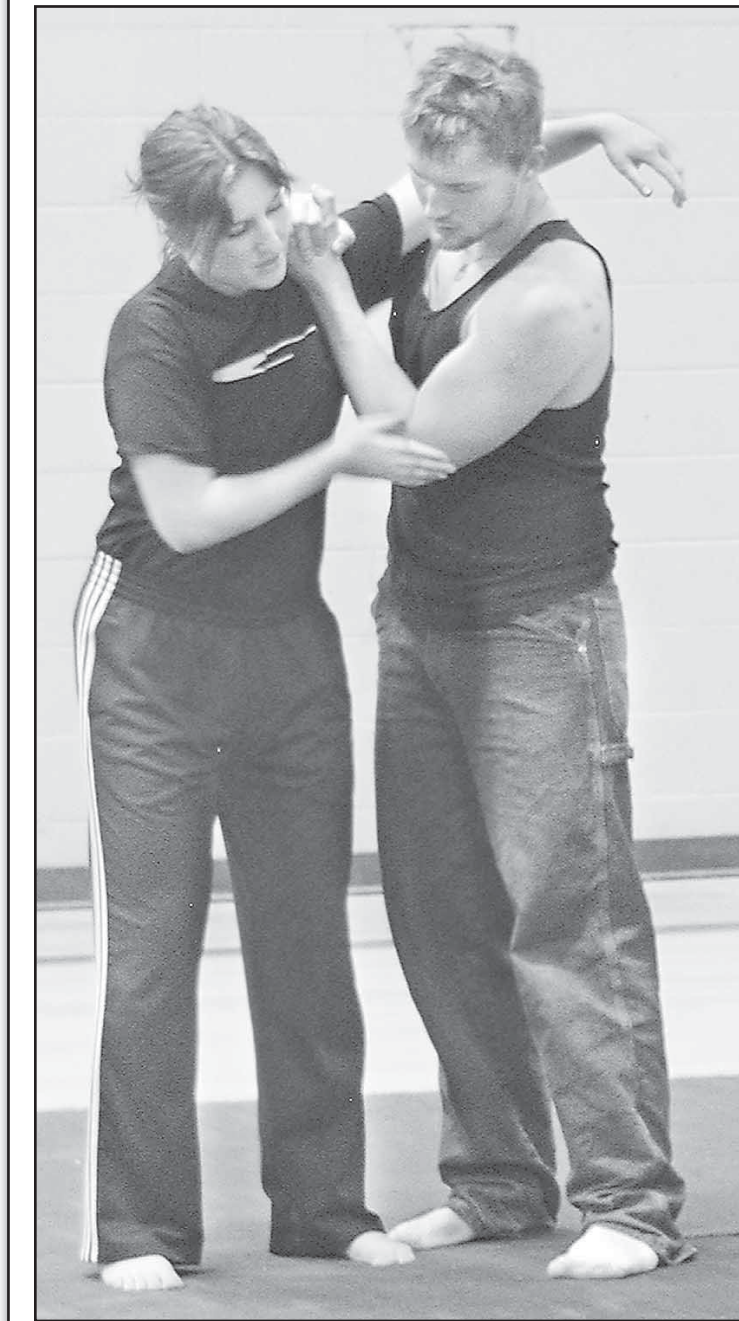
Tickets on sale for 'Paint Your Wagon'

Tickets are on sale for the Colby Community College production of "Paint Your Wagon" on Thursday, April 18, and Saturday, April 20, in the Frahm Theatre on campus.

The production will include college students and community

members. "Paint Your Wagon," a musical by Lerner and Loewe, was originally performed on stage in 1951. It is set in a mining camp in the Gold Rush era. The musical is suitable for all ages.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students at the Campus Bookstore in the Student Union.



College here holds self-defense class

Stefan Gildemeister (top), with the Fort Hays State University Defensive Tactics Club, played the role of an attacker Wednesday night in the gym at Colby Community College. He was explaining how Billy Frey, another member of the group, might defend himself. A dozen people came to the self-defense class, including Kytiana Seals (above left) and Marsha Fentia-Putri. Rachel Montgomery (left), a member of the club, showed Jacob Linnebur how to break out of a hold for the class, which was part of a Violence Prevention Week observance at the college, and Frey taught Jessica Wright the same move (below).

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