

Troopers chase man around northwest Kansas

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apparently hit another. He headed on into Colby with a flat left rear tire and at least eight Highway Patrol cars in pursuit.

City police and sheriff's deputies joined the chase. Undersheriff Marc Finley attempted to stop the chase before it went through downtown by bumping the man's car from the left side. The suspect kept going, but Finley's Chevy Tahoe patrol vehicle was disabled, and officers said, perhaps totaled, by the collision. He left it in the highway near the intersection with First Street Annex.

The chase roared on west into downtown. Witnesses said the man turned north on Franklin Avenue, roaring past shops and offices, then west on Fifth into residential blocks. He turned west on Sixth, north again and west on Eighth, a dead end. He somehow got on to the Kyle Railway tracks and tried to drive west from K-25.

About a block west of the highway crossing, he left the tracks and got back to a street. His car was boxed in by trees, and he abandoned it. Officers found him under a pickup.

Troopers, deputies and city officers converged on French Avenue where it ends north of Seventh. Several troopers grabbed assault rifles from their trunks to join the chase. Chief Alexander arrested the man and walked him up the block, accompanied by troopers, to a city police car. He was handcuffed and taken to the city-county Law Enforcement Center.

The chase covered about 72 miles in a rough

square from Colby to Oakley to the Nine-Mile junction and back to Colby. The whole thing consumed an hour or less, starting some time before 10:30 on I-70 and ending at 11:18 with the man in custody.

Shortly after noon, the driver still had not been identified. Officers said he wouldn't co-operate or give his name, so they were forced to take fingerprints and send them in for identification. In the initial search, no weapons were found, and there was no indication as to why he ran.

The only casualties were the undersheriff's Tahoe and several tires on Highway Patrol cars. Considering the speeds involved, one officer remarked, it could have been much worse had the speeding car hit another vehicle, or a pedestrian going through town.

When he was booked Thursday in Thomas County, the man reportedly would not give his name or cooperate with deputies on his ID. He had several IDs, officers said. Fingerprints sent to the FBI confirmed his identity as Curtis Mack later in the day. He is wanted by the U.S. Marshal's Service for violating the terms of a supervised release on drug charges. His name and photo appeared on a "Most Wanted" website in Wyandotte County.

Information for this story came from Evan Barnum, Marion Ballard, Christina Beringer and Sam Dieter of the Colby Free Press, and Kevin Bottrell of The Goodland Star-News. Barnum and Steve Haynes took photos.



Curtis Mack, 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 Kansas state trooper from Oakley, Thursday on French Street in Colby. Photo by Evan Barnum/The Colby Free Press

City Commission approves 2013 budget

BUDGET, from Page 1

down or improve the building on the property. Code Enforcement Officer Brian James said he had received a letter from the property owners that indicated they wanted to tear down the main building, but leave several smaller buildings intact. Several commissioners were skeptical about what could be done with those buildings if the main one is torn down. Garcia instructed city staff to keep an eye on the property.

- Awarded employees of the quarter to Economic Development Director Michael Solomon and Joey Snethen and Dillon Glover from the water department. Gerber said Solomon was nominated for his behind-the-scenes work on the Van Gogh restoration project and his work helping the New Goodland Energy Center get set up.

- Snethen and Glover were nominated by Police Chief Cliff Couch after they helped respond to a motorcycle accident several months ago. They were some of the first people on scene, and helped direct traffic and made sure emergency personnel could get to the accident. Gerber said they have also gone above and beyond on the downtown water project, putting in extra hours to make sure the work is convenient for Main Street business owners.

- Approved rezoning 223 E. 10th

St. from R-1 residential to C-2 commercial. The owners are planning to convert the Word of Life church into a bookstore and residence, which would not be allowed under R-1.

Gerber reminded the commission that they do not want to get caught up in the practice of "spot zoning," or taking one property in the middle of one type of zoning and making it another. In this case, he said, there are enough nearby commercial properties to negate that concern.

- Approved several statute changes handed down from the state. These include changes to interfering with law enforcement officers, which will make it easier to prosecute things like false reporting or evidence tampering. The state also increased the fine for Driving Under the Influence from \$500 to \$750 several years ago, with the added \$250 supposedly earmarked for Community Corrections. However the money wasn't getting there, and this year the state has fixed the language to ensure it gets to Community Corrections.

- Discussed the unfinished building at 601 Industrial Loop. Gerber said the 90 days has passed, but no work has been done on the building. City Attorney Jerry Fairbanks said ADM holds the mortgage, while Goodland Economic Development Corporation actually owns it. This is the only land the corporation owns,

he said. "This isn't really a city problem," Gerber said, "but we all know it is."

The city often ends up fixing these problems on the back end, he said, which is why all the other land at the Business Park have been deeded to the city.

Fairbanks said ADM would like to foreclose, which means the property would likely end up at a sheriff's sale. Either ADM or a third party could buy the property. The city could get a court order for any buyer to abide by the city's unfit property resolution.

Gerber said he does not feel like ADM has operated in good faith. He said the company waited until two weeks before the 90 day deadline, and even then it was Fairbanks who had to initiate contact. And still no progress has been made on the property.

Fairbanks said the city commission should get a commitment from them to file the foreclosure within two weeks. The process will take several months before the property is sold, he said. The commission agreed.

"They need to know we're serious," said Commissioner Jenifer Sanderson.

- The commissioners also discussed the solid waste contract,

which expires at the end of the year. In 2003, the city entered into an agreement with the county to manage trash pickup. The county set up a private company to do the pickup.

Gerber said the city has several options: it can go out for bids to see what companies are interested, it can negotiate a new contract with the current provider or the city can take over the service.

Garcia said the agreement pre-dates many of the current city and county officials. At the time, the city decided not to go with a private company because of concerns of increasing costs. The city and county were able to negotiate a deal, but the costs ended up going up anyway, but under the agreement, the city's hands are tied.

He said the city and county have a better relationship now.

Gerber said the city will probably want to start from scratch, and that the county has indicated they do not want to be involved going forward. The city also needs to decide how the service will be billed, he said.

"It could be a money maker," he said, "but it comes with the corresponding headaches."

The commission instructed Gerber to bring a request for proposals to the next meeting for them to look over.

Attorney's office warns of possible trust scam

The Sherman County Attorney's Office is warning county residents to be wary of people asking for copies of trusts.

An individual in Sherman County has been asking for copies of Trusts saying that the information is needed for verification of an oil and gas lease. Oil and gas lease companies may ask for the page of the trust that assigns the property to the trust but only that information.

If you are approached by an

individual requesting this information, the County Attorney's Office recommends you ask the individual for identification, verify their employment and check with your attorney before giving them a copy.

Protect your financial information. If you suspect that the individual requesting the information is not legitimate or if you have mistakenly gave an individual a copy of your financial information, contact law enforcement.

River case back in court

TOPEKA - The trial of a dispute between Kansas and Nebraska over use of water in the Republican River basin was set to begin Monday.

The trial will be conducted before William J. Kayatta, Jr., the special master appointed by the United States Supreme Court to hear evidence in the case, said Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt. At the conclusion of the trial, the special master will make a recommendation to the Supreme Court about disposition of the case. At the direction of the special master, who resides in

Maine, the trial will be conducted in Portland, Maine.

Kansas has alleged that Nebraska violated the terms of a 2003 settlement by overusing more than 78,000 acre-feet of water during a two-year period from 2005 to 2006. In May, 2010, Kansas sought permission to ask the Supreme Court to reopen the case and enforce the terms of the settlement. The Court granted that request in April, 2011, and appointed Kayatta to hear the case. The third Republican River state, Colorado, is also a party to the dispute.

320 ACRES IRRIGATED & DRYLAND CROPLAND, CRP, FEEDLOT & IMPROVEMENTS
CHEYENNE COUNTY, KS LAND AUCTION
TUESDAY, AUG 21, 2012 @ 10:30AM, CDT

AUCTION LOCATION:
RIVERSIDE RECREATION - located West of St. Francis, KS on Hwy 36

SELLERS: MCATEE BROTHERS, LLC.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: N/2 of 11-4-39
TRACT 1: 146.0± Irrigated & dryland cropland acres
TRACT 2: 100.0± CRP acres
TRACT 3: 74.0 ± Feedlot & improvement acres

Tract 1 has a center pivot sprinkler nozzled at 550 GPM. Tract 2 is 100± acres CRP. Tract 3 has a permitted 800 head feedlot, modern home & outbuildings

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