



COLBY FREE PRESS

A real garden variety



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Dwayne Jenik looked over his squash this morning that he picked from his garden on Monday evening before the storm. Jenik said he was afraid the hail might damage his unique crop and wanted to take precautions. In his left hand, Jenik has a Japanese radish while he picks

up the Queensland Blue Squash in his right. Shown in the back row from left to right are: Lakota Squash, Egyptian Zucchini, Hopi Indian Squash. In the front row from left to right are: Eggplant, Patty Pan Squash; Tahitian Melon Squash, and Acorn Squash.

Animal is killed after attacking a postal carrier

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

A dog was shot and killed in Colby last weekend following a confrontation with a mail carrier and police officer.

The incident happened at around 11:30 a.m. on Saturday when Eileen Harris, a postal carrier, attempting to deliver mail, was accosted by a Siberian Husky, said Gary Shull, an investigator with the Colby Police Department.

"The dog grabbed the mail out of the carrier's hand with its teeth," Shull said, "and wouldn't give it back."

At that point, police authorities were notified after the carrier called her employer at the Colby Post Office to report that she was being attacked by a dog. Colby Police Sgt. Kent Dible arrived at the scene, 810 W. Cherry, and immediately the dog began barking and growling at him.

"This went on for about one minute," Shull said, "and then the dog turned away from the officer, but as the officer took three steps toward the mail carrier, the dog ran aggressively toward him."

The officer reported that when the dog was about five feet from him, he shot the dog, severely wounding him.

Shull said the officer shot the dog two more times in order to put the animal out of its misery.

"If an animal does attack an officer or is attacking someone in a vicious manner," Shull said, "it's not uncommon to shoot that animal. Obviously,

this doesn't happen very often, though."

The deceased animal was transported by police to the Colby Animal Clinic and the owners, Kenneth and Virginia Umberger, who were not at home during the incident, were notified later about what happened.

Although police and, in this instance, postal officials believed the incident was unfortunate, they did say that it could have been avoided had the owners kept the dog properly restrained.

"We strongly encourage owners to keep their pets secured," said Colby Postmaster Jim McDonald, "and preferably secured in a backyard away from postal employees, UPS drivers, city employees, kids going to school and others."

If the backyard is not an option, McDonald suggested keeping an animal in a place where it cannot get to people.

"Dogs will do what comes naturally and that is to protect their territory," McDonald said.

"When the dog came at her (the postal carrier), she stuck her hand out and the dog got the mail, then she put her satchel in front of her for protection," he said. "There's only so much we can do and unfortunately the dog had to pay for it," McDonald said. "The responsibility belonged with the pet owner who needed to protect their dog by being responsible and taking care of it (to avoid this from happening).

World Youth Day draws many northwest Kansas students

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**
Colby Free Press

World Youth Day in Toronto, Canada, featuring Pope John Paul II, attracted 22 young people and sponsors from the Colby area.

The event was held in late July and worldwide nearly 800,000 people participated in the international gathering. The local group departed July 23 and returned July 29.

Jessica Schlick, among the area delegates, said, "World Youth Day was a once in a lifetime experience that was even more special shared with family and friends."

"It was truly incredible being surrounded by thousands of people who

are excited about their faith in God."

Clint Horinek, of Brewster, added,

"There are no words to describe it."

Other local and area participants included Emily and Derrick Bailey, Aaron Horinek, Leanne Juenemann, Sara, Ryan, and Debbie Luckert, Tanner McClure, Megan and Denise Mentlick, Cheyenn Oard, Luke and Chuck Rogers; Andrea Siemsen, Sally Schlick, Megan Voss, Ceanne Rinehart and Chad and Angela Zimmerman.

In 1985, which was the International Year of Youth, Pope John Paul II invited young people from all over the world to join him in Rome on Palm Sunday. This was the start of World Youth Day.

The international event only happens every other year, but the years it is not taking place, the youth are celebrated in Rome on Palm Sunday.

After the first celebration, the following locations have hosted World Youth Day: Buenos Aires, Argentina (1987); Santiago De Compostela, Spain (1989); Czestochowa, Poland (1991); Denver (1993); Manila, Philippines (1995); Paris, France (1997); and once again Rome, Italy (2000).

The local group was able to participate in many activities including a reenactment of the Stations of the Cross, a Saturday evening vigil with the Pope, a pilgrimage journey, and the concluding festivities.

The group was also able to take a sightseeing stop at Niagara Falls, N.Y.

For each celebration of World Youth Day, a theme is chosen for the festivities by the Pope.

The theme for this year was, "You are the salt of the earth - You are the light of the world," taken from Matthew 5:13-14.

In his message to the youth the Pope said, "One of the main functions of salt is to season food, to give it taste and flavor."

"This image reminds us that, through baptism, our whole being has been profoundly changed, because it has been 'seasoned' with the new life which comes from Christ."



During World Youth Day, many students from Colby and Goodland participated in a pilgrimage journey.

Graves continues to withhold Shallenburger support

TOPEKA (AP) — Republican Gov. Bill Graves still won't publicly endorse State Treasurer Tim Shallenburger, the GOP nominee to succeed Graves in office.

The moderate governor and the conservative gubernatorial nominee haven't met since the Aug. 6 primary election. Graves skipped a Republican "unity" breakfast the next day.

Graves' withholding of his endorsement has raised questions about how many moderate Republicans would support Shallenburger in his race against Democrat Kathleen Sebelius, the insurance commissioner.

One prominent moderate, Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer, said Tuesday that he doesn't plan to endorse the state treasurer. He would not say which candi-

date would receive his vote but said if he quickly endorsed Shallenburger, "It would feel like I betrayed the things I believed in."

Sherrer and some other moderates have chafed at the notion of endorsing Shallenburger, citing repeated criticism by Shallenburger and other conservatives of the Graves administration.

On Tuesday, reporters at the Statehouse asked Graves when he planned to endorse Shallenburger.

Graves replied: "I don't have any comments."

Shallenburger spokesman Bob Murray said the GOP gubernatorial nominee also is declining comment.

"As far as an endorsement goes, we'll continue to hold off on comment-

ing until he can speak with the governor," Murray said. "If and when a meeting is set up, we'll be there."

No meeting has yet been scheduled.

Shallenburger had planned to be present Monday morning in the governor's office for the signing of a proclamation honoring the state's college savings program, which the treasurer's office administers. However, the event and other proclamation signings were canceled.

Graves' staff said other business prompted the governor to go into meetings at the ceremonies were planned.

"We were very busy," the governor said.

Murray said Shallenburger is taking the governor's explanation at face value.

"I'm not into reading things into things," Murray said.

Shallenburger has public endorsements from other prominent Republicans, including his two primary opponents, Senate President Dave Kerr, of Hutchinson, and Wichita Mayor Bob Knight.

U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback endorsed Shallenburger before the primary, and U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts has called for party unity. U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran also has said he will support Shallenburger.

But Sebelius supporters are hoping a rift among Republicans remains.

Sherrer said he doesn't remember conservatives lining up behind Graves in 1998, when he won re-election after defeating conservative state GOP Chairman David Miller in the primary.

"If Tim could say to me, 'I will never jeopardize education and if it took a tax increase to insure education, I'd do it,' then he'd have my attention," Sherrer said. "I can't endorse those things I can't believe in."

Shallenburger has repeatedly said he won't increase taxes and believes there's enough room in state government to cut spending.

After the primary, he said: "I think schools could make it with 1 percent or 2 percent or 3 percent less if the alternative is raising taxes."

Asked why he wouldn't endorse Shallenburger, Graves told reporters, "Well you know ..."

One reporter interjected, "No, we don't know." Graves replied: "No comment. No comment. No comment."

Briefly

Scholarship information noted

The career center at Colby High School recently released information regarding two opportunities for students. The Dane G. Hansen Educational Scholarship test will be administered from 9 a.m. until noon, Monday, Oct. 7, in the student union at Colby Community College. The deadline to sign up for this test is Tuesday, Sept. 10, said Joni Clark-Leiker, counselor. In addition, students interested in attending a vocational school are asked to pick up applications by Tuesday, Oct. 1 in the high school counselor's office. For questions, call 465-5300.

Meeting planned to recruit EMTs

The Thomas County Emergency Medical Services will have an informational meeting on Thursday, beginning at 7 p.m. for the purpose of recruiting interested people in becoming emergency medical technicians. Everyone is invited to attend. For questions or information, call Kathi Wright, director, at 462-4585.

Landfill to close for holiday

The Thomas County Landfill will be closed on Sunday, Sept. 1 and Monday, Sept. 2 in observance of Labor Day. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday. For information or questions, contact Larry Jumper at 462-8139.

Actors sought for fall production

The Colby Community College drama department will be conducting auditions for the fall production of *Scapino!* by Frank Dunlop and Jim Dale on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 4-5. Auditions will begin at 7 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby College campus. The auditions are open to students and the community, said Walter Yuhre, drama instructor, and will consist of reading from the script. "Actors who have prepared monologues are invited to perform their audition pieces," he said. The play will feature roles for both men and women between the ages of 18 to 65 with performance dates of Nov. 7, 8 and 9. Those

selected from the audition will begin rehearsing on Tuesday, Sept. 17. For questions or information, call Yuhre at 462-4783.

No newspaper on Monday

The Colby Free Press will not publish a newspaper and the office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2 in observance of Labor Day. Normal business hours Tuesday are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Amusement meeting tonight

The Thomas County Amusement Association has rescheduled its meeting tonight at 8 p.m. at the Thomas County Office Complex. The public is encouraged to attend.

Girl Scout registration set

Registration for Girl Scouts will be Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Colby Girl Scout Center, 520 West Fifth, in the basement of Puddle Duck Preschool. For information, call 462-6662.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers
Tuesday's high, 80
Low this morning, 61
Year ago today, 95 and 58
Temperature at noon today, 74
Colby's 24-hour rainfall, 0.00
Oakley's 24-hour rainfall, 0.00
Soil temp at the 4-inch depth, 71
Records for Aug. 28, 107 in 1899 and 39 in 1911

The forecast
Today's high should reach 80 with breezy conditions, and some shower activity. Tonight, partly cloudy, a 30 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, lows in the lower 60s, southeast winds 10-15 mph.

Thursday, partly sunny, highs in the upper 80s, southeast winds increasing to 20-30 mph with gusts to 40, a 30 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms. Friday, highs near 90.

(Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)

Colby Water Usage
• Aug. 27= 1.496 million gallons

Levels of Concern
Watch Level 3.5 million gallons
Warning Level 4.0 million gallons
Emergency Level 4.5 million gallons
(Three consecutive days)

