



COLBY FREE PRESS

Weather is factor in wreck

Driver spends night in Citizens Medical Center

By **DARREL PATTILLO**

Colby Free Press

A 20-year old Pennsylvania man lost control of his vehicle in the rain Tuesday afternoon and ended up in a bean field about 30 yards off of Interstate 70.

The accident occurred at 12:58 p.m. near mile marker 52, approximately one and a half miles west of Colby.

Xenophone Yang, of Ephrata, Pa., went off of the ride side of the interstate, according to Kansas State Trooper Brian Horney, and rolled his 1993 Toyota car several times before coming to rest upside down.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Rescue personnel examined a 1993 Toyota belonging to Xenophone Yang of Ephrata, Pa., Tuesday afternoon after it went off of Interstate 70

“Weather was a factor in the accident,” said Horney, who investigated the accident. “We’re not sure if he started hydroplaning, or if he just lost

control of the vehicle.”

Yang was wearing a seatbelt, and Horney said that he was lucky he was. “He probably wouldn’t have made it if

and rolled several times before coming to rest as pictured in a bean field one and a half miles west of Colby.

he wasn’t wearing it.”

Yang was transported by ambulance to Citizens Medical Center, where he was admitted overnight for observa-

tion.

He was released this morning, according to Gwen Young, speaking for the hospital.

Road dispute settled

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

Colby Free Press

A dispute involving a landowner in Kingery Township was settled by the Thomas County Commissioners at their Monday meeting.

Pam Medford approached the commissioners and said that she had asked for a road to be put in between two sections of land owned by others to allow her easier access to her section. Although a pass-through trail could be made, there were fences on both the north and south end that would hinder entrance.

Jon Starns, trustee for Kingery Township, agreed that a trail could be established easily enough and that he would contact the other two landowners and tell them the fences would have to be moved or altered in some way to allow access to the trail.

The commissioners suggested that a ditch could be dug on either side of the trail to make sure that it would not be farmed over.

In other business:

- Denny Burke talked to the commissioners about plans for the county Christmas party. Although the cost of the event will be higher this year than last, all three gave their consent to continue with the plans.

- A request was made by Ed Dean, who drives the transportation van, to get a cell phone for the van, so calls for pick-up would not have to be transferred by radio. Unanimously, the commissioners agreed that money had just been spent for the radio system and a cell phone would not be necessary or cost effective at this time.

- Two emergency purchases were approved, one for the landfill and the other for the Sheriff’s Department.

Larry Jumper, landfill supervisor, advised the commissioners that the water pump engine used for several things at the landfill had gone out. He called for bids on a new one and received a \$755 bid from S & W and a \$630 bid from Stan’s Automotive. A new pump was purchased from Stan’s Automotive.

After the washing machine broke down at the Sheriff’s Department, \$600 was approved for a purchase of a new one on Oct. 16.

- Gerry Fulwider gave a report on loan funds.

The next meeting of the commissioners will be Thursday, Oct. 31, at 9 p.m.

Jobless rate is up

TOPEKA (AP) — Unemployment in Kansas remains higher than it was last year even as it tracks with normal, seasonal trends.

The jobless rate for September was 4.3 percent, down from 4.4 percent in August, the Department of Human Resources reported Tuesday. The agency saw the decline as normal.

But the unemployment rate for September 2001 was 4 percent. Also, the average rate for the first nine months of this year was 4.5 percent, compared to 4.3 percent for the same period last year, said Bill Layes, the department’s chief of labor market information.

All aboard!

Model railroaders putting down track for big show

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Now in its third year, the Northwest Kansas Model Railroad Club is sponsoring a show and swap meet on Saturday and Sunday at the Colby Community Building.

The event on Saturday will run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon until 4 p.m., said Reed Hartford, one of the organizers and club member.

“There will be a number of vendors with railroad memorabilia and model railroad equipment to sell or trade,” he said. “There will be model trains, equipment, supplies, and kits from N scale to G scale for sale or swap and there will be an HO and a G layout and,

hopefully, an O scale layout in operation.”

In year’s past, Hartford said, the show was held at the National Guard Armory in Colby, but this year the location was changed to accommodate the many vendors and variety of scales operating during the event.

Offering a brief history of the club, he said the organization came into existence during the summer of 1999 when plans and specifications for module construction were distributed to many interested people.

“During September of that year, the original ten modules were built and the first trains ran in October of 1999,” he said.

The club owns some of those original modules, but most of them are owned by individual members who continually add scenery to various displays.

With what the club actually owns and those of the members, Hartford said there is a total of 26 modules that depict a variety of landscapes and periods.

“Each of the members develops their module according to their own particular interest,” he said, “and the scenes portrayed range from 1960 urban communities to 1930 era rural villages.”

Some other highlights of the club’s model train collection include sawmills, the mountain railroad, a steam

engine service facility and a new grain elevator complex, which is being developed, he said.

The club’s first home, from October of 1999 through March of 2001 was in the Colby United Methodist building at Fifth and Garfield.

The club is now located in the Colby School District’s administration building, 210 S. Range.

Hartford said they are always looking for new members or people interested in this hobby and the group takes part in many activities such as the Rod Run, Prairie Heritage Days by setting up displays at the Scout Hut in Fike Park. Not all the members are from Colby, he said, which explains why the

name is the Northwest Kansas Model Railroad Club.

“We have members from Grinnell and Oakley and we meet every Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. to operate trains, work on the layouts and fellowship,” he said.

Along with Hartford, other club members include Don Baalman, Grinnell; Charles Marchbanks, Oakley; and Norm Claus, John Donelan, Cody Duffey, Ray Duffey, Nick Henry, Cal Mahin, Don Saddler, Chris Trimble, George Werth and Hartford, all of Colby.

“We look forward to seeing everyone at the show, and for questions or information, call us,” Hartford said.

Governor candidates trade barbs

TOPEKA (AP) — For the most part they stuck to their main themes Tuesday night, but Republican Tim Shallenburger and Democrat Kathleen Sebelius traded a few more barbs than usual in their quest to be governor.

Near the end of an hour-long televised debate, Shallenburger compared his legislative voting record with Sebelius on various anticrime measures.

It was the last of five scheduled debates between the two candidates before the Nov. 5 general election.

Shallenburger ticked off several topics — capital punishment, drug laws, registration of sexual predators — which he said he supported while she didn’t when both were in the House a decade ago.

“I think if you ask people who were in the Legislature when we both were there, there is one thing you would hear:

“Tim Shallenburger was tough on crime and Kathleen Sebelius took the ACLU point of view of most of these issues and voted soft on crime,” he

said.

But Sebelius got in a few verbal punches of her own.

She said Shallenburger was trying to distort her legislative record by taking votes out of context.

“I did make some votes different in the Legislature than Tim Shallenburger. I have tried not to pick votes out of isolation and to explain my views on issues,” Sebelius said.

“But to challenge my belief that we need safe communities, that as a mother I would do anything less than protect our children, I think is an act of desperation in the closing days of the campaign,” she added.

Sebelius also complained that Shallenburger sent a fund-raising letter calling her “a lying, dangerous liberal who will ruin our schools and endanger our children.”

After the debate, Sebelius passed out copies of the letter, signed by Shallenburger and seeking contributions so he could purchase television time for his ads.

More than half of the state budget is

spent on public schools, and both vowed not to cut spending for elementary and secondary education. But there still was a clash.

Sebelius said Shallenburger has endorsed the idea of cutting public school funding by 3 percent — something he denied.

“We can play the tape for you. Maybe you didn’t mean to say that, but that is what you said,” she said.

Sebelius said she was endorsed by the Kansas Fraternal Order of Police and the Friends of the Kansas State Troopers.

“She said she was endorsed by the FOP and highway patrol,” Shallenburger said. “She didn’t say they made a joint endorsement. It is misleading to think they are for her and not me.”

Many of the questions in the debate concerned the budget.

Revenue for the \$4.4 billion state budget hasn’t lived up to expectations, and the budget is expected to wind up with a \$103 million deficit on June 30 if no cuts are made.

Domestic disturbance call yields wanted man

Faces criminal counts at Salina

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

Colby Free Press

A domestic disturbance report sent Colby Police officers responding to a house shortly before 9 p.m. on Sunday.

At that point, the officers did not know that within the hour a wanted man from Salina County would be in their custody.

Gary Shull, Colby Police Department investigator, said Matthew Jackson Upshaw, 26, had been listing his address in Colby, but had been wanted for an outstanding warrant in Salina County since Sept. 19, 2002.

When officers responded to the Sunday night call, both Upshaw and the reporting female party’s names were run through the Nation Crime

Information Center’s computer program.

Upshaw came back positive and was wanted on four different criminal counts in conjunction with an Aug. 31 incident.

Counts included criminal threat, domestic battery, criminal restraint and criminal damage to property.

Bond was set in Salina County at \$5,000.

Shull said Upshaw was arrested and booked into the Thomas County Jail for violation of a protection of abuse order.

He is currently being held awaiting a decision from Thomas County Attorney Allen Taylor who will decide where the case will be prosecuted.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Tuesday’s high, 40
Low this morning, 27
Year ago today, 80 and 32
Colby’s 24-hr. rainfall, 0.25
Month’s total, 1.22
Temperature at 11:15 today, 33
Records for Oct. 23, 89 in 1927, 7 in 1915

The forecast

Tonight, fog, lows upper 20s.
Thursday, cloudy, highs near 40.
Thursday night, cloudy, lows lower 30s.
Friday, some sun, highs upper 50s.
Friday night, cloudy, lows lower 30s.
Saturday, cloudy, showers possible, highs lower 50s.

Briefly

Advanced voting option mentioned

Tracey Perkins, Thomas County Clerk/Election Officer said today that voters taking advantage of *advanced voting* may mark their ballots at the courthouse at the time they pick them up. She said it is not necessary that they take their ballots home to mark them, unless they desire to do it that way.

Finney cancels Colby visit

Sally Finney, Democratic candidate for state treasurer, will not be in Colby on Thursday as previously announced. She has canceled the appearance.

Shallenburger to Colby

Republican gubernatorial hopeful Tim Shallenburger will be in Colby on Thursday at 10:30 a.m. to meet the voters. He will be on board the *Sunflower Special*, his “Victory 2002 Bus Tour.” Other candidates are expected to appear with him. The bus will be at the Thomas County Courthouse

‘Recognition Night’ is Friday

School officials are again reminding all parents of seniors who participated in football, volleyball, cross country, girls’ golf, girls’ tennis, marching band, drill team, managers and athletic trainers, that Friday has been designated “Senior/Parent Recognition Night.”

As in the past the ceremony will be held prior to the football game at 7 p.m.

Parents are asked to meet at the east end of the football field at 6:45 P.M. Football players will be honored first, followed by band, drill team, golf, tennis, volleyball, cross country and managers and athletic trainers.

Hospice Auction is Saturday

The annual Hospice fund-raising auction will be held at the Comfort Inn Convention Center this coming Saturday. For tickets contact the organization at 462-6710 or 1-800-315-5122.

Proceeds from the auction ensure that Hospice support is available to terminally ill individuals and their family members.

Health care interests to meet

The Area Citizens for Health Care will hold an open meeting tonight at 7:30 in the Little Theater in the Colby Community Building. The public is invited and urged to attend.

EMTB Course continues

Kathi Wright, Thomas County EMS director, said the EMTB (basic) Course is continuing on Mondays and Wednesdays — through April and additional information is available by calling her at 462-4585.

SHARE delivery getting closer

SHARE delivery is Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Sacred Heart School gym. If interested in ordering an October share, call 462-3579. A food share is \$16.50 plus two hours of volunteer time.

Boy Scouts selling popcorn

Boy Scouts are going door-to-door in the Colby area taking popcorn orders as part of their annual fund raising effort.

