



Truck rolls on K-25

By Sam Dieter
Colby Free Press
sdieter@nwkansas.com

A semi tractor was destroyed Tuesday afternoon after rolling over on K-25 south of town.

The sheriff's department got the call at 2:43 p.m. about the Budweiser truck, owned by Pestinger Beverage Co., which rolled over on the highway. The truck, driven by Taylor Garcia, 23, of Colby, was northbound at mile post 181.5 on K-25, about 12 miles from Colby, when it rolled over, said Under-sheriff Marc Finley, who was first on the scene. Emergency personnel found the truck upside down on the east side of the highway.

Fire Chief Bob McLemore said the driver got out before the tractor section caught fire, and later refused medical treatment.

"The tractor was probably a total loss; the trailer, I don't know the extent of the damage," McLemore said.

McLemore said the trailer did not burn. According to the Highway Patrol, there were empty kegs in it.



MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Area farmer visits Asia for mission

By Sam Dieter
Colby Free Press
sdieter@nwkansas.com

On a visit to Asia, Brian Baalman saw a huge market for Kansas crops.

"There's 1.3 billion people over there," Baalman said, "and they're all eating and they're all moving up ... and they're all demanding better food."

Baalman, Menlo, is a member of the Kansas Corn Commission. He was one of 18 business and government representatives from Kansas who went on a trade mission to China and South Korea for 10 days last month, organized by the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Included were representatives from the state's pork, wheat and soybean commissions, Kansas Farm Bureau, local agriculture companies and members of the state government.

They spent several days in the

Chinese and South Korean capitals of Seoul and Beijing. From Beijing, they traveled about 400 miles to the industrial city of ChangChun, located in a major Chinese corn belt.

Baalman said the Chinese are doing everything they can to feed themselves. While touring the region's many agribusiness facilities, he watched people harvest the corn on family farms, stripping the ears off by hand and piling them in fields, then using the stalk as firewood. Farmers use every inch of land available, but their farms are usually only five to 20 acres.

"It's not efficient, but they're trying," he said.

Although the harvesting was done by hand, Baalman noticed one thing Chinese farmers have in abundance that Kansans lack: rain.

After some questioning, Baal-

See "FARMER," Page 2

No explanation from jailed man

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A man arrested at Los Angeles International Airport wearing a bulletproof vest and flame-resistant pants is not cooperating with federal officials working to discover why he was headed to Boston with a suitcase full of weapons, authorities say.

Yongda Huang Harris, 28, was taken into custody recently during a stopover on a trip from Japan when U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers reported noticing he was wearing protective gear under his trench coat, triggering a Homeland Security investigation.

A search of Harris' luggage uncovered numerous suspicious items, including a smoke grenade, knives, body bags, a hatchet, a collapsible baton, a biohazard suit, a gas mask, billy clubs, handcuffs, leg irons and a device to repel dogs, authorities said.

Harris has not cooperated with

authorities attempting to interview him, according to a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss an open investigation Tuesday.

The official said Harris, who was taken into custody Friday, is not believed to be linked to a terrorist organization. His motive, however, has not been determined, the official said.

Harris has been charged with one count of transporting hazardous materials, an offense that carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison. He made a brief court appearance Tuesday, but his arraignment was delayed until Friday and he was held until then.

Harris is a U.S. citizen whose permanent residence is in Boston, though he recently started living and working in Japan, officials said. Attempts to reach Harris' family in Boston and his associates were unsuccessful.

Toyota recalls 7.43 million vehicles

By Yuri Kageyama
AP Business Writer

TOKYO - Toyota Motor Corp. is recalling 7.43 million vehicles in the U.S., Japan, Europe and elsewhere around the world for a faulty power-window switch - the latest, massive quality woes for Japan's top automaker.

The recall announced today affects more than a dozen models produced from 2005 through 2010. The power-window switch on the driver's side didn't have grease applied evenly during production, causing friction in

the switch and sometimes smoke, according to Toyota.

No crashes or injuries have been reported related to the defect. But more than 200 problems were reported in U.S. and a fewer number of problems were reported elsewhere, including 39 cases in Japan, Toyota spokesman Joichi Tachikawa said.

Recalled in North America are the Yaris, Corolla, Matrix, Camry, RAV4, Highlander, Tundra, Sequoia and Scion models xB and xD, spanning 2.47 million vehicles.

Some 460,000 vehicles are being recalled

in Japan. The models are the Vitz, Belta, Ractis, Ist, Auris and Corolla Lumion. The Yaris, Corolla, Auris, Camry and Rav-4 are being recalled in Europe, totaling 1.39 million vehicles.

The sprawling recall also applies to cars in Australia, China and elsewhere in Asia and the Middle East.

Toyota is also suffering from a sales plunge in China where car buyers are shunning Japanese brands because of a territorial dispute over islands claimed by Japan, China and Taiwan.

Foundation holds 'moving' meeting

By Christina Beringer
Colby Free Press
colby.society@nwkansas.com

People attending the annual meeting of the Thomas County Community Foundation last Wednesday probably didn't expect to shed tears during the noon-time business engagement, but a few did fall before the program's end.

The catered, 10-year anniversary luncheon took place at the Colby United Methodist Church and began with Vice President Mark Wahlmeier sharing news of the organization's 2011 accomplishments and most recent achievements. He said that by the end of 2011, the foundation had reached their goal of having \$1 million in assets and since the non-profit's inception in 2001, they've granted more than \$428,000 back to Thomas County.

In addition, Wahlmeier said they recently renewed their confirmation with National Standards:

a good housekeeping seal of approval that "signifies the foundation has met the rigorous National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations and has demonstrated its commitment to financial security, transparency and accountability," explained Foundation Director Melinda Olson in their July 2012 newsletter, *The Contributor*.

President Kristina Hills followed up by introducing the foundation's board of directors and thanked retiring directors Lawrence Mayer and Relda Galli for service on the board. She led the business portion of the meeting for the last time as president of the foundation; although she will remain a member, she said that Wahlmeier has been approved as president for the new term.

Friends of the Foundation members were able to vote for members-elect Peggy Miller and Mike Baughn. Both were approved and invited to begin their volunteer position at a short meeting follow-



Six young ladies attending the Victory House Christian Academy in Brewster performed a memorized short skit and song during the annual meeting of the Thomas County Community Foundation. Instead of singing, the women presented the song lyrics

using sign language. Pictured from left are Jasmine from Illinois and Casey from Michigan. Lead counselor and residential staff Supervisor Vicky Taff said she was unable to give the girls' last names due to privacy concerns.

CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press

See "MEETING," Page 2

