



COLBY FREE PRESS

Trucker's court date announced

He faces three charges in alleged theft of merchandise

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

After last week's alleged robbery of a C.R. England Trucking Company vehicle in Colby by Terry Lynn Rider, 40, an employee of the company, Rider has been officially charged, said Colby Police Department investigator Gary Shull.

He said Rider was charged with burglary of a vehicle, theft, and contributing to a child's misconduct. Rider's 17-year-old daughter was arrested along with her 19-year-old friend after the robbery for their participation in the alleged crime. The truck was hauling toys and candy.

Rider lists his address as being from Colby, but has been living in California, working for the trucking company, and has a California driver's license.

He was released from the Thomas County Jail on a \$25,000 security bond and is scheduled to appear in court on Nov. 6.

Police arrested Rider on Sept. 25, after investigating a call from C.R. England Trucking Company. Their truck was parked across the street from Colby Ag Center, and witnesses from inside the business called the trucking company saying the truck was being robbed.

Shull said that when officers arrived at the West Fourth Street location no one was around the truck, but after talking with witnesses and gathering evidence, Rider, his daughter, and her friend were arrested.

Both the daughter and her friend have not been formally charged, but according to Shull, the paper work is in progress for the filing.

Showering investigation continues

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

The investigation continues on the case involving high school girls being videotaped while showering after a volleyball tournament in Brewster last Saturday.

Thomas County Sheriff's Office investigator, C.D. Hopper said that as of today there has been no formal filing of charges against Adam F. Juenemann, the 23-year-old Brewster man arrested in conjunction with the alleged incident.

Juenemann remains in jail while witnesses and victims are being interviewed.

Hopper said there are a "great number" of victims who are still making statements.

Juenemann allegedly was hiding in an access area between the walls of the girls locker room making videotape of the girls showering after the tournament.

Ready for the auction



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Quinlee Niblock and her brother Lander (on the tractor) helped set up items to be auctioned at the Hospice Services of Thomas County annual fund raiser on Saturday, Oct. 26 at the City Limits Convention Center. The items can be seen in the window of the former Buffalo Creek location at 445 N. Franklin.

Death, destruction in Salina fire

SALINA (AP) — An explosion and fire that destroyed four townhouses also killed a woman who friends say will be irreplaceable at the Salina Community Theatre.

Authorities are still investigating the cause of Wednesday's explosion and fire that killed Mary Ann Schnepf, 75.

A neighbor, Ruth Weeks, said she heard the explosion outside her townhouse about 6:50 a.m. When she went outside, she said she heard Schnepf calling for help.

"She was upstairs, and she was just yelling, 'Help me! I can't get out.' I turned to get back in, to call for help, and my door had blown shut. It was

locked. I couldn't get back in," Weeks said.

Nancy Hampton, who lived in another of the burned townhouses, said she was in bed when she heard the explosion, which she described as a "tremendous noise, like a thunder clap." She, too, heard Schnepf's calls for help as she fled her townhouse. By the time she got outside, "it was a huge fire already."

Lt. Rick Nicholson, who was on the first truck to arrive at the fire, said firefighters tried to enter one townhouse but backed away because of the intense heat and fire. Because of the threat of further explosions, nearby

residents were evacuated.

Schnepf was a volunteer at the community theater for most of the 1980s and managed the box office for the last 10 years.

Marsha Stewart, a volunteer at the theater since the early 1960s, said people connected with the theater are devastated by Schnepf's death.

"She's just irreplaceable, an irreplaceable person. She ran the box office. Mary Ann was the box office," Stewart said.

Michael Spicer, the theater's managing and artistic director, estimated Schnepf arranged the sale of 23,000 seats every year.<

Lili is bearing down on Louisiana as thousands flee

NEW IBERIA, La. (AP) — Hurricane Lili whipped toward land with 100 mph winds today, posing such a threat that authorities urged nearly 500,000 Gulf Coast residents to flee ahead of a storm that is the strongest to hit the region in years.

The storm shut down the region's resort towns, all 12 of Mississippi's Gulf Coast casinos, NASA's Mission Control in Houston, the nation's biggest oil import terminal and a Tabasco bottling plant near the Louisiana coast.

Early Thursday, Lili weakened to become a Category 2 storm, with winds of 100 mph. That was good news to Gulf Coast residents who were expecting a Category 4 storm, with winds of 131 to 155 mph.

"But it's still a major storm and there will be damage," said National Hurricane Center forecaster Robbie Berg.

Forecasters had been expecting a much stronger storm as it revved up in the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico hours earlier.

"We have a real disaster in the making," said Max Mayfield, director of the hurricane center. "This is going to be the worst hurricane to hit the Louisiana coast" since at least the mid-1940s.

At 5 a.m. EDT, the hurricane's eye was about 95 miles south of New Iberia, La., which is about 140 miles from New Orleans, heading toward the marshy coast at 17 mph. Landfall was likely to be between New Iberia and Morgan City in mid to late morning, hurricane center meteorologist Christopher Jackins said.

Hurricane winds extend about 45 miles from the eye and will stay that strong up to 150 miles inland, Mayfield

said.

Lili was headed for Louisiana less than a week after Tropical Storm Isidore dumped more than 20 inches of rain and caused \$100 million in flood damage. While Isidore did its damage with rain, Lili's winds and storm surge were the major threats.

Forecasters warned that some areas could be inundated with 6 to 10 inches of rain and coastal areas could face a life-threatening storm surge of up to 25 feet. The storm also could spawn tornadoes across the region, forecasters said.

A surge of that size was likely to leave up to 15 feet of water in the coastal towns of Erath, Delcambre and Cypremort Point, and there could be 2 to 8 feet of water in Abbeville, 20 miles inland, the weather service said.

About 143,000 people in Louisiana

Shallenburger, Sebelius debate education funds

The gubernatorial debates continue in Colby on Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center on the campus of Colby Community College.

OVERLAND PARK (AP) — Education funding in Kansas was again the main topic when the state's two leading candidates for governor met at a forum.

Democrat Kathleen Sebelius said Wednesday that if her Republican opponent, Tim Shallenburger, thinks the state's education formula is flawed, he should have fixed it while he was House speaker.

Sebelius said Shallenburger, now the state treasurer, also failed to boost state per-pupil spending during the four years in which he led the House from 1995-1998.

Shallenburger countered that Gov. Bill Graves, a fellow Republican, didn't want to change the formula.

"We need the leadership to change it," he said at an Overland Park forum sponsored by four Johnson County chambers of commerce.

He said the House had increased education spending by \$400 million in the years he was speaker.

Most of that money didn't go into the per-pupil aid formula, but into other education funds, such as one for large school districts to cover their higher operating costs.

Those funds were established to patch up problems in the basic school-aid formula, Shallenburger said.

"That's not being a piker," he said. As governor, he said, he would rewrite the formula, putting less emphasis on enrollment as the formula's guiding principle.

The two candidates broke no new ground during the forum.

Both were asked what programs they would cut to plug a gaping hole in the state budget, and they gave the same answers as they had in past meetings.

Sebelius, the state insurance commissioner, again promised a "top to bottom" review of state government

spending that would begin the day after the election.

Shallenburger proposed a "line by line" review to figure out where money is being wasted.

As he has before, Shallenburger pledged to oppose any tax increase.

On economic development, Shallenburger urged the state to boost its tourism budget to attract out-of-state visitors.

Sebelius emphasized work-force training programs for 21st century jobs.

The two candidates used the occasion to take some shots at Missouri's roads and at Branson, the southwest Missouri city widely known for its many musical attractions.

Sebelius said Missouri roads were scarier than the Sept. 11 attacks, and Shallenburger called Branson a tourist trap.

In response to a question on highway funding, Sebelius said she was stranded in Ohio when the nation's airports were closed after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. She rented a car and drove by herself on Interstate 70 through Missouri to Kansas.

"The roads in Missouri were much more terrifying to me than the attacks on the World Trade Center, because I really did think my life was far more at risk," she said.

The condition of that road showed why it was important for Kansas to keep up its highway infrastructure, she added.

Later, in response to a question about Sebelius' comment, Shallenburger said, "I wouldn't have said that. I don't think roads are more dangerous than what happened on 9-11."

Shallenburger also picked up on the Missouri theme, saying Kansas should imitate its neighbor in promoting tourism.

"I'm from southeast Kansas," he said. "There used to be a cave near a little town called Branson. That was it, a cave; a dirty, dingy cave."

"Today," Shallenburger said, "it's the fourth-biggest tourist trap in the country."

WeatherWatch

Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Wednesday's high, 45
Low this morning, 39
Year ago today, 87 and 48

Temperature at 11:15 a.m. today, 49

Colby's 24-hr. rainfall, 0.10

Records for Oct. 3, 94 in 1916, 26

in 1899

The forecast

Tonight, cloudy, showers, low in lower 40s. Friday, cloudy to partly cloudy, highs around 63, north wind 10-20 mph. Friday night,

partly cloudy then becoming cloudy late, lows in upper 30s. Saturday, cloudy, highs in the lower 60s.

Colby Water Usage

• Oct. 2 = (not available)

Briefly

Dems to host Sebelius reception

The Thomas County Democratic Party will host a reception for Kathleen Sebelius immediately following the debate on Sunday evening. The reception will be at the Comfort Inn Convention Center. John Sears said the reception site will be open before the debate to accommodate those who won't be attending the debate at Colby Community College, but want to meet Sebelius. He said light refreshments and cookies will be provided.

Law, Elders Week activity set

National Elders and Law Week will be Oct. 7-11. There will be a presentation for all seniors about the court system on the third floor of the Thomas County Courthouse on Wednesday, Oct. 9 from 9 to 10 a.m.

Singles dance scheduled for Friday

The Colby Singles Group is sponsoring its monthly dance on Friday from 8 p.m. to midnight. The event is open to all single people, alumni and guests. For info., call Don Birzer, 462-2127.

Beims benefit at Atwood Oct. 20

A benefit for Braden Scott Beims, infant son of Mitch and Cortney Beims, Colby, will be held in Atwood at the Knights of Columbus Hall from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 20. Chicken noodle soup, chili, desserts and soft drinks will be available. This will be a free-will offering. Everyone in the area is invited to attend.

Medicine meeting Tuesday

Area businesses can learn to protect their employees' physical health at an Occupational Medicine meeting on Oct. 8 from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Comfort Inn Convention Center in Colby. Call (785) 462-1214, Citizens Foundation, for more information.

Tootsie Roll Drive dates set

On October 11, 12 and 13, the Colby Council of the Knights of Columbus will be handing out specially marked Tootsie Tolls while seeking donations for the mentally challenged. The members of the Knights will be at several locations in Colby, so look for these friendly gentlemen in their bright yellow and red aprons

and please — be generous. Donations may also be sent to the local Knights of Columbus Council in care of Dick Parnell, Tootsie Roll Chairman, at 2820 N. Range in Colby. Make checks payable to "Tootsie Roll Program Fund" and remember that your donations are tax deductible.

School carnival needs help

The Colby Grade School Parent Teacher Organization is seeking donations from area businesses for the raffle which will be held during the PTO Carnival on Oct. 26. Donations can either be mailed in or the PTO will pick them up. Contact Becky Butts at 462-2774 or Julie Price at 462-3506.

Auxiliary needs items

Donations of good new or used holiday items are needed for the *Recycled Holidays Sale* sponsored by the Citizens Medical Center Auxiliary. Donations may be left at 545 Woofter Avenue in the evenings after 5 p.m. or call 462-7777 or 462-6896. The sale will be Saturday, Oct. 19, from 8 to 11 a.m. at 545 Woofter Avenue.

