



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## ‘Eagle’ will fly again, despite injury

By **PATTY DECKER**

*Free Press Editor*

Shane Stover will be back.

After all, it’s tough to keep a good man down and, in Shane’s case, that’s exactly what he and others are saying after the accident Tuesday night in Norton that horrified everyone on or off the court.

While driving Shane home from Kearney, Neb. on Wednesday night, his father, Lynn, talked about how his son was doing.

“It was a long surgery,” he said, “and because of the severed artery, Shane lost a lot of blood (getting from Norton to the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney).”

The extent of Shane’s injuries, he said, included a tear in the biceps on the upper left arm and below the



**S. Stover**

elbow, one of the two arteries were severed.

Making matters even worse, Shane’s dad said the flight crew in Goodland couldn’t get there because their plane was broken down and when the Norton Hospital called the Kearney Hospital, they could not use their helicopter because of the fog that night.

For the entire Stover family, it was a very long trip by ambulance to Kearney since Shane was losing a lot of blood. Once at the hospital, surgeons went to work immediately.

“The way the surgeon explained it,” he said, “was Shane severed the smaller of the two arteries below the elbow and in surgery that artery had to be tied shut.” It was fortunate, too, that Shane didn’t sever the larger artery below the elbow or the “huge” artery that leads down from the shoulder.

In addition to shutting the artery, doctors in Nebraska reattached the biceps and now Shane is wearing a

“It was a long surgery . . . and because of the severed artery Shane lost a lot of blood.”

**Lynn Stover,  
Shane’s father**

“hard splint” with tons and tons of wrap around it, his Dad said. “He will need to keep the splint on for the next 10 days,” he said, “and for now and after the 10 days, we will be consulting with our physician, Dr. (Victor) Hildyard.”

Many attending the basketball game did not know what had happened to Shane other than what they saw, which was that he raced for the ball to keep it from going out of bounds in the fourth quarter, but in that attempt, hit the glass door in the gymnasium and then exited into the lobby.

It happened so fast, but his father

said he knew something was wrong immediately as he rushed from the top of the bleachers to be the first to reach his son.

Entering the lobby he saw that his son was hurt badly and Mr. Stover said two Colby people stood out in his mind. The first was Randy Decker, employed as a physical therapist assistant at Citizens Medical Center, who raced to Shane and immediately applied pressure to the bleeding artery and, the second, Kathy Bissett, a registered nurse also employed at Citizens Medical Center, who helped in stabilizing him until Norton emergency medi-

cal personnel arrived.

“I want to thank Randy and Kathy for all they did,” he said, “but I know there were others who helped us and I want to thank them too.”

In talking with Decker and Bissett, they both said they were relieved Shane is going to be okay.

“I was already thinking and worrying about those glass windows,” Decker said today. “When I saw Shane go for the ball and then disappear in the lobby, followed by a girl screaming, I reacted.”

Initially Decker said he thought it was going to be something a lot worse, like with the head or neck — but said he was “extremely relieved” knowing that although it would be “touchy” that Shane was going to be alright.

“I wasn’t as worried about the biceps as I was about the bleeding and the other wound in the lower artery,” he said. “My concern was that Shane needed this taken care of right away and was glad when I heard it was.”

As a fan, Decker said he is sad that Shane won’t be playing in sub-state.

“It will be hard not watching him next week,” Decker said. “I have always appreciated what a dynamic, enthusiastic and inspirational player Shane is.”

For Bissett, she too was glad he would be okay. “As a nurse, we are trained that in any kind of situation and no matter who it is, we render help.”

In this particular case, Bissett said she did know Shane and her husband, Derek, the high school boys head coach, and they care about him and the other boys a lot.

Bissett also mentioned Deanna Sulzman, nurse practitioner at Colby Medical and Surgical Center, lending her help and expertise.

“We are thankful we live in a small, close community like Colby, having people who care that much about each other,” she said.

(Friday: Reaction from within the community, plus photos.)

## Former Colbyite’s son wins \$100,000

By **TISHA COX**

*Colby Free Press*

Colby residents Gary and Elfriede Cooper have a grandson named Cooper, who is a television star of sorts. But that isn’t what people are going to remember the toddler for. They’re going to remember the fact he won his family \$100,000 on “America’s Funniest Home Videos” on ABC.

The 21-month-old toddler is the son of Anna and Andy Lull of Boulder, Colo.



**Cooper Lull**

Anna Lull is the daughter of Elfriede and Gary Cooper.

“We were shocked and surprised and really happy,” Anna said by phone from Boulder on Tuesday.

The winning video featured spaghetti coming out of Cooper’s nose while he was eating. It was up against a clip of a cat, other kid videos and people at a party.

She said filming Cooper during his first year, especially when he was learning to feed himself was a common occurrence.

It was “cute,” Anna said and the day the prize-winning video was shot, her son was covered in spaghetti sauce.

“It was just a coincidence,” she said. “We didn’t know there was anything up his nose when the camera was on.”

The family was awarded one of the weekly \$10,000 prizes in October. They were flown out to California for the taping of that show and again in January for two nights for the taping of the grand-prize show.

“It was quite an experience for the family,” she said.

Anna added Cooper still isn’t too aware of all the buzz about the video but she said it’ll be something to show him when he’s grown a little.

“It’ll be fun to show him when he’s older,” she said.

“We had a good time. We can’t complain,” Anna said.

The family is going to invest the money and use it to pay for Cooper’s college education and also for any other children they have.

Grandma Elfriede said she thinks the audience favored the video of her grandson over the others because it was “wholesome” and not a set up stunt.

“It was a happy thing,” she said, adding it was funny rather than anyone getting hurt.



Penny Cline, service unit cookie manager for the Girl Scouts in Colby, counted cases of Girl Scout cookies as they were delivered and unloaded at TNT Auction Wednesday, while Josh Anschutz brought them off the truck.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

## Girl Scouts sell 93,000 boxes of cookies

By **TISHA COX**

*Colby Free Press*

More than 93,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies are on their way into the hands of residents of northwest Kansas. That’s just the number from the first round of orders for the area.

Linda Mills, chief executive officer of Girl Scouts of Sunflower Chapter, Inc. in Hays, said Colby was one of five communities whose sales exceeded their total for last year. Colby, Atwood, St. Francis, Grainfield and Herndon were the five communities in the council who

sold more cookies than in 2003.

Sixteen counties make up the Sunflower Council. They are Rush, Ellis, Rooks, Phillips, Trego, Graham, Norton, Gove, Sheridan, Decatur, Logan, Thomas, Rawlins, Wallace, Sherman and Cheyenne.

She was happy with the fact some communities did exceed their goals and said they’re always excited when that happens.

Penny Cline, service unit cookie manager in Colby, said Girl Scouts in the community sold 808 cases in 2003 and 823 in 2002. The goal for 2004 was 824 cases but they exceeded that by 16 cases.

“Council-wide we were short 900 cases,” Cline said. “We met our goals. We sold 840. The girls in Colby did very well.”

In the order that was just delivered to TNT Auction for distribution, 10,080 boxes or 840 cases were received for distribution in Thomas County. Distribution started Wednesday and will run through March 12.

A second batch of orders is due in on Friday but Mills said they won’t know until March 3 how many more boxes of cookies were sold. Overall, they are hoping for a 2 percent increase for the entire council.

“We extended the sale because some of our communities were down,” she said.

Also, 78 less girls sold cookies this year. “I think that had an impact, that and bad weather. I definitely think the weather hindered us.”

Mills said the cookie sales are the biggest fund-raiser the scouts have each year.

For every box sold, a chapter gets 55 cents and they also receive cookie dough coupons which can be put toward camp, new uniforms and membership fees.



### Very warm

**Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...**Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Not as cool. Lows in the lower 30s. South winds 15 to 20 mph. **Friday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. **Friday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. **Saturday...**Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of rain in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 50s. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph. **Saturday night...**Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain or snow. Lows in the mid 30s. **Sunday...**Cloudy with a chance of rain or snow. Highs in the 40s. Chance of rain and snow 30 percent.

**The numbers**  
Wednesday’s high, 43  
Low this morning, 20  
Records for Feb. 26, 76 in 1986 and -9 in 1960  
Year ago today, 32 and 2  
February 2004 precipitation, 0.27 inches  
February 2004 snowfall, 6 inches  
Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00

**The sources:**  
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

## Briefly

### Volunteers need for tournament

Volunteers are needed for the Colby High School Eagle forensics team tournament, Thursday, March 25, starting at 2 p.m. All competitions will be held at the high school and more than 20 schools are expected to participate, said Nancy Rundel, head coach. For those who can volunteer their time, Rundel and Linda Jones, assistant coach, urge them to call (785) 360-5300, ext. 3504 and leave a message or stop by the high school and pick up a judging form.

### Scouts, Rotary plan soup supper

Boy Scout Troop 141 and the Colby Rotary Club are co-sponsoring a soup supper on Monday and Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m., at the Colby Community Building before the Colby High School sub-state basketball games. Cost is a free-will donation. All proceeds will go toward the scouts going to the National Jamboree Camp held in Virginia in the summer of 2005.

### Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will hold their end

of month meeting Friday at 9 a.m. at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include radios for the county Emergency Medical Services and the county landfill. The meeting is open to the public.

### School board to meet

The Colby School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the board room of the administration building. Items on the agenda include principal reports, a report from the curriculum director and superintendent, track resurfacing bids, kindergarten program, republication of the 2003-2004 budget, drug-free schools subcontract and personnel matters. The meeting is open to the public.

### Gem Lions plan soup day

The Gem Lions Club is sponsoring its annual winter soup day Saturday, March 6, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Gem Community Building. The event is featuring chili, veggie and potato soups with all proceeds from the free-will donation going toward service projects. Club members are also reminding everyone that the Lions recycle eyeglasses and hearing aids.

### Sacred Heart pre-enrollment planned

Sacred Heart School will have pre-enrollment for its kindergarten and preschool from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, March 3, in the school lobby, 1150 W. 6th St., Colby. For questions, call the school office at 460-2813.

### School board meets earlier Monday

The regular meeting of the Colby Board of Education will begin at 5:30 p.m. instead of its normal time of 7 p.m., Monday, in the administration building. The reason for the change in times, said Kirk Nielsen, superintendent, is due to sub-state girls basketball when the Lady Eagles face off with Ulysses at 7 p.m. in the Colby Community Building. All board meetings are held in the new administration building on the corner of Third St. and Grant St. and open to everyone. For questions, call 460-5300.

### Easter Cantata practice

Community Easter Cantata practices will be on Sundays at 3 p.m. at Colby Wesleyan Church. Everyone is welcome. The title of this year’s cantata is “Because He Lives.” For information, call 462-8391.

