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ART KOSTER/Winona

An early morning train derailment ended with coal cars being strewn along Union Pacific railroad tracks west of Winona.

## No one hurt in Winona train derailment

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Free Press Reporter  
jkackerman@gmail.com

An early morning train derailment dumped 18 coal cars on the ground a mile west Winona. Winona is a town of about 200 residents and is 20 miles west of the town of Oakley in Logan County.

"This all happened about 4:40 a.m. this morning," Logan County Emergency Management Director George "Pappy"

Lies said. "The Union Pacific line is shut down, and the company is sending three crews in to clean up the mess."

Lies said there were no injuries as a result of the accident. He said there are no hazardous materials near the wreck or in the surrounding area. No details about what caused the train to derail were available at press time.

"The train had about 100 cars in it," Lies said. "But the railway has taken away some of them."

Margie Ausmus of Winona lives three blocks from the railroad tracks. She said it was the local fire siren that alerted her that something had happened.

"The siren blew about 5 a.m.," Ausmus said. "I went down there and one coal car kept the train from hitting the Co-op (Frontier Ag)."

Ausmus said as one of the cars derailed, it landed in such a way as to block the cars from behind it from sliding into the elevator.

"The rail is tipped up in the air," Ausmus said. "The railroad will be shut down for a long time."

Ausmus said train cars are on both sides of the accident, and that at one point the train extends from Winona to about six miles east of it. Winona resident Karen Barrett said she did not hear the train leave its tracks, but the siren alerted her to a problem. Barrett works at Winona Feed and Grain and she said the accident is about a block from where she works.

"You can't see it out the window," Barrett said. "But if you walk down there's a jumble of stuff on the tracks. You can usually see right through, but not today."

Barrett said crews from Union Pacific were on the scene early this morning and residents have been told a crane will be brought in to assist with removing debris.

"They've pulled off cars that didn't derail and we are expecting a crane to come and get the rest," Barrett said.

## Colby business honored

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Free Press Reporter  
jkackerman@gmail.com

A Colby couple has been honored by the Kansas Department of Commerce for their innovative jewelry closet made at Mingo Custom Woods in Colby.

Originally located in Mingo, Craig and Shannon Myers moved Mingo Custom Woods to 1965 W. Fourth Street in Colby when they outgrew their smaller facility.

The Myers have been awarded the Business Achievement Award for Manufacturing and Distribution in Northwest Kansas.

The award ceremony took place at the 2008 Kansas Business Appreciation Month ceremony on June 2 in Russell.

"We live in a small house and my wife had this mirror and she wanted a place to hang her necklaces," Craig Myers said.

Using the mirror, Myers fashioned a wooden box on which he attached the mirror to create a closet for his wife's jewelry. That closet became a Christmas gift to his wife in 1997. Two versions later, the closet, either 14 1/4-inch by 33 inches or 14 1/4-inch by 48 inches, is available in oak, cherry, maple and paintable grade lumber.

The jewelry closets, which

**"We live in a small house and my wife had this mirror and she wanted a place to hang necklaces."**

Craig Myers,  
Mingo Custom Woods

sell from \$500 to \$550, come in wall or recessed versions and can hold 36 plus necklaces, 72 plus pair of earrings and 40 plus rings, depending on shape and size, Myers said.

The closets can also be made to connect to a home security system.

"Ninety-five percent of our customers want the long model," Myers said.

The closet has made its way to international appearances on the Home and Garden Television network.

Myers will be featured on the "Kitchens and Baths 2008" show on the "Mirrors That Work for You" segment.

The show is scheduled to run at 7 p.m. Sept. 28; 11 p.m. Sept. 29; 8 p.m. Oct. 24; and midnight Oct. 25.

The jewelry closets are available for purchase at Mingo Custom Woods or through trade magazines such as "Improvements", "Stacks and Stacks",

"Sky Mall" as well as online sites. Myers said the closets are great features to recreational vehicles and boats.

Besides the latest award from the Kansas Department of Commerce, Myers has received awards such as "Most Requested Product of 2005" by "Kitchen and Bath Design" news magazine and was featured on the 2000 International Builder's Show on the Home and Garden Television network.

The couple has four children, Rachel, 15; Amy, 12; Carrie, 9; and Ryan, 6.

Myers said besides being actively involved in activities at the Berean Church in Colby, the family's hobbies include outdoors activities such as basketball, biking, skiing and camping and just spending time together.

Crediting God for their success, Myers plans to continue developing new products and expanding Mingo Custom Woods.

## What's wrong with this picture?



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

The Colby City Council is urging residents to take a look around their property and cut any trees, shrubbery or hedges which may be obstructing alleyways, streets or sidewalks. Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, said the code states tree limbs or branches cannot extend out over the sidewalks lower than eight feet from the surface or over that portion of any street, alley or other public way used for vehicles lower than 13 feet six inches from the surface. The tree branches, above, are in violation of the code. If a violation is issued, property owners will be given 10 days to fix the problem. For questions, call Gary Walker, code enforcement officer, from 8 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday at 460-4410.

## Colby man charged with stealing money and alleged threats

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Free Press Reporter  
jkackerman@gmail.com

A Colby man has been charged with multiple crimes involving theft of money and harassing and threatening phone calls.

Julius C. Christopher, 42, has been charged in Thomas County District Court and Colby Municipal Court for crimes which are alleged to have taken place between July 21 and Aug. 5, officials said.

Christopher is alleged to have

been invited to the home of a 52-year-old woman in the 700 block of Dylan Drive on July 21.

After he left the woman's apartment, she noticed her purse, in which she had placed \$15,000 cash, was missing, said Colby Police Chief Randy Jones.

The name of the woman is being withheld due to the fact she suffers from a disability which diminishes her decision making process.

On July 24, Christopher is alleged to have repeatedly called a 28-year-old Colby woman ha-

arrassing her on the telephone.

And on Aug. 5, Christopher is alleged to have called a Colby man and left threatening messages on his answering machine.

If convicted, and depending on his criminal history back-

ground, Christopher faces five to 17 months in prison and a fine up to \$100,000.

Christopher was scheduled for a preliminary hearing today, but it has been continued to 10 a.m. Oct. 6 at the courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave. in Colby.

## Briefly

### Annual hog roast set

The Gem Lions Club is hosting its annual Hog Roast from 5 to 8 p.m., Wednesday at the Gem Community Building in Gem. Bluegrass, folk and country music provided by the Jeff Wagoner Family and many other regulars are featured entertainment. The dinner is free-will donations with net proceeds going toward community projects. Organizers are also asking visitors to donate any used eyeglasses or hearing aids. For questions,

call Ken Poland, publicity chair, 462-7809.

### College volleyball tonight

The first home match for the Colby College women's volleyball team against McCook starts at 7 p.m. tonight in the Colby Community Building. Colby sportscaster Rich Epp will give a play-by-play on KTCC (91.9) beginning at 6:45 p.m.

### New group forming

A new group for people ages 50 and over is forming called "More Fun Together." The group is open

to widowers, divorcees, people never married, or anyone who is alone. The first meeting is a potluck at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 13, in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St. For questions, call 462-6342.

### Field day scheduled

A horticultural field day at the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center is planned Thursday. The event is part of a statewide effort sponsored by Kansas State University Research and Extension and/or its Extension Master Gardeners. For the time, call (785) 462-6281.

### Group offered well testing

The Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group in Colby does private well testing. For questions or to make an appointment, call (785) 462-8636 or stop by the office, 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 4, Colby.

### Pet adoption available

Colby Animal Clinic has animals ready for adoption. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

