



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Rexford honored

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

Rexford and Atwood were among communities receiving awards at a ceremony in Great Bend from the Kansas PRIDE program, which was celebrating its 31st anniversary, said Sally Lunsford, Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing.

Rexford received a merit award for the Golden Plains Homecoming Parade in October, 2000 and Atwood for a recycling center.

"One of the main reasons they liked ours (submission) was because we worked with the school," said Kathi Hapke, one of the PRIDE organizers in Rexford. "The community, the youth and the school got together and we had to submit pictures and a write-up by June 1 to the state's commerce and housing office."

As part of their application, Hapke said, the group sent an article that was in the Colby Free Press and some pictures they had taken.

"We were pretty excited since we had just been in the PRIDE program a year when we turned that in," she said.

Duane Cheney and Peg Greenwood, who also worked on the application, attended the meeting in Great Bend, saying that pictures of the homecoming parade were displayed on a large screen in the background when Cheney accepted the award.

Sixty-three Kansas communities currently participate in PRIDE, said Lunsford about the program.

Communities interested in the program can call the housing department at (785) 296-3485 or K-State Research and Extension at (785) 532-5840.

"The Department of Commerce and Housing is the state's lead economic development organization, responsible for ensuring economic opportunities for all Kansans," Lunsford said.

## Need a discount card?



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Pat Sprenkel, newly employed as attendance secretary at Colby High School, bought a Colby Music Boosters discount card from Jessica Stockton today, a junior in vocal and band. The cards, music officials said, are now on sale for \$5 and can be purchased from any band or vocal student at either the middle school or high school. For information or questions, call 462-6780.

## Corn harvest coming into county's focus

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Wet corn is already being cut here for use in feedlots and those who watch such things say harvest should be in full swing within a couple of weeks, if the weather holds.

"How much longer is always a good question," said Dennis Chandler, Thomas County Extension agent. "Warm weather is predicted this weekend and that would help."

Wet corn has a 28-34 percent moisture content and is generally used in feedlots, Chandler said. He said most grain isn't cut for storage until moisture content gets to around 13 percent.

Chandler said he hadn't heard anything on yields, but he thought it might be about the same as last year.

"I haven't heard anyone saying 'I've got great corn' this year," he said. Some good yields are possible in fields that received better moisture than others.

Some dryland fields were abandoned and cut for either silage or hay earlier in the season because of the head, Chandler said.

"Yields will depend on whether you were under the showers or not," said Roger Stockton, agronomist at the Northwest Research-Extension Center in Colby.

"Hopefully, there won't be any train wrecks this year," he said, adding that he didn't foresee any "fantastic" yields, either.

Stockton said disease wasn't a problem, although alfatoxin had been a little higher than normal in some samples.

"There is always a low level in food grains, but the drought conditions can make levels higher," he said. Alfatoxin is a mold fungi found in grain that is worsened by drought conditions.

Stockton added that he didn't think levels would be high enough to cause problems, but some producers were worried.

"I think some people are just hitting the panic button," he said.

Both Chandler and Stockton said a lot of farmers are still planting wheat and they thought corn harvest would begin in earnest after wheat planting was done.

"It's all hitting at the same time," said Stockton. Some are also harvesting milo and irrigated soybeans, which are become popular as a rotation crop with corn.

"If you plant corn every year, a lot of weeds and pest problems crop up," said Stockton. "Planting soybeans every third year or so stops some of that."

Jim Foltz of Cornerstone Ag said farmers were doing a lot of cutting in the Mingo area, where he lives.

"Everybody is running pretty hard down there," he said, adding that most of the cutting was wet corn for feedlot use.

"They'll probably start binning and bringing the corn to town next week," he said.

Diana Luhman from Hi-Plains Co-op agreed. "We haven't seen any corn, yet," she said. Luhman also thought harvest would begin in earnest about the middle of next week, unless it rains.

## Bush calls for guardsmen to protect airports; looks at security

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush urged governors Thursday to call up National Guard units to protect U.S. airports while he implements a long-term plan to secure airlines from terrorist attack. The package includes putting the federal government in charge of airport security.

Bush also proposed spending \$500 million on aircraft modifications that would deny or delay access to cockpits.

Terrorists hijacked four airplanes Sept. 11, crashing two into the World Trade Center in New York and one into the Pentagon outside Washington. A fourth crashed in Pennsylvania, apparently after passengers struggled with

the hijackers. U.S. air travel has dropped sharply since the attacks.

The White House released an outline of Bush's air-security plan shortly before the president was due to leave for Chicago, where he was discussing the proposals with airline workers.

Bush said Wednesday he was offering the "confidence-boosting measures and some concrete proposals" to "convince the American public it is safe to fly."

"One of my concerns is that this terrible incident has convinced many Americans to stay at home," Bush said.

"And one of the keys to economic recovery is going to be the vitality of the

airline industry."

Bush's plan includes:

—Expanding the use of federal air marshals aboard commercial airliners. "The requirements and qualifications of federal air marshals are among the most stringent of any U.S. federal law enforcement agency," the White House statement said.

—Spending \$500 million on plan modifications, including efforts to restrict the opening of cockpit doors during flights, fortify cockpit doors to deny access from the cabin, alert the cockpit crew to activity in the cabin and ensure continuous operation of the aircraft transponder in the event of an

emergency. The transponder allows air controllers to track a plane.

—Putting the federal government in charge of airport security and screening, including the purchase and maintenance of all equipment. The government would supervise passenger and baggage security and perform background checks on security personnel.

"Fully implementing the extensive security proposal may take four to six months," the White House statement said. "During that time, the president will help ensure that every airport has a strong security presence by asking the governors of the 50 states to call up the National Guard to augment exist-

ing security staff at every commercial airport nationwide."

Bush's trip to Chicago was the second time he has traveled on Air Force One since the Sept. 11 jetliner attacks on New York and Washington that left nearly 7,000 dead or missing.

White House officials said the administration has several other options under consideration, including installing cameras to monitor jetliner cabins. Bush also hopes to reopen Reagan National Airport outside Washington, the only airport still closed due to the Sept. 11 attacks, but is not yet convinced that flying there would be safe, aides said. He is examining options

that could lead to the reopening of the airport.

Bush's plan does not include arming pilots, action requested by the pilots themselves. "There may be better ways to do it than that, but I'm open for any suggestion," Bush said Wednesday, as aides privately confirmed that he is cool to the idea.

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta boarded a commercial flight Thursday at Baltimore-Washington International Airport to demonstrate his confidence in the air system. He was bound for Chicago to join Bush, accompanied by Jane Garvey, head of the Federal Aviation Administration.

## Remember to help

Residents are again reminded of the canisters in various locations in Colby to benefit relief efforts following attacks by terrorists on Sept. 11. The Colby Free Press, a member of Nor'west Newspapers, has supplied all Colby banks with canisters and also has a canister on its front counter.

Donations of any amount are appreciated, and those depositing checks in the canisters are asked to make the check out to the American Red Cross and in the Memo at the bottom of the check note Disaster Relief Fund.

All five Nor' West Newspapers have provided the canisters to the banks in their respective communities.



## Local police officers assist with airport security

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Five law enforcement personnel from Colby and Thomas County helped fellow officers in Finney County and Garden City control their airport following a Federal Aviation Administration order grounding airplanes to the nearest location after the terrorist attack on Sept. 11.

Three large commercial flights were routed to Garden City's regional airport, including a United Airline 757, AirCanada 727 and a US Airways Airbus 300, carrying a total of 180 passengers and crews.

Thomas County Sheriff Tom Jones and Colby Police Chief Randy Jones said they both had officers willing to offer assistance.

"We got a call Tuesday afternoon

and within the hour, five officers agreed to go," Sheriff Jones said.

"This was the kind of situation that warranted helping our neighbors."

One of the five officers, Jim Engel, a deputy with the sheriff's office, said it was tough to leave when so much was going on, but the experience was unique.

Engel said that local officers were briefed as soon as they arrived and assigned to the same team.

"The airport had 24-hour coverage and we were asked to control the perimeter and make sure nobody came near the planes," he said.

"There were a lot of people wanting to see the planes, which was the main reason extra security was needed."

One of the planes was only four gates



Thomas County and Colby police were among many assisting Finney County to guard commercial planes, like the one above, that was grounded in Garden City following the attacks on Sept. 11.

away from the United plane that crashed into the World Trade Center.

Others from here involved were Colby Police Officers Tom Nickols, Ron Alexander and Kevin Diercks,

along with Engel and Brian Diercks from the sheriff's office.

"It was a reasonable request to help Finney County in unreasonable times," said Sheriff Jones today.

## Briefly

### Weather: No change

Enjoy it while it lasts and it is expected to last for quite a while, advises the National Weather Service in its mid-morning forecast today for the Colby region. Tonight, lows 45-50, light winds and clear skies. Friday, highs 75-80, southeast winds 10-20 mph and mostly sunny. Friday night, lows near 50 and clear skies. Saturday and Sunday, partly cloudy, lows in the upper 40s to around 50 and highs 75-80. And stretching the forecast out to Oct. 10, the weather people see little or no change, with partly cloudy skies, lows in the 40s and highs in the lower 70s. Colby's high Wednesday was 80 and the overnight low this morning was 44. Precipitation remains at 3.03 inches for the month. The soil

temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 65 degrees. The records for Sept. 27: 96 in 1904 and 26 in 1908. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Props needed for play

The Colby Community College drama department is searching for props for its play, *Heaven Can Wait*. "We are looking for old boxing or training equipment (preferably from the 1930s-40s), a 1930s style radio, an old saxophone and a furniture piece that could be used as a small bar," said Deb Bickner, one of the organizers. If anyone has any of

these items and would be willing to loan them, call Bickner at the college, 462-3984, ext. 300.

### Library to have reception

Pioneer Memorial Library will have a farewell reception for Sheryl Goossen, children's librarian, 2-4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28. Rosa Lee Waterman will take over as children's librarian.

### Commissioners meet Friday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Friday in the commissioners room of the courthouse. Emergency Preparedness Coordinator John Lygeros will discuss

the command post adapter at 9 a.m. Other agenda items include approval of a beer license for Bubba's Corner in Brewster; discussion of front curb sidewalk repair, and any other item any member wishes to discuss. The commissioners will also meet at 9 a.m. Monday, Oct. 1.

### IRS offers tax relief

The Internal Revenue Service said Tuesday that it has established a toll-free number for taxpayers whose ability to meet their federal tax obligations has been affected by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. People with tax issues related to the attacks can call 1-866-562-5227. Those with questions unrelated to the attacks can call, 1-800-829-1040.

