



# COLBY FREE PRESS

6 pages

## Wheat crop is called great, storage ample *Some areas looking at 50 to 70 bushels*

GARDEN CITY (AP) — If predictions hold true, the Kansas wheat crop this year will eclipse last year's dismal harvest by 45 percent.

Safe to say, there will be plenty of room to store the grain when it's brought in from the fields.

"Our storage has never been this low," said Irvin Clubine, manager of Garden City Co-op in southwest Kansas. "Farmers didn't raise a crop. They haven't had much to bring to us."

With storage capacity of around 6 million bushels of wheat, the Garden City cooperative's 10 elevators are only about 13 percent full.

Last year's drought forced the co-op to cut half of its 120 jobs, sell a convenience store and close a short-line railroad.

Still, the 3,700-plus-member co-op remains on solid financial footing, even if faced with another drought year.

That doesn't appear to be the case this season, though, with timely rains giving farmers reason to smile. The Kansas Agriculture Statistics Service reported the state harvested 267.3 million bushels of wheat in 2002. This year, the Kansas wheat crop is forecast at 388 million bushels.

The Kansas Grain & Feed Association, which represents Kansas grain elevators, surveyed members in February to find out if they had

increased or decreased jobs this season.

The survey showed that the 40 companies that responded cut jobs by an average of 20 percent. Some, like the cooperative in Garden City, scaled back by as much as half.

"A lot of them are operating on skeleton crews," said Doug Wareham, KGFA senior vice president. "Management people are doing a lot of jobs to keep operations going. And it is difficult for rural communities. In many, it is the largest employer." With wheat ripening across the state, some areas may be ready for harvest in about a week. Harvest usually starts near Kiowa, a town of about 1,000 in Harper County.

"The wheat looks great," Barber County Extension agriculture agent Tim Marshall said. "The berries are full, and if the weather holds, I think we could have some yield over 50 (bushels an acre) pretty easily."

He said it wouldn't surprise him if some places reported yields as high as 70 bushels an acre.

"I visited with one guy who thinks this will be great wheat," Marshall said. "But he is cautiously optimistic. It could take one storm between here and there to ruin it."

For the state's grain elevators, it could mean more wheat in storage and a little more peace of mind for producers.



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Jeremey Edward Stoney of Oberlin was believed to have had an epileptic seizure resulting in his 1993 GMC pickup truck going out of control in the Range Avenue/Walnut Street area of Colby. A meth lab was discovered in the back of the pickup.

## Driver is taken to hospital, and then to jail

By PATTY DECKER  
Free Press Editor

Meth lab on wheels. During rescue operations Friday at about 4:45 p.m. following a one-car accident involving an Oberlin man, emergency personnel discovered a traveling methamphetamine lab in the bed of the vehicle.

Jeremey Edward Stoney, 26, while heading north on Range Avenue and just north of Walnut Street, was believed to have had

an epileptic seizure, said Gary Shull, Colby Police investigator.

The seizure caused Stoney to leave the street, jump the curb, taking out four fences to include a chain link fence at the side of 645 S. Range, a wooden fence at 635 S. Range, a wire fence at the same address and a wooden fence at the side of 810 W. Cherry.

The 1993 GMC pickup then came to rest between two trees and was stopped by knocking over a large steel wagon wheel, coming to

rest on top of the wagon wheel, Shull said.

As emergency personnel gained access to the cab from the top, which was mounted on the bed of the pickup, suspicious items were noticed and smelled, he said.

In a subsequent search by police, it was discovered that Stoney had a complete meth lab.

In order to get the man out of the pickup, a tow truck was needed to open the doors.

Even though it appeared he was

not injured from the crash, Shull said, Stoney was taken by ambulance to Citizens Medical Center and later arrested for manufacturing meth.

He is currently in the Thomas County jail pending charges by Allan Taylor, Thomas County Attorney.

The investigation is continuing by the Colby Police Department with assistance from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Thomas County Sheriff's office.



### Warm

Thomas, Logan Counties

Tonight...Cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. Light southwest wind becoming northeast late. Chance of rain 30 percent. Tuesday...Mostly cloudy in the morning...Then becoming partly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s. North wind 15 mph becoming east late. Tuesday night...A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms until midnight...Otherwise partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s. Chance of rain 20 percent. Wednesday...Mostly sunny. A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 90s. Chance of rain 20 percent. Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. Chance of rain 30 percent.

By the numbers

Sunday's high, 79

Low this morning, 53

Year ago today, 98 and 67

Records for the date, 105 in 1985, 39 in 1966

Soil temperature, 66

Weekend precipitation, 0.41

June's precipitation to date, 1.23

Year's precipitation to date, 7.58

2002's precipitation to date, 3.32

Water Usage/Colby

June 6-7-8 = average daily use 1.464 million gallons

## Bush people are confident of weapons

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bush administration officials say they are confident proof will emerge that Saddam Hussein possessed the chemical and biological weapons cited as a key reason to invade Iraq.

"We have thousands and thousands and thousands of documents that we've not yet gone through," national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said Sunday. More sites need to be investigated and many more Iraqis must be interviewed about Saddam's weapons capabilities, she added.

"We will put together this whole picture, but the preponderance of evidence is that this was a regime that had the capability, that had unaccounted-for stockpiles and unaccounted-for weapons," Rice told CBS' "Face the Nation."

Weeks of searches in Iraq by military experts have not validated the administration's portrayal of Iraq's cache of weapons.

## Wisconsin reports outbreak of monkeypox

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A virus similar to smallpox apparently jumped from pet prairie dogs to at least four people in the disease's first appearance in the Western Hemisphere.

Four Wisconsin residents have confirmed cases of the monkeypox virus and 14 others have suspected cases, said Milwaukee health commissioner Dr. Seth Foldy.

At least 10 more cases are suspected in Indiana, officials confirmed Monday. Illinois has three suspected cases.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Saturday the prairie dogs likely were infected with the virus by a giant Gambian rat, which is indigenous to Africa,

at a Chicago-area pet distributor.

The four people confirmed with the virus contracted it by close contact with prairie dogs, Wisconsin officials said.

Thirteen of the people suspected of having the virus in Wisconsin had been around prairie dogs and the other apparently contracted it while handling a sick rabbit that had been near a prairie dog. Foldy said it doesn't appear anyone contracted the virus from another person.

Monkeypox in humans is not usually fatal, but causes rashes, fevers and chills. Doctors initially feared they might be facing smallpox, which causes similar symptoms, but scientists quickly eliminated that possibility after discover-

ing the link between people and prairie dogs. Monkeypox's incubation period is about 12 days.

Two patients at Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital in Milwaukee were in satisfactory condition Sunday, hospital spokesman Mark McLaughlin said.

The two were isolated and doctors treating them wore caps, gowns and masks. Other suspected victims were treated and released.

Health officials are trying to contain the virus by preventing more animals from becoming infected.

Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection warned people not to release prairie dogs into the wild, agency spokeswoman Donna Gilson said.

Prairie dogs are burrowing herbivores indigenous to the West and Southwest, not to Wisconsin.

The agency also told state humane societies to isolate any prairie dogs people bring in.

The human mortality rate from monkeypox in Africa has ranged from one to 10 percent, but Foldy said the virus may be less lethal in the United States because people are typically better nourished and medical technology is far more advanced.

The prairie dogs were sold by a Milwaukee animal distributor in May to two pet shops in the Milwaukee area and during a pet "swap meet" in northern Wisconsin, the CDC said.

## But she isn't one of the dogs

JUNCTION CITY (AP) — Bianca thinks she is one of the family dogs. She plays, curls up on the back porch and occasionally tries to sneak into the house with them. One problem: Bianca is a buffalo.

"She tries to get inside all the time," says Jane Eyestone, who admits she occasionally lets Bianca in.

The one-month-old bison was abandoned by her mother after birth.

Since then Eyestone and her family have been raising Bianca on their

ranch near Milford Lake in rural Junction City.

The Eyestones keep Bianca in their yard, separated by a fence from the field where the rest of their buffalo roam.

Jane's 13-year-old daughter, Caitlin, bottle feeds Bianca four times a day, including breakfast at 5:30 a.m.

"It's an honor," Caitlin says. "One in a million gets to do this job."

Bianca, who looks like a cow's

calf, weighs about 50 pounds now. The Eyestones plan to wait until she's about 5 months old and try to re-introduce her to the herd.

Within six months, she'll weigh about 200 pounds and have horns. As she becomes more dominant, she'll become a danger to the children and the dogs.

At that point, she'll become part of the herd. But the Eyestones say they'll always cherish her and make sure she never ends up at the slaughterhouse.

## Briefly

### Share sign up underway

Heartland Share sign up began today and will continue through Friday, said Gene Griffin, coordinator. The sign up is at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. 4th, Colby. Delivery is scheduled for Saturday, June 28, starting at 10 a.m. in the Colby Sacred Heart School gymnasium. As an added bonus this month, she said, those ordering Share and a special of the month will have an opportunity to win a barbecue grill. Questions to 460-3579.

### La Leche League sets meetings

La Leche League of Northwest Kansas announces a summer series of informal meetings for women interested in finding out more about breast feeding. Meetings will be held Sunday, June 22 and Sunday, July 20, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church meeting room, 515 W. 4th St., Colby. A family potluck is also planned from 6 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 17 at Fike Park. The events, said Connie Davis,

with La Leche League, are for all interested mothers-to-be, mothers with nursing babies and their partners or support people. For information, to rent or buy a pump or questions about the meetings, call Davis at (785) 462-7188 or (785) 675-3501.

### After 5 Club planned Tuesday

The High Plains Kansas After 5 Club, affiliated with the Christian Women's Club, is sponsoring a dinner/party from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, at the 4-H Building, 217 Kaler, Oakley. The meal will be catered and guest speaker is Larry Laas, Concordia. The topic of his presentation will be "Woodn't U Like to Know." Special music will be provided by Bob Renner of Oakley and the special feature will be Kevin and Cindi Kriss, owners of CK Lumber, talking about their business at 1235 S. Country Club Dr. in Colby.

### Rod Run/Heritage Daze near

The 10th annual Rod Run will be held the weekend of Fri-

day, Saturday and Sunday, June 13, 14 and 15 in Fike Park. In conjunction with rod run activities, Heritage Daze will also take place with food, craft vendors, antique tractors, children's activities, local entertainment and vintage cars. Questions to the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, 460-3401.

### Swim lessons ongoing

The Colby Recreation Department is offering swim lessons with three different sessions available. All children must be five years or older to participate. The first session concludes on Thursday, June 12. The second session is from Monday, June 16, until Thursday, June 26, and the third session is from Monday, June 30 until Thursday, July 10. All sessions have start times of 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., or 10:30 a.m. Lessons will run Monday through Thursday, with Friday being a makeup day if there is rain. For questions or to register, call the Colby Recreation Department at (785) 462-4440.



