



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Wheat looks good

But agronomist cautions that rust is problematic

By JAY KELLEY
Colby Free Press

Kansas State University agronomist Roger Stockton said, at Tuesday's wheat tour, that the cooler weather and moisture this year had helped the wheat, although rust had been a problem.

"The conditions conducive to rust growth are also conducive to wheat growth," he added. Cooler temperatures and moisture have helped the wheat as well and fields are looking pretty good.

Stockton critiqued several varieties of wheat at the Barrett farm, south of Levant, where landowner Mike Brown had put in a wheat plot for the Northwest Research and Extension Center.

This season's wheat had "lived on what we got" when it came to moisture, Brown told approximately 30 farmers at the tour.

What we got was just shy of 14 inches of rain since planting on October 7. Brown said the subsoil moisture had been depleted by two extremely dry years before.

Rust has been a consistent problem in two of the last three years, Stockton said. Although some varieties are not particularly rust resistant, developers are working on more resistant strains.

Another area where developers



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Roger Stockton, soil and crop specialist with Kansas State University, talked to a group of about 30 producers taking part in the wheat tour held Tuesday morning on Mike Brown's plot located five miles south of Levant.

are working is milling and baking suitability. Some older strains have very high yields and resistance to disease, but are not very good for milling and baking, especially in the Pacific Rim, where white noodles

are in demand.

"It is affecting the price of our wheat," he said. This year was also good for irrigated wheat. With cool temperatures and moisture, irrigators were able to add water to bring

yields up. "Last year, there were fields that produced 25 bushels (per acre) with 12 inches of irrigation," he said. When hot, dry weather comes, Stockton said, "cut your losses."

Organizations combine forces for big weekend

By TOM (TD) DREILING
Free Press Publisher

One of the big weekends on Colby's *Calendar of Events* occurs this coming Friday through Sunday. And those carrying out the plans are expecting a huge turnout.

Colby...Cruise to the Past Rod Run begins Friday and concludes on Sunday, with most events at Fike Park. Prairie Heritage Daze will be held Saturday also at Fike Park starting at 9 a.m.

Leilani Thomas, who heads up the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau — when asked about the road construction and its effect — said "we've got that all taken care of," adding that maps for those participating in the rod run will be distributed showing alternate routes.

"We knew going into this year's rod run that the road work would be a challenge, but we've worked through it," she said. Thomas also said that "Colby isn't the only place experiencing street work this summer...the same is taking place in many other communities."

Organizers have combined two past annual events into one lively weekend, Thomas said. The Prairie Heritage Festival and Cruise to the Past Rod Run will run concurrently for the second year.

The Colby...Cruise to the Past Rod Run begins Friday with a cruise-in and early registration at 5 p.m. at the Sonic Drive-In and Montana Mike's. Guest disc jockey, High Altitude, from Colorado Springs, Colo. will be spinning favorite oldies from the 50's and 60's.

Saturday's events will be at Fike Park starting at 9 a.m. with the Show & Shine as the cars park around the perimeter of the park. Activities in-

clude a horseshoe tournament and fun walk. Many door prizes for the participants will be given and spectators can see 200 top-notch cars competing for prizes. Award sponsors will again have the opportunity to judge cars and present awards.

A church service will usher in events Sunday morning at the park at 9 a.m. with the message by Ron Palmer. A poker run for \$500 in cash prizes will start at 10 a.m. The awards presentation takes place at noon.

Thomas said the Prairie Heritage Daze activities will be a Saturday feature, also in Fike Park. "The event is held to remind us of our heritage with events planned to typify the activities of the early day settlers," she said. It's open and free to the public.

Thomas said fun will begin at 9 a.m. with children's activities and an outdoor craft show. New for the kids this year will be tic tac toe, darts and other oversize games from Argonne Entertainment.

An Early Prairie Iron Tractor Show will feature antique tractors with awards given for the favorites. Numerous food vendors will be serving everything from traditional barbecue to Kettle Korn, Thomas said. A free watermelon feed will be held at 3 p.m.

Musical entertainment will be presented throughout the day, as well as by the Rod Run DJ playing oldies. "It promises to be a fun filled family day as we reminisce about the past," Thomas said.

Anyone wanting additional information can call the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at (785) 460-7643 or 1-800-611-8835.

Musical picnics continue Thursday

By TOM (TD) DREILING
Free Press Publisher

The second in a series of "musical picnics" will take place at noon on Thursday in Colby's Fike Park. Called "Picnic in the Park" the series features the talents of local and area musicians.

Thursday's performer will be Larry Booth. The opening act on June 5 was Sappa Strings (Wayne

and Millie Lauritsen).

Here is the list of remaining performers:

- June 19 — Shawna Eberle
- June 26 — The McLemore Family
- July 3 — Leonard Hopper
- July 10 — Shad Sanders
- July 17 — Monica Miller and Carla Haggard
- July 24 — Lenay Rundell

• July 31 — Shannon Myers

The concerts are free and co-sponsored by the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau and your Colby Free Press.

There is no charge, just bring a lawn chair, sack lunch and some friends.

The "picnics" start at noon and are over by 1 p.m.

Road map to peace said jeopardized

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was unapologetic today about the botched missile strike against a militant Hamas leader, despite President Bush's reprimand that the attack made it harder for the Palestinian prime minister to fight terrorism.

Tuesday's missile strike against Abdel Aziz Rantisi jeopardized the so-called "road map," a U.S.-backed peace plan for Mideast peace and a Palestinian statehood by 2005. Bush has invested his presidential prestige in the initiative, formally launching it with Sharon and Abbas at a summit last week in the Jordanian resort of

Aqaba. "We will make no concessions to terror," Sharon told his Cabinet on Wednesday, according to a government official. "We made this clear to all the White House officials and to the Palestinians before the Aqaba summit."

Separately, Egypt's intelligence chief renewed truce efforts Wednesday in a long-shot mission aimed at persuading Hamas to halt violence.

The Islamic militant group opposes the peace plan. Last week, Hamas broke off talks with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas on laying down arms and, along with two other militias, killed five soldiers in shooting attacks

over the weekend. After Tuesday's missile strike, Hamas threatened bloody revenge. The group has already killed hundreds of Israelis in recent years.

Abbas denounced the missile strike as terrorism, appealed to the United States to intervene, and said he would keep trying to reach an understanding with Hamas and other militias. Abbas opposes the idea of a crackdown on the armed group, saying there is no substitute for dialogue and that he will not risk a civil war. On Wednesday, Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman arrived in the West Bank town of Ramallah for another attempt to negotiate a truce.

Briefly

Farewell party planned for Worthy

The Regional Center of Northwest Kansas will hold a "come and go" farewell reception for Janet Worthy, who worked at the center for nearly 13 years and was responsible for a variety of programs and activities. The event is from 3 to 5 p.m., Friday, at 990 S. Range Ave. and open to everyone. Refreshments will be available. Questions to 462-8152.

Fair board meets Thursday

The Thomas County fair board will hold its regular monthly meeting at 8 p.m., Thursday in the 4-H building at the fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include a report from the extension agent, drug forfeiture money, annual barbecue, the slab dance and queen and princess contest. The board will also hear from committee chairs regarding building and grounds, carnival rides, rodeo activities, the parade, demolition derby, races, fair book and advertising. All meetings are open to the public and attendance is encouraged.

Personal, real estate taxes due

The second half of 2002 Thomas County personal and real estate taxes are due by Friday, June 20. For questions, call the county treasurer's office at 462-4520.

Babysitting class planned

The Super Sitter Class will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, June 25 in the Thomas County Office Complex. Children who have completed fifth grade are eligible to enroll, said officials at the Thomas County Health Department. Events planned throughout the day include baby bath demonstration, interaction with local daycare children, fire safety and 911. Children who plan to attend need to bring pen and paper and a sack lunch. Snacks will be provided. The cost of the class is \$15. To enroll, call the health department at (785) 462-4596.

Share sign up underway

Heartland Share sign up began today and will continue

Green light is given for another 'rally'

This one will be devoted to the local medical issue

By TOM (TD) DREILING
Free Press Publisher

The green light's on.

A "Prayer Rally for the Local Medical Community" will take place on Tuesday, June 17 in the Little Theater in the Colby Community Building.

This came as the result of an organizational meeting held last Thursday to gauge interest in such a rally.

Todd Stramel, who has served as contact person, said he was encouraged by the turnout, mentioning 30 as the number of people who attended and offered to help with the rally.

Another planning session is scheduled for Thursday at 7 p.m., in one of the activity rooms in the community building.

Anyone wanting to be a part of the process ushering in this rally is encouraged to attend.

Prayer, music and readings will comprise the rally's program, and it was stressed that the rally will be "non-partisan and non-political."

Plans include offering rides to the prayer rally for those without transportation and a number to call for that purpose will probably result from Thursday night's planning session.



Warm, cloudy

Thomas, Logan Counties

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. South wind around 10 mph. Chance of rain 20 percent.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy. A chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 80s. South wind around 10 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent.

Thursday night...Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. Chance of rain 40 percent.

Friday...Cloudy with a chance of showers and possibly a thunderstorm...Mainly in the morning. Highs in the lower 80s. Chance of rain 30 percent.

Friday night...Cloudy...Then becoming partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s.

By the numbers

- Tuesday's high, 94
- Low this morning, 55
- Year ago today, 89 and 65
- Records for the date, 104 in 1918, 35 in 1903
- Soil temperature, 71
- Precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
- June's precipitation to date, 1.28
- Year's precipitation to date, 7.63
- 2002's precipitation to date, 3.32

Water Usage/Colby

- June 9 = 2.086 million gallons
- June 10 = 2.373 million gallons

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 plans 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. Call 462-7188 or 675-3501.

