



COLBY FREE PRESS

Wheat in need of drink

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Wheat should be showing up in Thomas County fields. But due to dry conditions, there isn't much coming up right now. Roger Stockton, Northwest Research-Extension Center soil and crop specialist, said no moisture is having an adverse affect on the growing wheat. "There's a lot of wheat that didn't come up," he said. "It's not doing too good for the most part." Stockton said the average condition is "not good at all." Little to no precipitation and no reserve moisture in the soil is hurting wheat and native pasture alike, he said. Stockton said the wheat won't come up very much until spring but if the temperature is above 40 degrees and the ground isn't frozen, it will try to grow. "It doesn't use very much water this time of year," Stockton said, but it does need a little to help with the early growth. "If we'd get some rain, it would amaze us as to how quickly it would come out," he said. Stockton said wheat is a resilient crop and could rebound if there is significant precipitation of any kind.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Pat Evans, performance test manager and Rob Aiken, crop research specialist and research director at the Northwest Research-Extension Center, checked out the condition of one of the experiment station's dryland wheat test plots Wednesday morning. Wheat

"It would be encouraging if it would ever come up," he said, adding if there was adequate precipitation between now and spring, the crop would probably come through

all right. Another possible problem in coming months could be high winds in March. Stockton said if the wheat doesn't come up, topsoil will get scoured off

in one corner of the field was up while there was none in other areas. Aiken said it's fairly indicitave of the conditions of wheat fields through out the county, some fields don't have consistent cover-

age and others have no wheat up. in the wind. "It's a huge concern," he said. Some fields have already been hit by the wind and Stockton said producers will have to take measures to

keep from losing topsoil. Native pasture is also suffering the effects of the drought. He said it needs early spring precipitation to help with growth.

Banquet deadline is Friday

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

The Thomas County Conservation District will hold its annual meeting in February to recognize farm families and young people making significant efforts in preserving the land and environment. This year the district's banquet and meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 9 at the Thomas County 4-H Building at the fairgrounds in Colby, said Lynette Koon, manager of the conservation district. Highlights will include the 2003 Conservation Award winners in the outstanding cooperotor category and the Kansas Bankers award categories for soil conservation and windbreak. In addition to those awards, Koon said, the students involved in the poster contest will be announced at the banquet. "Evening activities include a meal, which is sponsored by county banks," she said, "along with election of a supervisor and environmental teaching award." The event is open to everyone, she said, and there is no charge for the meal. For those wanting to attend, the reservation deadline is Friday so it is important to call the conservation district office at (785) 462-7482, ext. 3, as soon as possible, she said.

Piano students to crowd Colby College campus on Saturday

By TOM A. DREILING
Free Press Publisher

"Colby: Oasis on the Plains" will give way to "Colby: Piano Capital of Northwest Kansas" this coming Saturday. On that day, piano students from practically every community in northwest Kansas will be in town for the 37th annual Northwest Kansas Piano Clinic. Pat Ziegelmeier, clinic chair, said that activities will include individual auditions for area students, multi-keyboard ensemble

rehearsals, and a Multi-Keyboard Concert at the end of the day. These events, Ziegelmeir said, will take place in the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College and will culminate with the Multi-Keyboard Concert at 4:15 p.m. "The concert is open to the public and is free of charge," she said. Hough Piano & Organ of Salina will provide the keyboards for the rehearsals and concert.

Clinicians for the solo piano auditions will be Paul Reed of Wichita State University, Pat Anderson of Bethany College and Joan Wellman of St. Francis. Dr. Timothy Shook of Southwestern College in Winfield will conduct the ensemble rehearsals and the concert at 4:15. Teachers entering students from Colby are Sharon Kriss, Shirley Malcolm, and Pat Ziegelmeier. Participating students from the Colby area are: Joshua Baden, Elizabeth Erick-

son, Rebecca Muirhead, Alex Muirhead, Michelle Myers, Ariel Regier, Kale Regier, Brett Bandy, Abby Friesen, Andrea Zerr, Michael Tubbs, Morgan Bell, Hollie Herbel, Lauren Bell, Cynthia Mick, Brit-tany Bange, Skyles Mengel, Ashley Standage, Katrina Kaus, Alex Regier, Taylor McClure, William Mick, Tess Brown, Katie Friesen, Rachael Funk, Valarie Higerd, Tanner Glad, Andrew Toth, Shane Carter, Christina Ostmeyer, Michael Schiferl, Kortney Bredemeier, Seth Bre-

demeier, Megan Dougherty, Julia Hutfles, Kaylee Keck, Alyssa Goodheart, Karlee Krey, Bailey Herron, Christian Wilson, Gray Henry, Rachel Juenemann, Skylar Barrett, Andrew Peterson, Lydia Peterson, Jackie Splattstoesser, Dustin Splattstoesser, Barbara Bickner, Jaylea Black, Amy Dickman, Matt Lindberg and Joseph Hutfles. Anyone needing additional information can call Ziegelmeier at the college, 462-3984 ext. 307.



Warming trend

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...Mostly cloudy. Lows +5.to +10. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the southwest after midnight. **Thursday...**Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs around 30. South winds 5 to 10 mph. **Thursday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows mid-teens. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. **Friday...**Partly cloudy. Warmer. Highs around 40-45. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph with higher gusts. **Friday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows near 20. **The numbers** Tuesday's high, 48 Low this morning, +4 Records for Jan. 28, 67 in 1986 and -14 in 1948 Year ago today, 48 and 28 Month's precipitation, 0.07 Month's snowfall, 1.5 inches 2003 precipitation to date, trace Soil temperature, 30 **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.

Hoxie student receives airport association scholarship

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Jesse Cooper of Hoxie was the recipient of the Fred A. Tupper Airport Scholarship, worth \$500 and given to students attending college or other institutions after high school and majoring in the aviation field. He was sponsored by the Colby Municipal Airport. Tupper was the airport manager

at Strother Field in Winfield and was active in the Kansas Association of Airports during its early years, according to the organization's newsletter. Cooper is a student at Kansas State University-



J. Cooper

Salina in the airway science professional pilot program. He's completed one semester and has two more years to go. Cooper is also minoring in business. He said he has already achieved his private rating and needs to achieve his instructor rating so he can teach others to fly. Cooper wants to eventually fly with an airline or start out as an instructor.

His grandfather flew, which helped kindle his own interest in aviation, he said. He took lessons and loved it, deciding to make it his career. Cooper attended Colby Community College for two years and trained for his private pilot certificate at the Colby municipal airport, earning his certificate in April, 2002. He completed training for his in-

strument rating last year and started training for his commercial rating last summer. The award is given out each year at the Kansas Association of Airports Meeting. Students can apply by submitting a one page request detailing the program they want to attend and how it will improve airport operations at their airport, the state or in the country.

Kerry crushes Dean in Tuesday's New Hampshire primary

By CALVIN WOODWARD
Associated Press Writer

New Hampshire primary winner John Kerry took firm control of the Democratic presidential race as it moved out of his backyard and went nationwide, his rivals bidding to stay competitive in the seven-state contest ahead. Kerry's win Tuesday added a big-

ger margin of victory to his Iowa upset a week earlier, giving him all the promise — and peril — of wearing the mantle of front-runner. "Now this campaign goes on to places all over this country, and I ask Democrats everywhere to join us so that we can defeat George W. Bush and the economy of privilege," the Massachusetts senator, relaxed and

beaming, told supporters Tuesday night. Howard Dean, once the heavy national favorite, finished second and Wesley Clark, once considered the best bet to challenge him, lagged in a struggle for a distant third — all of that testament to a campaign turned on its ear over the course of a week.

"Stand with us 'til the very end, which is January 20, 2005," the former Vermont governor told supporters, flashing smiles. He was more subdued than on caucus night in Iowa, when he delivered a screaming speech that he since has spent much time trying to live down. The opening one-two punch of

the campaign proved the ability of two small states, with a combined population of barely 4 million, to shape the contest before it ever reaches a large cross-section of America. Now it's on to seven states with more than 21 million people and 269 delegates to the Democratic convention at stake.

Briefly

Pheasants Forever banquet Saturday

The Pheasants Forever banquet and auction begins at 5 p.m., Saturday, at the Colby Comfort Inn Convention Center. The dinner will begin at 6 p.m. followed by the auction and drawings. Ticket information is available by calling Tom Redmond, 462-7343 or Gabe Stanley, 462-2063 or 460-9193.

Benefit lunch Sunday

A benefit pasta lunch for Christopher Eteeyan, infant grandson of Larry and Mary Maxwell, born with liver and heart complications, is planned from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, in the Sacred Heart Church basement. Admission is free-will donation and everyone is welcome. Call Amanda Wahlmeier, 465-9145 or Terry and Linda Stover, 626-9068 with questions.

Brewster bake sale Saturday

The Brewster Community Church will be having a bake

sale on Saturday at the Frontier Equity Co-op in Brewster starting at 8 a.m.

The event will continue until the bake goods are gone. The proceeds will be used for many mission projects. For questions, call Janet Pinkelman, (785) 694-2720.

Tax help available

AARPTax Aide help is now available on Mondays and will continue through April 15 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the meeting room at Pioneer Memorial Library. Starting next Wednesday, help will be available on simple tax forms from 1-3 p.m. at the Senior Progress Center. For information, call Alvin Volk at 462-2645 or Lela or Don German at 460-3062.

Dennen Field fund raiser Friday

The Colby Booster Club is sponsoring a soup supper beginning at 5 p.m., Friday at the Colby Community Building. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Dennen Field project, said Shawn Stephens, committee member.

Rotary soup supper next month

The annual Colby Rotary soup supper will be from 5 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17, during the Colby High School basketball game against Goodland at the Colby Community Building. All proceeds from this event go to benefit various organizations. Tickets will be available at the door or from any Rotary Club member.

'Cardiac Arrest' Thursday

The annual "Cardiac Arrest," sponsored by the American Heart Association is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Colby Community Building, on Thursday. Arrestees will go before "Judge Heartless," played by Dave Jennings. Prior to the event, arrestees are busy collecting donations with the goal of making a \$100 bail. This year's parole board includes Roger Aumiller, Wade Baker, Marla Crumrine, Tracey King, Tina Harris, Rhonda McLaughlin, Robert McLemore, Marge Miller, Bob Muirhead, Shawn Reinert, Martin Rinehart, Carla Sharp, Jessica Vaughn and LaVon Wagoner.

