



COLBY FREE PRESS

12 pages

Wheat generally no good

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Wheat Plot Tour was held Wednesday morning but there wasn't much wheat to look at, said Mike Brown, whose farm south of Levant was the host for this year's event.

He said a few people did show up to discuss the problems with this year's crop and talked about the white and red wheat test varieties planted.

There were 25 varieties planted but none of them fared very well, growing out with little to no seed, he said.

"Our test plots got freeze pretty bad," Brown said, adding it was what caused there to be so little to look at. "Most of the heads didn't have any grain in them."

He said he tore out some of his own wheat fields that suffered freeze damage and is waiting at least another week to see what he'll do with the rest.

Test weights, he said, are ranging from 47 to 60 pounds a bushel and there hasn't been much cutting yet because of rain.

Brown said farmers usually aren't happy to see precipitation this time of year because of harvest, but he said this year they're probably happy to get it.

"Hopefully next year will be better," he said.

Brown isn't the only one seeing poor wheat yields.

Bill Miller said he took in his first load of wheat Monday and has already cut 400 acres this week.

"We started cutting Monday," he said. "It's basically not much of a harvest."

The fields are yielding 3-5 bushels an acre and Miller said he'll probably at least get back the seed he planted. He said the first load he took in was yielding 53-pound bushels but wheat usually tips the scale at about 60 pounds a bushel.

He said the wheat he's cutting is irrigated, but some of the non-irrigated wheat in the corners of his crop circles looked better than the irrigated crop.

"It had some grain in it," Miller said.

He said some of his dryland wheat has fared better than the irrigated and what's been cut so far is yielding 10-15 bushels an acre.

Readies blood for shipment



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Tony Blake, a mobile unit assistant with the American Red Cross, processed blood donations Wednesday for shipping back to Wichita at the Colby Community Building. Jackie Stephens, one of the blood drive organizers, said 166 people came in and 155 productive units of blood were donated. She said there were also 11 first-time donors. Stephens said the goal was 130 and for a summer drive, she considered this event very successful.

Meeting to be held in Colby

Republicans to fill Sen. Clark's unexpired term on Saturday

All eyes will be on Colby Saturday as Republicans from the 40th Senatorial District convene to pick someone to fill the unexpired seat of Sen. Stan Clark, the incumbent who was killed in an accident on Interstate-70 on May 29. His term would have expired this year and Clark had filed for re-election.

The gathering will be held at the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community College campus. Registration starts at 5:15 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6 p.m. The convention is open to the public.

The convention is expected to

attract a lot of attention from around the state. Clark was a highly respected senator, having been in the chamber for 10 years.

Ruth Clark, the senator's widow, wrote a letter to the committeemen and women that she is willing to complete the term. She said she is not a candidate for the next full term.

Bill Adams, Thomas County Republican chair, will open the meeting, after which a chairman will be selected by the assembly to conduct the convention. The meeting is open to anyone wanting to attend, but

only the precinct committeemen and women can vote.

Rep. Jim Morrison, a Colby Republican who represents the 121st House District, said he spoke to Mrs. Clark and to the two Republican candidates for the Senate seat, Danny Rasure of Goodland and Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell. Morrison said both agreed not to seek the unexpired term.

In the November general election, the August primary Republican winner will be challenged by Democrat Tim Peterson of Monument.

Families can get \$1.5 million

WICHITA (AP) — Relatives of three people murdered by Reginald and Jonathan Carr can collect up to \$1.5 million from the state for negligence, a Sedgwick County judge has ruled.

The families' attorney, Jack Focht, said Wednesday that District Judge Paul Clark determined each family could receive up to the state limit of \$500,000.

Focht had argued that each family should receive \$1 million —

\$500,000 for each Carr brother — while state attorneys said the entire case should not be worth more than \$500,000.

The case has not yet gone to trial. The Carr brothers were convicted and sentenced to death for the murders of Aaron Sander, Jason Befort and Brad Heyka on Dec. 15, 2000.

Relatives of a fourth victim, Heather Muller, decided not to pursue the lawsuit

Hearing set in highway murder cases

By TOM BETZ

The Goodland Star-News

GOODLAND — Max Jones Fieldhouse was packed Wednesday morning as friends, colleagues, students and family members gathered for the funerals of three women killed in an accident on I-70 last Friday.

A joint service was held for Mary Wyant, 55, a paraprofessional at West Elementary School; her mother, Aline Becker, 85, a retired upholsterer and homemaker; and her daughter Christine Williams, 35, a science teacher at Goodland High School.

The three women were killed when their Ford Explorer was hit from behind about 4:30 p.m. about six miles east of the Edson exit.

The Colorado woman charged with three counts of second-degree murder in the accident had her first appearance in Sherman County District Court on Monday and was released on bond.

Jennifer L. Adams, 28, who gave an address of 5400 S. Park Terrace, Englewood, Colo., was driving the car that apparently swerved in front of a semi-trailer truck and caused the accident. She appeared before District Judge Jack Burr Monday afternoon, who asked if she needed the court to appoint a lawyer to represent her.

The court recessed to give Adams a chance to talk to her father, who

said he would provide an attorney for her defense. When the hearing resumed, Adams said she was going to accept her father's offer.

Judge Burr set the bond at \$100,000, and scheduled a preliminary hearing for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, June 30.

Adams posted bond Monday afternoon, leaving her father's address in Bartlesville, Okla.

Adams is facing three counts of second-degree murder in the deaths of Wyant, Becker and Williams, and two counts of aggravated battery on Williams children, Garrett, 8, and Caylee, 5, who were in the Explorer driven by Wyant.

The complaint alleges that Adams was driving under the influence of alcohol and had a breath alcohol level of .265. The sixth charge is transporting liquor in an open container. The information with the charge said Adams had an opened bottle of Smirnoff vodka.

Adams was not injured, but appeared dazed after the accident, said Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson. She was held at the Bastille on charges of driving under the influence until the second degree murder charges were filed on Sunday.

The county attorney's office did not have the name of the attorney for Adams on Thursday, but expects to have it before the preliminary hearing.

Farewell session



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

City of Colby director of public utilities Gerry Bieker (standing) visited with city technology director Mike Albers at the city shop during a farewell party for Bieker on Thursday. He and his family are leaving Colby so that he can take a job as public works director in Paola.

Colby Oakley Hoxie



Thunderstorms remain in forecast

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. A chance of thunderstorms, drizzle and areas of fog Lows in the lower 50s. East winds 10 to 20 mph. Chance of thunderstorms 30 percent. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 70s. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph. **Saturday night...**Partly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms. Lows in the 50s. South winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of thunderstorms 50 percent. **Sunday...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 80s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph with higher gusts. **Sunday night...**Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 40 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. **Monday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s.

The numbers

Thursday's high, 67
Low this morning, 54
Records for June 18, 107 in 1936 and 42 in 1895
Year ago today, 78 and 61
Precipitation past 48 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.39
June's total, 2.54
Soil temperature, 67

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.

Water use

• June 17 = 1.656 million gallons.

Briefly

City to begin street work

Colby city crews will begin chip sealing streets on Tuesday starting at 9 a.m., said Gerry Bieker, director of public utilities today. Motorists are also being asked to remove all vehicles from the following streets before 9 a.m.

Those include Smith Drive; Fifth Street (from Smith Drive to Walker Avenue); Avenue (from Webster Street to College Drive); Pine Street (from Range Avenue to Country Club Drive); College Drive (from Range Avenue to Country Club Drive). For questions, call the Public Works Department at 462-4420.

Colby promoters to meet

The Colby Promotion group issued a reminder today of their next meeting on Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. in the basement of Sunflower Bank.

The meeting is open to the public and anyone with ideas or suggestions is encouraged to attend and share.

Commissioners agenda brief

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include Brian Staats of Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball with the 2003 county audit, and Marlene Pfeifer and Kathi Wright on 911. The meeting is open to the public.

College board meets Monday

The Colby Community College board of trustees will meet at 5 p.m. Monday in the board room of the Administration Building.

Items on the agenda include approval of contracts and agreements, natural gas proposals, the budget, July meetings, Boyd Walker claim, retainer for legal services, salary considerations for non-unit employees and payment of claims.

The meeting is open to the public.

Donations sought for Girl Scout camp

Donations are needed for Girl Scouts in Colby who will be attending summer camp in July at Camp Hansen, Kirwin Lake, said Brette Pfeifer, coordinating activities.

Items requested include one and three pound coffee cans with lids; pillow cases (whites and light pastels); clear fingernail polish; rubber O-rings (for making water bottle holders); clear sealant spray, bubble gum, and old 45s (records) and 33 long play record album covers.

Pfeifer said she would be glad to pick these items up by calling her at 460-6006 or toll-free at 1-877-280-9836.

For those wanting to drop items off to her, they can do so between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., weekdays, at the Girl Scout Office, or they can also be taken to the Kansas Country Store located in the Southwind Plaza.

