



# COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

## Ag secretary plans to talk at Colby rally

The state's secretary of agriculture, Adrian Polansky, will be in Colby at 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 21, as part of the "Rally for the Kansas Family," sponsored by Tim Peterson, Monument, who is the Democratic candidate for the District 40 State Senate seat.

The event will be held at the VFW Post, 220 N. Lake Ave., and open to everyone free of charge.

The purpose of Polansky's visit will be talking about current issues facing family farms. After his presentation, he will be available for comments and discussions.

In addition to the rally in Colby,

Polansky will speak at three other locations — Scott City and Leoti on Saturday and Oberlin on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Polansky owns a 1,900-acre diversified farming operation at Belleville, as well as a grain and certified seed production and sales operation.

Prior to becoming secretary of agriculture, Polansky was state executive director of the Kansas State Farm Service Agency.

He received a BS degree in agronomy from Kansas State University in 1972 and has been a leader in Kansas agriculture since that time.

## Robbery suspect's hearing postponed

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

A Minnesota man who led law enforcement on a chase through three counties July 30, didn't have his preliminary hearing this morning as scheduled.

Thomas County Attorney Allan Taylor said James Earl Garrett's preliminary hearing was set for this morning but Garrett's attorney filed for a continuance Thursday.

Taylor said a new date hasn't yet been sent. Garrett is being held at the Thomas County jail.

He said Garrett's been charged with aggravated battery, aggravated robbery and criminal damage to property, all of which are felonies, and misdemeanor theft.

Taylor said the maximum penalty for robbery is 55-247 months; 11-

34 months for battery, five to 34 months for criminal damage and up to one year in the Thomas County jail for the misdemeanor charge.

Garrett, 32, led law enforcement on a chase through Thomas, Logan and Gove counties after robbing Maurices clothing store and injuring clerk Jessica Ann Halbleib, 19, of Oakley.

Halbleib received a concussion during the robbery, during which Garrett was reported to have put her in a headlock, shoved her to the floor and throwing the cash register on her.

Garrett then fled the scene in a 1992 Lexus reported stolen from Fort Collins, Colo.

The chase ended at an Interstate-70 rest stop near Grainfield where Garrett was finally caught.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

William Rikoff (left), and customers Cody Berg (middle) and Paul Pfisterer filled up boxes of sweet corn early today. For more than

25 years, Rikoff and his family, have sold marbled and yellow corn in front of True Value Hardware in downtown Colby.

## A Colby tradition

# 'Corn Corner' busy mornings

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

It could be renamed "Corn Corner."

By the end of next week, a Colby man and his daughter will have sold more than 13,000 ears of corn from the back of their pickup truck parked at the corner of Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue.

Now, more than 25 years later, William Rikoff said he is continuing the tradition, which was started by his father, adding that

he still gets help from one of his daughters, Tasha.

Early today, he chuckled when asked why he sells the corn and at such a reasonable price. In response, he said he, and his wife Loretta, inherited the corn business from their children.

"Our five children — Tina, Tyler, Tonya, Tim and Tasha — and their grandpa, Fred Rikoff, sold the corn to make money," he said.

In addition to carrying on a family tradition, William said the corn is fresh-picked at 5:30 a.m. each

morning.

Tasha estimated it takes about two hours in the morning to get enough corn to fill the pickup bed. After that, William drives into Colby and begins his daily routine.

For the past three weeks, William has driven each morning to Colby and stayed at the same corner until that day's corn was sold out.

William said he figured by next Saturday (Aug. 21) he will be done selling for this season.

One Colby family has made buying corn from William their own

tradition for the past two years.

Crystal Berg, with the help of her three children, Cody, Chase and Colton, loaded up 25 dozen ears of corn today and will be back early next week for another 25 dozen ears.

Berg said she blanches the corn, places the ears in cold water, cuts it (kernels) and then freezes it.

The corn is grown on land outside of Colby, he said, but added that he wasn't going to get any more specific than that.

## National Guard members in northwest Kansas may be called

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Army National Guard unit in Colby isn't getting called up for active duty but some of its members might.

Joy Moser, public affairs officer with the Kansas Army National Guard in Topeka, said the 170th Maintenance Company isn't getting called up but individual mem-

bers from around northwest Kansas might be called up for active duty to fill positions in other units heading to Iraq or Afghanistan.

She said call-ups will probably happen within the next two months.

"They're being filled from guard units around the state," Moser said, adding mobilization will probably last at least 12 months in either Iraq or Afghanistan

She said it's not an unusual occurrence and happened all the time during World War II, but the need currently exists for the practice.

With the current war on terrorism, Moser said many Guard members around the country have been on duty since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the East Coast and some are coming up on a full two years of mobilization, which is their

limit. She said that's part of the reason why some Guard members from Kansas, Colorado and Missouri are being sent to train with a New York state unit which is getting ready to go to either Iraq or Afghanistan.

Among them will be two Guard members from Norton and another from Atwood.

Moser said New York asked Kan-

sas to send 50 people to help get their unit up to full strength.

She said other units are in similar situations because many members have already hit their two-year limit or will soon.

Moser said not only will those Guard units need soldiers, but they need individuals with certain skills.

"In a peace time situation we don't do that too much," she said.

"They're needed no matter what."

She said most soldiers have at least two specialties and that is why a soldier would be needed to fill a slot in another unit, but Moser added they could also be used for force protection, which is a job any soldier, male or female, can do.

"It's a basic thing you learn in basic training," she said.

## Record corn crops forecast for nation, Kansas

WICHITA (AP) — Kansas farmers are expected to harvest a record-breaking corn crop this fall, the Agriculture Department said Thursday.

In the season's first official forecast for fall crops, the agency also estimated the nation's corn production will reach a record at 10.9 billion bushels, 8 percent above the previous record, set last year.

Based on crop conditions nationwide on Aug. 1, nationwide yields are also expected to set another record at 148.9 bushels per acre, the

agency said.

The Agriculture Department reported yields were higher in most of the Corn Belt and Great Plains states due to favorable weather during much of the growing season.

Kansas farmers — whose fall crops were devastated by drought last year — are expected to share in that bounty this season. The projected 2004 Kansas corn crop would just barely break the record set in 1999.

The government forecast the state will cut 420.5 million bushels

of corn. It expects yields statewide to average 145 bushels per acre.

This year's corn crop in Kansas is expected to be 40 percent larger than the drought-plagued 2003 harvest. Kansas farmers cut just 300 million bushels last year, with average statewide yields then of 120 bushels per acre, the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service said.

Other bountiful fall-harvested crops are also forecast for Kansas:

— The state's 2004 sorghum crop was put at an estimated 201.6 million bushels. Yields were estimated

to come in at 72 bushels per acre.

The projected harvest would be 54 percent more than a year ago. Last year, Kansas cut 130.5 million bushels of sorghum, with yields of 45 bushels per acre.

— Kansas soybeans should top 86.7 million bushels if projections hold up. That is 52 percent above the 57 million bushels cut last year.

Such a harvest of fall crops would ease some of the financial pain from the much smaller winter wheat crop Kansas farmers harvested earlier this summer.

Colby  
Hoxie  
Atwood



## 70s and 50s to remain

**Tonight...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the lower 50s. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph. **Saturday...**Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the middle 70s. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph. **Saturday night...**Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 40 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the middle 50s. South winds 5 to 10 mph. **Sunday...**Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs in the lower 80s. South winds 5 to 15 mph. **Sunday night...**Mostly clear with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. **Monday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the middle 80s. **Tuesday...**Mostly sunny then partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 80s.

**The numbers:** Thursday's high, 76; Low this morning, 45; Records for Aug. 13, 107 in 1936 and 40 in 1920; Year ago today, 87 and 56; Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00; August total, 0.79; Soil temperature, 72

**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**

• Aug. 12 = 2.214 million gallons.

**Water advisories**

• Water **Watch** is 3.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

• Water **Warning** is 4.0 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

• Water **Emergency** is 4.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

## Briefly

### Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at the courthouse. The meeting is open to the public. No agenda was released.

### Colby school board to meet

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the board room of the administration building. Items on the agenda include track resurfacing, reports from the principals, curriculum director and superintendent, tour of district facilities, superintendent evaluation, eligibility rules for athletics, resolution to destroy old records, emergency substitute license requests and personnel issues if necessary.

### High school swim party set

The Colby High School dance team is hosting a swimming party for all Colby High School students from 8-10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21 at the Colby Community College swimming pool. Cost of admission is \$2. The event is a fund-raiser for the team to go to competition.

### College board meets Monday

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Colby Community College will be held on Monday, at 5 p.m. in the board room of the administration building. Items on the agenda include endowment report, approval of contracts, approval agreements, Jenzabar agreement, Software One agreement, and policies manual and procedures manual.

### Horticulture Day planned this month

The K-State Research-Extension Center in Colby is planning a Horticulture Day from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 24, at 105 Experiment Farm Road. There will be speakers and displays with topics ranging from tomato and pepper trials and soil preparations to lawn care, general gardening and trees. Registration begins at 6 p.m., introductions at 6:15 p.m. with the program from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For questions, call 462-6281.

### Heartland Share delivery set for Aug. 28

Heartland SHARE delivery is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 28 at Sacred Heart school gym. For information call, 460-3579.

