

COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

Spuds for funds

Rain big plus for wheat, delays harvest

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Rain earlier this week has been a boon for the wheat recently planted for area farmers, said Brian Olson, extension agronomist for northwest Kansas at the Northwest Research-Extension Center.

The two to three inches of rain that fell Monday and Tuesday is helping wheat sprout.

He said most of the rain fall affected a wide area and was exactly what was needed.

"The wheat is in much better condition than it was," Olson said. "It's so much better now that we got that nice rain."

Wheat that wasn't planted into moisture didn't come up right after planting and seeds that did sprout quickly used available soil moisture.

Cooler weather will also help the

wheat, he said, because it won't use as much moisture.

"It'll put it weeks down the road well into winter," Olson said, adding it will go from a vegetative to reproductive state as the season progresses.

The amount of rain and the way it came down were both beneficial, but it's caused a slight delay for farmers who haven't yet brought in all of their fall crops.

He said some corn, grain sorghum and sunflowers are still standing in fields waiting to be harvested. However, waiting for the fields to dry out won't halt the cutting of the remaining crops for long.

Olson said the ground was so dry the water soaked up quickly, so farmers won't be out of their fields too long.

"We really couldn't have asked for anything better," he said.

Noises send police to residential area, man arrested later

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

Drinking and hot tubbing weren't a good mix for one Colby College student earlier today, who ended up being arrested on charges of criminal damage to property and criminal trespass.

Casey Montgomery Moore, 20, Monument, is alleged to have broken a fence and the lock in order to gain access to a hot tub in the 900 block of W. 7th St.

Police were called at 5:34 a.m. after the victim reported hearing noises. When they arrived, said Detective Sgt. Gary Shull, Colby

Police Department, the alleged trespasser had left behind in the yard his pants, shirt, shoes, watch and cell phone.

Although details were sketchy, because the officer's report was not yet completed, Shull did say that Moore was arrested at his home wearing only his boxers.

It was also noted that the suspect was intoxicated and while at the law enforcement center had gotten sick twice there and once in the Thomas County jail.

Moore was released into the custody of a friend at 8 a.m., after agreeing to clean up his messes.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

ABOVE: Diners enjoyed a potato bar at the Senior Progress Center on Wednesday, complete with locally-grown potatoes and all the fixings. The annual event is a fund-raiser for the center. **RIGHT:** Merle Wolf served up dessert at the event, which included a wide variety of decadent treats. More than 50 people attended the event with door prizes available to include porcelain doll, quilted place mats and handmade wooden projects.



Suicide bomber kills 30 Iraqis as constitutional vote looms

BAGHDAD (AP) — A suicide bomber killed 30 Iraqis at an army recruiting center Wednesday and lawmakers rushed back to Baghdad for a special session of parliament to vote on a last-minute compromise to gain Sunni support on the draft constitution.

The lawmakers were summoned after Shiite, Sunni Arab and Kurdish powerbrokers reached the breakthrough on the charter, reviv-

ing hopes of winning Sunni approval of the document in Saturday's nationwide referendum.

The suicide attacker set off explosives hidden beneath his clothing at the first of two checkpoints outside the recruiting center in Tal Afar, where men were gathering to apply for jobs, said army Capt. Raad Ahmed and town police chief Brig. Najim Abdullah. They said at least 30 people were killed and 35

wounded. The small town was struck Tuesday by another suicide bomber who killed 30 civilians and wounded 45 when he plowed his explosives-packed vehicle into a crowded outdoor market. Al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility for that attack.

In August, U.S. and Iraqi forces conducted a major offensive in Tal Afar, 93 miles east of the Syrian border, claiming to have killed 200

insurgents and driven many others out. In other violence Wednesday, three suicide car bombs, two roadside blasts and two drive-by shootings killed three Iraqis and wounded 28 in Baghdad and the northwestern city of Baqouba, police said. Two U.S. soldiers were killed and one was injured when their vehicle rolled over while on patrol during combat near Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, the mili-

tary said. The deaths brought to 1,962 the number of U.S. service members killed since the beginning of the war in 2003, according to an Associated Press count. An explosion set by insurgents also shut down an oil pipeline from the northern city of Kirkuk to refineries in Beiji, an official said. The pipeline is open only intermittently because of incessant sabotage.

In Baghdad, Saad Naif al-Har-

dan, Iraq's minister of provincial affairs, escaped an apparent assassination attempt when a convoy of cars preparing to pick him up at his office was hit by a suicide car bomb that wounded five bodyguards and five bystanders, police said.

The bodies of eight Iraqis who apparently had been kidnapped were found Wednesday in Baghdad and Iskandariyah, 30 miles south of the capital, police said.

Personnel files show complaints were ignored

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For decades, the Los Angeles Archdiocese ignored parishioners' sex abuse complaints and shipped accused priests between therapy and new assignments, according to newly released personnel records involving 126 clergymen.

In many cases, there was little mention of child molestation. Instead, euphemisms such as "boundary violations" were used to describe the conduct.

The summaries of the personnel records were released Tuesday as part of settlement talks with lawyers for more than 500 accusers who sued the nation's largest Roman Catholic archdiocese.

The records, released after nearly three years of legal wrangling, cover priests who were ordained as far back as the 1920s.

The documents offer details in numerous cases, though much of the information has already been

published. Raymond P. Boucher, the plaintiffs' lead attorney, said the newly released information was a first step but that complete personnel files, including letters of transfer and other confidential documents, should be made public.

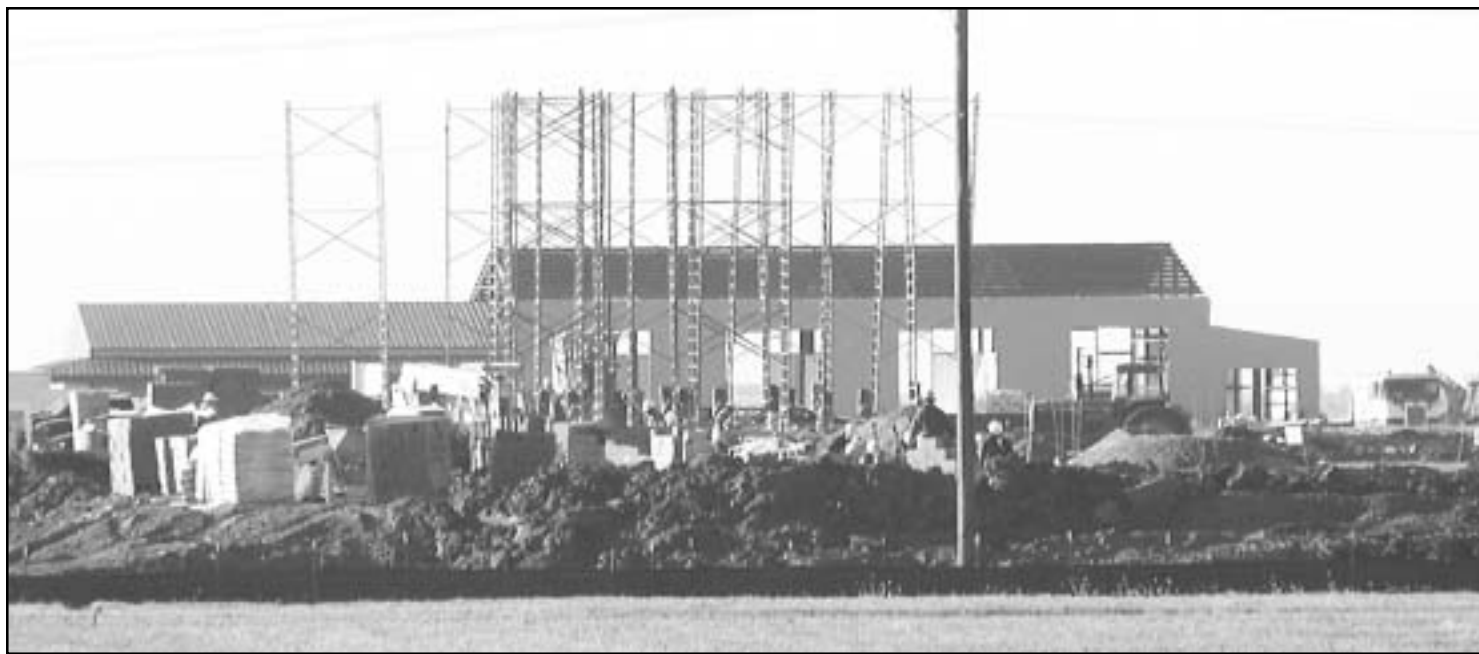
"The significance of these files is that they provide a little more information for the public about the church's knowledge and frankly their participation in the molestation of children, but until the (entire) files are made public, we're not going to be satisfied," he said.

Archdiocese attorney J. Michael Hennigan called Boucher's concerns that the summaries might be whitewashed "nonsense."

"Ray has not seen the files themselves and has no basis to say that beyond speculation," he said.

"These are accurate descriptions of the content of the files, without disclosing confidential communication."

Visible progress



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Going south on Franklin, it's not hard to miss a couple of ongoing construction projects going on in Colby right now. Work is being done on erecting the walls for the new Wal-Mart

Supercenter, in the foreground. The supercenter is expected to be completed some time next year. In the background, the structure for Truck Town is also taking shape.

