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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Grain trucks lined up about 10 at a time along Fourth Street and around the corner to Cornerstone Ag's elevator many nights this past week. Area grain farmers were taking advantage of the few

days of warm, dry weather to bring in corn and milo from the fields. Cornerstone said they had taken in 1.3 million bushels since Thursday, but Wednesday's moisture slowed down the

harvest yet again. Quality, however, has sometimes been low, with many milo fields not having the chance to mature and grain coming in to the elevators too light to take in.

## Sun allows farmers back into fields

By Vera Sloan

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Thomas County farmers have been taking the old adage "make hay while the sun shines" to heart this week, using these last few sporadic warm, sunny days of Indian summer to get their combines out into the field.

In spite of some still-muddy fields and slow-drying grain, harvest is making progress, observers say, and farmers who can get into a field have been cutting late into the night. Elevators have stayed open to take the grain, too, with the line of trucks at the Cornerstone Ag downtown elevator sometimes backed up onto Fourth Street.

Eric Sperber, manager of Cornerstone,

said Thursday, that on Tuesday the elevator had taken in 240,000 bushels of grain. Considering that one combine can cut a full "circle" of corn in six hours, that figure isn't surprising.

"Since last Thursday, we've taken in 1.3 million bushels," he said, "but the fog and moisture on Wednesday slowed things up some, causing moisture levels to be up 3 to 4 percent today.

"For the most part, the bean harvest is over, and we haven't had a load of beans in the last two days. Because finishing conditions were ideal for beans, the dryland crop was excellent, and I'd say over all, the bean harvest was a good one."

However, the milo crop isn't faring as well. The grain is light, with weights coming in at 54 and 55 pounds per bushel.

When the grain tests too light to dump

in the elevator, the farmer can file a crop insurance claim. Depending on the salvage value, and after the insurance company has released the grain, the farmer is free to use it for cattle feed.

"Some milo has come in at 51 pounds," Sperber said, "and the light test weight is more than likely because the grain just

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DAVE EVERT/Sacred Heart School

With the aid of parent volunteers, the third grade class at Sacred Heart School used money from a bake sale to put on lunch for area veterans Wednesday. The students even helped prepare the meal. Pictured are (from left) Sondra Finley, Carter Stanley, teacher Lori Truetken, Dennis Tubbs, Tyler Zerr, Kellyn Wahlmeier and Isaac Rosales.

## Sacred Heart third graders make lunch for Veterans Day

By Kevin Bottrell

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As a gesture of thanks – and the culmination of a math project – 15 third-graders at Sacred Heart School invited military veterans to have lunch with them Wednesday for Veterans Day.

Teacher Lori Truetken said the event started out as a project to help the students learn to count money. Instead of simply counting money and making change in the classroom, she had her students organize a bake sale.

"I like to give them a chance to have a real life experience," she said. "I think they learn more from that."

Each of the students brought in baked goods and Truetken had them price the items with odd cents. On Oct. 21, the third graders had their bake sale in the Sacred Heart School gym for parents, faculty and other students.

"A lot of them had to make change, since the parents paid in full dollars," she said. "They all did very well. I heard a lot of good comments."

The students then had to add up all they money they made. Truetken said it came to about \$113 dol-

lars.

"I decided they needed to do something good with that money," she said.

Veterans Day was coming up, and Truetken had classroom lessons planned to go along with it. The students were learning about the history of the holiday and why it is celebrated, so she created an event to help them get first-hand experience that day.

Each student got to invite a veteran to the lunch. They invited relatives, neighbors or other people from the Sacred Heart parish.

Truetken came up with four kid-friendly recipes and took the students shopping. She had each of them add up the prices as they bought the food and keep a running total to compare with the checkout price.

"Two kids came within \$1, one came within \$2 and three came within \$3," she said.

Wednesday, the students broke off into four groups along with parent volunteers to cook the meal. The students and veterans sat and had lunch together, and afterward the kids performed a skit and sang "God Bless America."

Truetken said that while she might not do another project exactly the same way, she finds the students respond more to hands-on lessons.

## State workers may be forced into furloughs

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA — The chairmen of the Kansas Legislature's budget committees believe unpaid furloughs of government employees grow more likely because of the state's persistent budget problems.

Aides to Gov. Mark Parkinson declined Thursday to discuss what steps he is considering to keep the state budget balanced, although they did not rule out unpaid leave for state workers. The Democratic governor expects announce his decisions by the end of November.

Budget Director Duane Goossen said Par-

kinson anticipates making nearly \$260 million in cuts and other adjustments to prevent a deficit for the year ending June 30. The governor has promised the budget will be back in balance when the Republican-controlled Legislature reconvenes in January.

"I'm not going to comment on what's in the mix," Goossen said. "We're looking at a whole range of options."

Some Republican legislators, including House Appropriations Committee Chairman Kevin Yoder, suggests furloughs could prevent other cuts that would force layoffs. Other Republicans have resisted the idea, but Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jay Emler said fresh cuts could force the issue.

"It's a strong possibility at this point," said Emler, a Lindsborg Republican. "If there isn't any money, there isn't any money."

Kansas has had four rounds of cuts and budget adjustments this year to avoid a deficit, and Parkinson imposed the last changes himself in July. Last week, officials issued a new forecast saying the state isn't going to collect the \$5.6 billion in general tax revenues it needs to sustain the current budget.

"You cannot reduce state spending without reducing labor costs," said Yoder, Overland Park.

When Republican legislators proposed fur-

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## Open enrollment for 'Plan D' next week

Help is on the way for seniors having trouble deciding which Medicare "Plan D" drug prescription program is best for their needs.

Cassandra Britt, a social worker with the Social Services Department at Citizens Medical Center, has recently completed training with the Senior Health Insurance Counselors of Kansas on what's available and how it

works.

"People needing information on which plan is better for them can call my office to make a counseling appointment," said Britt.

The "open enrollment" period for making Plan D changes runs from Nov. 15 through Dec. 31.

To reach Britt's office, call (785) 462-4858.

## Briefly

### Get your Christmas decorations

The Colby United Methodist Church plans a Christmas decorations flea market from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, Nov. 20, in the church fellowship hall. For information, call 460-2761.

### Talent show set for Sunday

Midwest Support and Information Services will sponsor "Thomas County Has Talent," a countywide talent show, at 2 p.m. Sunday at Frahm Theatre on the Colby Community College campus. Entry forms are available at the Midwest office at 640 N. Franklin. There is no cost to enter. For information, call Terry Drenner or Dana Schmidt at 460-1896.

### Benefit for Colby family Sunday

There will be a brunch and silent auction benefit for the Bill and Judy Kennedy family from 11 a.m. to

1:30 p.m. on Sunday in the Colby Community Building. The family has three members with Cushing's disease, and the proceeds will go to help with the costs of years of travel, treatment and surgery. For information, or to make a donation, call Sue Draper at 460-6332 or Elsie Rietcheck at (785) 855-2285.

### Candidate to speak at ceremony

Congressional candidate Sue Boldra will speak at the induction ceremony of the National Honor Society at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Colby High School auditorium. Sixteen juniors will be inducted. For information, call Linda Jones at 462-5300.

### Sheriff to talk with students

Thomas County Sheriff Rod Taylor will talk with citizens and Colby Community College students from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Monday in the Student Union. The informal gathering is sponsored by the college

Criminal Justice Association. For information, call Dr. Linda Davis-Stephens at 460-5528.

### Study to explain Handel's 'Messiah'

The Colby First Presbyterian Church will hold a four-part Bible study of George Handel's "Messiah" beginning at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the church and continuing Dec. 3, 10 and 17. The cost will be \$10 for the study book. The study will cover the Biblical passages behind four the choruses in the Advent portion of the "Messiah," said Pastor Carol Rahn. Call the church office at 462-6342 by next Monday to sign up.

### Alliance offers holiday service

The Thomas County Ministerial Alliance will sponsor a Community Thanksgiving Service at 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, in the Frahm Theater at Colby Community College. Ministers and musicians from

area churches will team up for the event. Donations will be accepted to help with programs the alliance operates throughout the year. For information, call Jarrod Spencer at 443-2403.

### Legion needs list of deployed

The Colby American Legion Auxiliary is looking for soldiers deployed overseas to send holiday "care packages" to. If you have a family member or friend serving overseas, send information on where the auxiliary can send them a care package to Megan Quenzer at nmquenzer@st-tel.net or 443-3611 or Abby Barnett at abbyjo\_82@yahoo.com or 694-1626 by Saturday, Nov. 22.

