

Welcome Colby Alumni

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Wheat surplus cuts prices for harvest

By Vera Sloan

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With wheat harvest in full swing in north Texas, it's sure to be headed to northwest Kansas in about three weeks, hopefully by the Fourth of July.

Jim Diebert, a custom harvester from Colby, told the *Free Press* that he has had 13 straight days of hot dry weather in Texas, perfect for combining wheat.

"I've just finished my first run here in Vernon," he said, "and am headed for Guymon, Okla. There's rain in the forecast for Oklahoma, and my men are ready for a rain after 13 days of 100 to 103 degrees with no letup for the last two weeks."

He said the Texas wheat was a good average crop this year, running about 40 bushels to the acre, with low moisture and good test weights. He said he is bringing home a couple of cans of 66-pound

test wheat to show to his Kansas farmer friends.

Diebert said it was difficult to get grain trucks unloaded because of long waits at elevators, and there were times they had to drive several miles to find a place that would even take the grain.

"Everything down here is full," he said, "and they're dropping it in cotton storage, or wherever they can find a place to dump it."

"The elevators won't even quote a

price. They say they have no place to go with the wheat because there are no buyers for it."

Diebert said one farmer had taken a load to a gulf terminal and they turned it down because of low protein content.

"It's what they call 'low pro' wheat down here," he said, "and I hate to say the word conspiracy, but it does sound like a conspiracy to drive the price down, because the receiver said he'd buy the load at 50 cents off the listed quote. Protein is

running around 11 percent, but they're not taking it under 12."

Diebert said he can't understand how all of a sudden there's a wheat surplus, because last year Texas harvested only about 40 percent of its planted acres due to drought. He said the insurance companies just "disastered it out," but this year the crop drew moisture from the atmosphere and they got a good fill in the head.

See "WHEAT," Page 3

Ohio van, camper roll east of town

By Kevin Bottrell

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Two Ohioans ended up in the hospital Tuesday when their van overturned on I-70 southeast of Colby.

William Corsaut of Uniontown, Ohio, was traveling east on I-70 in a 2001 Chevrolet Express van – pulling a camper – at 8:30 p.m. when it went onto the south shoulder, Trooper Minh Huynh of the Kansas Highway Patrol reported. The trooper said Corsaut overcorrected and the vehicle swerved into the south ditch, where it rolled and came to rest facing south. The camper remained attached to the van, ending up also facing south, half on and half off of the pavement.

Corsaut, 60, and a passenger, Kozy Cor-

See "VAN," Page 3



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

A tow truck from Butch's Body Shop used a cable to right a van that overturned on I-70 Tuesday night. An Ohio couple were injured in the crash.

Acoustic stylings at the park



HEATHER WOOFTER/Colby Free Press

Shannon and Rachel Myers performed at the weekly Picnic in the Park concert downtown on Wednesday. Heartland Christian School provided watermelon for all the picnickers.

Menlo offers to help replace old tornado siren

By Vera Sloan

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Menlo city officials want to see a working tornado siren in their town bad enough that they've volunteered to pick up \$1,150 of the cost, Thomas County commissioners learned Monday.

This was good news for the commissioners, since three of the county's sirens need to be replaced at a cost of about \$55,000 total. The Menlo installation is expected to cost about \$16,000.

"It's good they are willing to help," said Commissioner Byron Sowers. "Now we have to wait and see what direction the grant will take, and where the cost share will be taken from."

Emergency Preparedness Director Susan McMahan is applying for a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development agency that might pay up to 75 percent of the cost of one siren.

McMahan said her department

has only about \$1,156 left in capital outlay, which was not enough to buy even one siren.

County Clerk Shelly Harms reminded the commissioners that the emergency management account is part of the general fund, and said that the siren purchase would not bust the budget.

"The Rexford siren needs to be solved, but Colby's could wait," she said, "and the cost of the one for Rexford will come to around \$16,400. Rexford doesn't qualify for a grant because their median income is too high...."

She said that Dave Cates from Blue Valley Safety, the Missouri company the county buys sirens from, will come next Wednesday to drive the area to see how many units Colby will need. There has been quite a build up of businesses in the south part of town since the last study, she noted.

Sowers suggested the city of Rexford be contacted to see if they wanted to make a contribution to the cost of a new siren, adding that that if it could be brought

into service the same time as the one at Menlo, it might save some money.

Commissioner Paul Steele said it might be a good idea to ask the banks if they would work out a lease-purchase to take some heat off the budget. But Sowers said he didn't want to tie up a payment five years into the future because of the uncertainty of the economy, adding that he'd rather use the "pay-as-you-go" plan.

McMahan said she will report back to the commissioners on any progress she makes in replacing the sirens.

Manager Larry Jumper came to the meeting to report that revenue at the landfill was up, and that he would like to bring all three of his employees up to par on their wage scale. He said two of them are making 53 cents less an hour than the other.

Jumper brought the commissioners a check for \$3,000 from the sales of scrap metal out of the

See "SIREN," Page 3

Briefly

Registration open for reunion

Registration is still open for the Colby All School Reunion today, Friday and Saturday. Alums who plan to attend should go to www.eaglesalumni.org or register at the high school commons from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

Alumni Chorus begins practice

Colby High grads are invited to join the CHS Alumni Chorus, which will rehearse at 7:30 p.m. tonight at the United Methodist Church. Out-of-town alumni coming in for the five-year reunion can join in at 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday to be ready for a performance at the assembly later that morning. For information, call director Jan Wolf at (785) 460-3535.

Dancers to wash cars Saturday

The Colby High Dance Team will hold a car wash

from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday in the Dillon's parking lot. Donations will be accepted to help with team expenses. For information, call coach Denita Rogers at 460-1325.

Church plans themed school

The Colby Wesleyan Church will hold a "Sonquest Rainforest" vacation Bible school from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, June 25, at the church, 320 W. Pine St. The school is open to kids in preschool through fifth grade. No registration is required. For information, call Kylee Philipp at 460-8215.

Picnic, music Wednesday

Colby's Picnic in the Park lunch-and-concert series continues at noon Wednesday at Fike Park with entertainment by Scott Cameron. For information, call the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce

at 460-3401 or the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643.

Crews fogging for mosquitoes

Colby city crews are fogging for mosquitoes, south of Webster on Mondays or Tuesdays and north of Webster on Thursdays. You can help, officials say: check your yard and empty anything holding stagnant water, such as cans, swimming pools or tires. For information, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.

Foundation has money to give

The Thomas County Community Foundation is accepting applications for its second quarter cycle. Nonprofit, government or school agencies in Thomas County are eligible for small grants of about \$500. Applications are due by Wednesday, June 30. For information, call 460-9152.

Eagles' books a bargain right now

The price of "Flight of the Eagles," a book by Gary Adrian about the history of Colby High sports, will increase from \$25 to \$30 on Wednesday to cover printing costs. Books can be ordered at the old price at www.colbyeagles.org or send a check to the Colby Booster Club at Box 136, Colby, Kan., 67701. Books will also be available at the All School Reunion this week. For information, call Adrian at 460-2931.



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