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# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Corn prices, yields looking good

By Shelby Pulkrabek

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Fall harvest is well underway in northwest Kansas, and so far so good, with Oct. 21 being the best day so far. Frontier Ag in Brewster has been averaging 100,000 bushels of corn per day. "Our facility in Goodland has already filled three 1.8-million bushel bunkers

and are piling it on the ground," said Dallas Schnurr, office manager of Frontier Ag.

So far prices and yields are good, she said.

"Nationwide, corn crop is smaller than usual," said Schnurr. "The prices are staying good, they were up 28 cents on Wednesday and down ten cents Thursday. The best yield for irrigated corn we have heard is 250 bushels per acre."

Harvest is about half done from Goodland to Brewster, and things will soon be wrapping up around Colby.

"In another three days or so farmers will begin tying up the ends of corn harvest in the Colby area," said Diana Luhman of Cornerstone Ag.

According to Clint Milliman of the Kansas State Research and Extension Office in Thomas County, yields around the area have been good.

"We've been seeing irrigated corn yield between 200 and 250 bushels per acre, and dryland corn yield between 100 and 120 bushels per acre," Milliman said. "Since we've had the really good test weights, the elevators are about full and we've been seeing more piles on the ground than in previous years."

"A lot of farmers have been using on-the-farm storage to dry down their corn since the elevators are full."

Most farmers in the area are wrapping things up and moving on to milo harvest.

"Some farmers have started cutting milo," said Milliman. "But others are waiting on a hard freeze for it to be ready, which should happen tonight (Wednesday)."

Schnurr said the milo harvest is progressing particularly well in the Brewster and Goodland area.

## College president says online school key to the future

By Kevin Bottrell

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With education requirements for the Kansas workforce changing faster than ever, Fort Hays State University President Edward Hammond says online classes are becoming more important.

Hammond flew into Colby on Monday afternoon as part of his annual press tour. He said he will visit 14 cities in five days. Hammond said the university is making a big push for its online courses.

"The old model of education is broken," he said.

The old model, Hammond said, is for a student to finish high school, move to attend a university somewhere and then work in that field the rest of their life.

Under the new model, he said, people come back for some form of advanced schooling three to four times after high school. The first time might be when the student moves to attend a two- or four-year university, but after that, moving to attend school becomes more difficult, with students tied down by family and work.

It's still valuable for people to get advanced degrees or certificates, Hammond said. The median salary for a high school graduate in Kansas is \$32,000 per year, while the median salary for someone with an advanced degree — from two- and four-year colleges or a technical school — is \$80,000.

"If you're able to keep up your education, you see a big difference," Hammond said. "Over a 30-year career you're looking at a lot of money."

Hammond said the amount of jobs requiring higher-education degrees or certificates increased during the recession while the number of overall jobs decreased. Since many people might find themselves in advanced jobs that didn't exist the first time they went to school, they'll need to go back to school to get a new degree or certification.

"We have to re-educate our workforce about every five years," Hammond said.

That's where online education comes in. Fort Hays offers 40 degrees and certificate programs on-

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### Step forward for a solo



Colby fifth grader Kora Schindler and her class sang about circumstantial evidence at their concert Tuesday. The fifth grad-

## Homemaking units still active after 77 years in Thomas County

By Vera Sloan

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County Extension Homemaking Units found a home in Thomas County in 1933, and are still at it. At its beginning, it soon became one of the most popular club atmospheres for young homemakers who were eager to know the newest and easiest ways to make their homes modern. Members celebrate their anniversary as an organization every October as Homemakers Education Month.

Then and now, members take turns signing up for lessons on practically everything from home decorating, to crafts, to how to bake a great loaf of bread and how to bring awareness to families and communities about bettering lifestyles through education on many subjects.

Nearly a dozen clubs, or home demonstration units, as they were known more than 50 years ago, found their place in the community, most with 20 to 30 farm wives as members.

They remained popular for years, but when more women joined the work force, club memberships began to dwindle.

Today, only two clubs remain in Thomas County. Farm and Fireside and Morning Glory Club have a few remaining faithful members who still take part in leadership training projects and do their part in

imparting knowledge to the public.

The name of the organization has changed several times through the years, beginning with Community Club, then Farm Bureau Unit. Next came the designation of Home Demonstration Units (HDU), followed by Extension Homemaker Units (EHU), and finally in 1992 the current name, the National Association for Family and Community Education.

Bev Moss of Colby, member of Farm and Fireside, said the idea behind the organization is still the same: an attitude of rolling up their sleeves and helping families gain control.

History says the organization helped to start the school lunch program, put program ratings on TV, provide education about seat belt safety and lobby for seat belt laws, and many other worthwhile projects.

Today, it is an organization of volunteers still interested in continuing education and leadership training opportunities that provide program materials, public service announcements, information on legislative issues that impact families, and provide information to help older Americans become aware of available help.

"October is the month we celebrate Family and Community Education," said Moss. She said she agrees that times change, but the needs of people

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### Click and respond



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Diann Gerstner (left), Thomas County family and consumer sciences agent and Clint Milliman, county agricultural agent from Kansas State University demonstrated how the click and respond technology works for educational programs used in the extension presentations. The two put on a program for the Thomas County Annual Extension Meeting on Tuesday night. The meeting is to elect members to the county's executive governing board.

## Briefly

### Legion to serve biscuits Saturday

The American Legion will hold a biscuits and gravy breakfast from 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday at the Legion Post, 1850 W. Fourth St. Donations will be accepted to help with improvements to the post. For information, call 462-3809.

### Acrobats to perform here

The Golden Dragon Acrobats will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Colby High School Auditorium. The event, sponsored by the Western Plains Art Association, will cost \$15 for adults and \$7 for students from kindergarten to high school.

### Heartland fall festival is Sunday

Heartland Christian School will hold a fall festival from 4 to 8 p.m. on Sunday at the school. There will be games from 4 to 7 p.m., a soup supper from 4 to

6:30 p.m. and a volleyball scrimmage from 7 to 8 p.m. Donations will be accepted and kids are welcome to come in costume. For information, call the school at 460-6419.

### Help group to meet Sundays

Overeaters Anonymous holds meetings at 12:30 p.m. every Sunday in the Wesleyan Church library, 320 W. Pine St. The meetings are free and open to anyone who struggles with overeating. For information, call Selina Lee at 462-3432 or visit www.oa.org.

### Games and treats this weekend

The Colby Church of Christ will hold a "Trunk and Treat" party from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday in the church parking lot. There will be games, prizes and treats. For information, call Tammy Goldsworth at 460-2484.

### Group plans Halloween party

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Thomas County will hold a Halloween Bash for area youth 13 and under from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31, at the 4-H building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds. The bash will include food prizes and games. Please bring one food item for the Genesis-Thomas County food bank. For information, call Diane Stithem at 460-9125.

### Women's group to sell greenery

The Colby Presbyterian Women are selling fresh Christmas greenery to raise money for mission projects. Items include wreaths, swags, garlands, holly, table decorations and more. Order by Sunday for delivery the first week of December. Call the church at 462-6342, Mary Smith at 462-3387 or JoAnne Sunderman at 460-2476.

### College to talk about animals

The Colby Community College Farm Bureau Chapter will hold a talk on animal welfare at 6:30 p.m. Monday in Thomas Hall, room 407. Dr. Dan Thomson, director of Kansas State University's Beef Cattle Institute, will speak. There will be a student session at 1 p.m. Monday and the public session at 6:30 p.m. For information, call Shanda Mattix at 460-5464.



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