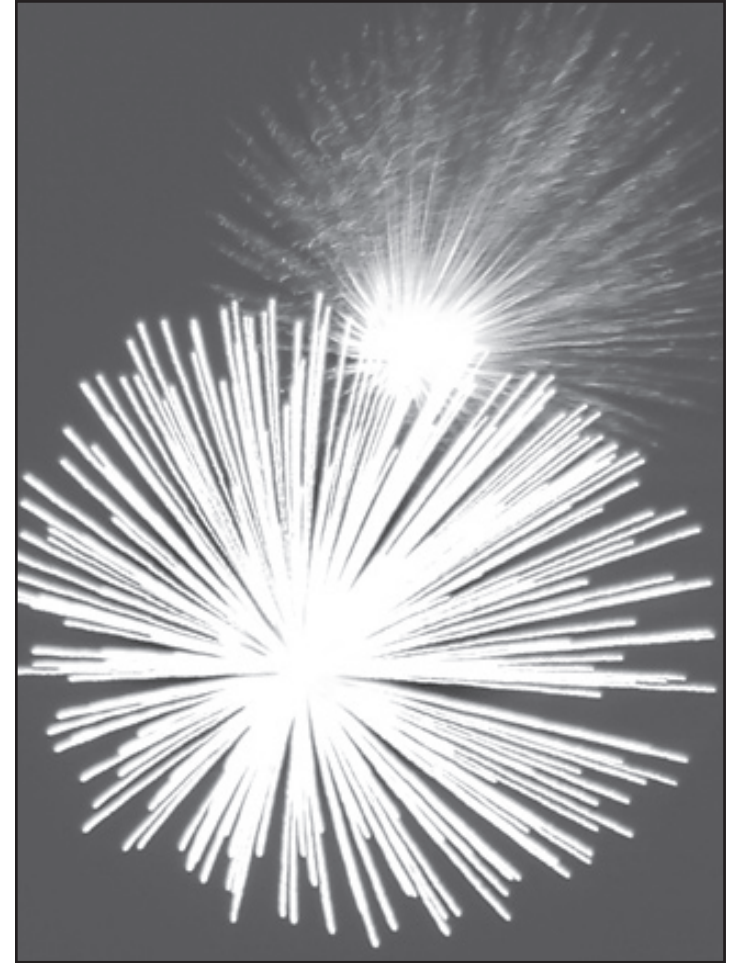


Celebrating Independence



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press
The Colby Kiwanis Club shot more than 300 fireworks after dark Monday. Sean Hankin, Kiwanis member and assistant fire chief, said the club set up 280 mortars at the Thomas County Fairgrounds arena capable of firing three- to six-inch shells. The show also included two "finale boxes," which had about 24 shots set to launch in quick succession. Hankin said the club orders the equipment from Tri-State Fireworks in Colorado. The department has two state-licensed firefighters who do the actual firing as well as volunteers and security. A tanker truck was on duty to monitor the fireworks in case they start any fires on the ground.



KATHRYN BALLARD and KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press
The Colby High Plains Lions Club held its annual Fourth of July hot dog and watermelon feed Monday at the 4-H Building. Club members (above left) grilled about 500 hotdogs and cut up dozens of watermelons donated by Walmart. Entertainment included musical acts, bingo (above) for prizes donated by the Queens Circle at Sacred Heart Church and the *Colby Free Press* Cointest. The Cointest winner was Nancy Ohlrogge (left) of Colby, who said she will donate the entire \$235 prize to Heartland Christian School. Ohlrogge is pictured with *Free Press* ad saleswoman Kathryn Ballard and Publisher Sharon Friedlander.

