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Seedtime (and harvest)



Fog and the resulting high humidity made it too wet to for corn harvesting Thursday and today, but it didn't stop farmers from planting wheat. Darwin McReynolds, an employee of Ferguson ZY Farms, was busy drilling wheat in a stubble field five miles north of Colby today. McReynolds evened out the wheat seed in the drill's seed boxes at the end of a row (right) before he continued planting. He raised plenty of dust in the process (below), even though Donald Snow, another employee, said it had been drizzling only 30 minutes earlier.

EVAN BARNUM / Colby Free Press



Sheriff's office gets computers

By Heather Alwin
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The Thomas County Sheriff's Office will finally be getting a new server and computers after the county commissioners awarded a contract for the hardware to Cumulus Computers LLC. Cumulus and Ntronic Inc., both of Colby, were the only two companies to submit bids for the computer equipment designed to

replace outdated and overloaded systems currently in use at the law enforcement center. Brett Bandy of Cumulus and Will Dearden of Ntronic were both on-hand to help the commissioners make their decision. Cumulus' bid contained several options for the commissioners to choose from, but the commissioners wanted to compare "apples to apples" before choosing between the companies. Bandy made some quick calcu-

lations, giving the commissioners a total price of \$13,060 for six desktop computers, back-up power systems, a new server and associated hardware and licenses. Ntronic's bid was \$14,144 for similar equipment and licenses, so the commissioners chose Cumulus' lower bid. Ntronic, whose technicians already have the necessary security clearances to work with the sheriff's systems, will install the equipment.

Bandy estimated he could have the items delivered within five days, and Dearden said he could have it installed a few days after that, rearranging his schedule as necessary since he considers this system a priority. The commissioners had previously struggled with ways to pay for the necessary updates, but they agreed to take it out of the sheriff's department's capital outlay

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Corn acres producing better yields

By Sam Dieter
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With this year's dry corn harvest going strong, more fields in the area are producing a crop this year. Lucas Haag, northwest area agronomist with the Northwest Kansas Research and Extension Center, said most high-moisture corn has already been harvested and sent to local feedlots, and the

dry corn harvest will be in full swing soon. He said less corn is being chopped up and bundled into silage than last year. Haag said that Extension doesn't measure the amount of corn going into silage. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which generally reports yields, is not publishing online because of the partial shutdown of the federal government.

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City streets get state funds

The city will be able to use state money in a year and a half to improve parts of West Fourth Street. The Kansas Department of Transportation announced last Friday that it will give Colby \$800,000 as part of its Geometric Improvement Program. The department said it will give out the money in its 2016 fiscal year, and that Colby needs matching funds to finish its project. At Tuesday's city council meeting, City Manager Tyson McGreer told the council about the project. He said that the city plans to resurface the middle two lanes of Fourth Street from Range Avenue west, as far as Fourth is surfaced with concrete. The outer lanes could be surfaced with city crews and also could be paid for with additional grants.

There is no estimate on the cost for the outer lanes, McGreer said later, but he added that they will cost "considerably more," since the curbs need to be worked on too. The city could apply for money from the state's "City Connecting Links" program, that helps with state highways inside city limits, McGreer said. Some of that money went towards resurfacing the asphalt on East Fourth and South Range this summer. He pointed out that the city already did some work on that stretch of road earlier in the year. The department is providing \$6.23 million for geometric improvement projects across the state. It also announced that it will fund 30 connecting links projects.

Judge named to another term

Chief Justice Lawton R. Nuss announced Wednesday that the Supreme Court has reappointed Judge Glenn Schiffner to a two-year term as chief judge of the 15th Judicial District, effective Jan. 1. Schiffner has served as a district judge since January 1993 in the 15th Judicial District. He presides over cases in Thomas, Sherman, Logan, Sheridan, Rawlins, Cheyenne and Wallace counties. As chief judge, he also handles administrative issues. "I am honored to have the continued opportunity to serve the

Kansas Judiciary and, in particular, the 15th Judicial District," Chief Judge Schiffner said. Schiffner, a native of Colby, is a graduate of Kansas State University and Washburn Law School. "I am very pleased to announce Chief Judge Schiffner's reappointment," Nuss said. "The Kansas Judicial Branch is facing a number of challenges, particularly the underfunding of the courts. We will rely on Chief Judge Schiffner's assistance in facing them."



G. Schiffner

Rollover accident blamed on fog, unfamiliar roads

A Texas woman went off the road Thursday morning, and then left the accident scene without needing an ambulance, thanks to a buckled seat belt. The accident was reported just before 10 a.m., after Bonnie Kraisinger of Texas rolled a car at County Roads 21 and X northeast of Colby. Andy Schippers, a trooper for the Kansas Highway Patrol who worked the accident, said Kraisinger came here from Texas to visit family. She did not know that road X forms a T-intersection and does not pass west of 21. Schippers said the fog made it hard for her to see the intersection as she drove west on road X. She hit her brakes and tried to turn left onto 21, but her white compact car rolled into the ditch west of the road, coming to rest on its top. Kraisinger was outside talking to Schippers and other emergency responders soon after the accident. She refused a trip to the hospital and left with family members in a white pickup truck.



The driver of this car had a hard time seeing the road through the fog Thursday morning as she came up to an intersection. Though her compact landed upside down, her seat belt meant she did not need a trip to the hospital.

