



Time running out



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Ross Wright of Colby straightened up fireworks for sale at Pit Road west of Colby this morning. Fireworks stands have stayed busy with the approaching Fourth of July holiday. Colby will have a community fireworks display at the Thomas County Fairgrounds at about 10:15 p.m. Sunday, and will last about 20 minutes.

Hospital names new chief executive officer

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Colby's hospital has a new chief executive officer and director of nursing. Tama Unger, fund development and public information officer said today.

Janice McCart will begin her administrative duties with Citizens Medical Center on Monday, July 19. Kevan Trenkle, the chief financial officer, served as the interim chief executive officer following Michael Boyles' resignation.

The new director of nursing, Jeff Grauerholz, is currently in his new position and has been since early June, she said.

"We are very excited with the experience that both Jeff and Janice will bring to the hospital and community," Unger said.

The new chief executive officer is originally from Kansas; however,

will be moving from Farmville, Va. where she had been employed as the chief officer at Southside Community Hospital, a 116-bed non-profit rural hospital that served eight counties.

"Prior to Farmville," Unger said, "Janice was the CEO of a critical access hospital in Iowa that had a 55-bed long-term care facility."

As for her recent decision in accepting the position here, Unger said McCart found Colby to be "a very progressive community," offering excellent access to technology and education.

McCart, along with her husband, Ed, added that they are both impressed with the friendliness of Thomas County and look forward to returning to the Midwest.

Grauerholz, Unger said, has extensive experience in the nursing field to include nursing services,

administration, surgical service, endoscopy, cardiology, clinical service, emergency room department, case management, utilization review, infection control and more.

He received his nursing degree from Barton Community College in Great Bend, his bachelor's from Fort Hays State University and his master's from Amber University in Garland, Texas.

"We are glad to have Jeff with us," Unger said, "and the staff looks forward to learning from his experience."

In addition to the two newest hospital positions, Juanita Gatz, nurse practitioner, returned to the Family Center for Healthcare, which is owned by Citizens Medical Center.

Unger said that Gatz began work Monday and will be seeing patients on Tuesdays and Thursday or when needed.

Colby man remains in hospital

By **TISHA COX**

Colby Free Press

A Colby man is in a Wichita hospital after an accident June 25 on K-25 south of Atwood.

According to an official at Rawlins County Hospital, Leonard Runge, 85, of Colby, was treated in Atwood and later transported to Via Christi Medical Center in Wichita.

Maria Loving, a spokeswoman for Via Christi-St. Francis Campus, said today Runge is listed in critical condition.

A report from the Kansas Highway Patrol said Leonard Runge and his wife, Hazel, also 85, were southbound on K-25 from Atwood when their 1989 Nissan was hit by a trailer being pulled by a 1993 Peterbilt

truck driven by Jody Larson, 24, of North Dakota.

Larson was heading north on K-25 when the trailer hit the pickup, which came to rest in the west ditch facing south. Larson wasn't injured in the accident but the Runiges were taken to Rawlins County Hospital where Hazel Runge was treated and released.

Crop not as good as last year, report says

WICHITA (AP) — The season's first wheat quality report Thursday from the Kansas Grain Inspection Service confirmed what Kansas farmers already knew: the 2004 Kansas wheat crop is not as good as in past years.

But early sampling shows it also

is not as bad as many had feared.

Preliminary data showed 62 percent of the grain tested statewide graded as No. 1 wheat. Last year 73 percent of the Kansas crop got the top grading. Another 23 percent graded as No. 2 wheat, with the remaining 15 percent grading as No.

3 or worse, the report showed.

"This, quite honestly, is very good quality wheat," said David Frey, administrator of the Kansas Wheat Commission. "It doesn't seem to reflect as much damage as there might be. I'll keep my fingers crossed it continues like this."

Harvest history comes to Colby this week

By **TISHA COX**

Colby Free Press

Colby played host to a piece of history this week.

A 1949 Massey-Harris 21A combine was on display at Lang Diesel Tuesday and Wednesday. The combine, owned by Lenwood Holo of Eau Claire, Wis., is part of a tribute to the farmers who harvested wheat during the summer of 1944 during the height of WWII.

"We're doing a tribute to the Harvest Brigade of 1944," Holo said, explaining it's also a tribute to custom harvesters everywhere.

In 1944, he said, there weren't enough machines to cut the "vast wheat harvest" so Joe Tucker, a vice president with the Massey-Harris company, came up with a plan to build 500 combines if the government would release the materials for their manufacture.

"He got the job done, got the 500 built," Holo said. The combines were sold to farmers and each farmer who bought one had to sign a contract promising they would cut

2,000 acres.

"That was almost unheard of," he said. "That's kind of how the harvest as we know it today got started. Many guys just kept up with it after."

Holo said Massey-Harris provided parts and an engineer who flew around the country keeping track of the combines and their progress.

The machines were capable of cutting 2-4 acres an hour, which was about average.

Beyond their historical significance, the combines are also important because they helped revolutionize how they are now built.

"This was the very first successful self-propelled combine," he said, adding they were the top model for about eight years after being introduced on the market. "There were none any better."

Holo said they did a good job and had the capacity farmers needed.

His combine is a restored model which is 90 percent original. He bought it in April, 2002 and finished



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Lenwood Holo of Eu Claire, Wis. was at Lang Diesel in Colby this week with his 1949 combine as part of a tribute to custom harvesters and the 1944 Harvest Brigade.

working on it in July of last year. It took four machines to provide the pieces he needed to complete repairs.

One change he did make was switching the airplane tires on the combine for dual front wheels, which he said look better.

Holo's Colby stop is part of a tour

to follow the route the harvesters originally took in 1944. Like the harvest brigade, his trip started in Plainview, Texas and his next stop after Colby will be Gibbon, Neb.

He also has another original piece of equipment, a 1949 two-ton Dodge pick-up he's using to haul the combine.

Briefly

College board to meet Tuesday

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the board room in Thomas Hall. Items on the agenda include election of 2004-2005 officers, election of KACCT representative, elect ex officio member to college endowment, approval of depositories and authorized signatures, approval of lease agreement with Norton County Hospital, approval of contracts and agreements, catalog bids, roofing bids for Living Center East, payment of claims and the budget.

Fair board to meet

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include Thomas County Extension agent report, financial report, bills, committee reports, storage rates, groundskeeper job description and wages and Old Settler's Day.

No Free Press on Monday

July 4th falls on Sunday this year, so much like most businesses, the *Colby Free Press* will not publish a paper on Monday, July 5th, the designated holiday. Normal operations will resume on Tuesday, July 6.

Childbirth classes planned

Colby Childbirth Education will be conducting a class for expectant

mothers. This class, said Amy Hutfles, coordinator, is a weekend retreat and will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 9-10. For information or to enroll please call Hutfles at 460-4344.

Singles dance tonight

The Colby Singles Group has scheduled its monthly dance from 8 p.m. to midnight tonight at the American Legion, said Don Birzer, coordinating the event. Jim Christiansen of Kearney, Neb. will provide entertainment and all single and ulumni are welcome. For questions, call 462-2127.

No city trash pickup Monday

The City of Colby Sanitation Department will not be operating Monday, July 5, in observance of the Fourth of July holiday. For residents who normally have yard waste and trash pick up on Monday will instead have their trash picked up Tuesday, along with the regular Tuesday route. For questions, call 462-4420.

Gaither video concert July 4th

Colby Wesleyan Church will feature a special Gaither video Fourth of July concert at 6 p.m.

Featured will be "God Bless America" and "Let Freedom Ring." The concert will be on the big screen and is free and open to the public.

One of the best coming to Colby on July 10

(see My Turn, page 2)

Colby Hoxie Quinter



Sun to usher in heat

Colby added another 0.65 inches of rain in the last 24 hours, bringing the two-day total to 0.98 inches.

Here is the area forecast:

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s. East winds around 10 mph shifting to the south after midnight. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 5 to 15 mph with higher gusts. **Saturday night...**Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s. South winds around 10 mph. **Independence Day...**Mostly cloudy then partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 80s to around 90. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph. **Monday and Tuesday ...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the 80s. Lows in the 60s. **Wednesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s.

The numbers: Thursday's high, 67; Low this morning, 59; Records for July 2, 104 in 1973 and 43 in 1924; Year ago today, 100 and 66; Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.65; July total, including part of June 30th, 0.98; Soil temperature, 69

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Water use

• July 31= (not available)

Water advisories

• **Water Watch** is 3.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

• **Water Warning** is 4.0 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

• **Water Emergency** is 4.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

