



COLBY FREE PRESS

Bumper fall crop expected

WICHITA (AP) — After a bleak winter wheat harvest, Kansas farmers anticipate bumper crops of corn, sorghum and soybeans this fall.

If current industry projections hold up through this summer, Kansas famers could end up cutting more bushels of corn than wheat this year.

The season's first production forecast for fall crops will not be released by government statisticians until Aug. 12. But forecasts from various crop consultants are already estimating the Kansas corn crop at more than 400 million bushels, said Sue Schulte, a spokeswoman for the Kansas Corn Growers Association.

"Things look wonderful, they really do," she said.

If the early predictions hold out, it would be only the third time since records were kept that the Kansas corn harvest has topped 400 million bushels, Schulte said.

The other three big corn harvest years were in 1998, 1999 and 2000. Last year, Kansas harvested 300 million bushels of corn.

Abundant fall crops could not come at a better time for Kansas farmers after a disappointing winter wheat harvest hard-hit by drought, spring freezes and harvest rains. Kansas farmers abandoned 1.2 million winter wheat acres, replanting many of those with fall crops.

The government's July wheat forecast lowered the estimate for the 2004 Kansas wheat crop to 313.2 million bushels, down 35 percent from last year's near-record breaking crop of 480 million bushels.

The watering hole



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Sally and Amy Wilson watered their cattle Wednesday afternoon at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Livestock, including cattle, horses, goats, swine and sheep, are on display along with many other exhibits at the Thomas County Free Fair, which runs through Saturday at the fairgrounds.

College board budget okayed

Trustees question administration about commercial

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees approved the college's 2004-2005 budget at its Monday meeting.

The board gave approval of the \$11,299,298 budget after a public hearing. This year's budget is \$354,000 more than the previous year's \$10,944,680.

Approval was also given to workmen's compensation coverage. College President Dr. Mikel Ary said it's one of the reasons the college is a member of the Kansas Association of School Boards.

Dean of Financial Affairs Ken Johnson said the plan covers all of the college employees and said it's been a "positive" program.

The board also discussed a television commercial for the college that's been airing on local channels.

Deb Schwanke, college public relations officer, said not all the comments on the commercial are positive but the feedback proves it is reaching people.

Ary said the public relations campaign is reaching out and it was also used last year. He said he's hoping the effort works in bringing up numbers.

On the flipside, enrollment elsewhere is slipping, Ary said.

He said there's been a drop-off in enrollment at several of the state's four-year universities, including Fort Hays State University and he wasn't sure if it could be contributed to high tuition costs. He said he wasn't sure how it might affect Colby but said there could be a trend of college freshman transferring to community colleges.

"It's probably cost related," Ary said.

The board also discussed two bids for a concrete project. The board received bids from Marvin Wilson and Hutfles Construction for concrete for the Student Union patio.

Wilson's bid was for \$5,355 and Hutfles' was for \$9,800. The board approved Wilson's bid.

In other business, the board approved:

- A software payment of \$10,500.
- Replacing three dorm air conditioners for \$6,123 from Midwest Energy.

County Fair Schedule

- **Today** — 7-11 p.m., Carnival and games; 8 p.m., Demolition Derby
- **Friday** — 9 a.m., 4-H Round Robin; 5 p.m., Buyers' Appreciation Barbecue and 4-H Livestock Sale; 7 p.m., Modified Qualifying, Sprint Cars and Cruisers; 7-11 p.m., Carnival and games
- **Saturday** — 8 a.m., Release of livestock and clean up of barns; 10 a.m., Parade, downtown Colby; Noon, Pioneer Day at the VFW; 7 p.m., Modified Shoot-Out, Super Stock and Bombers; 7-11 p.m., Carnival and games
- **Sunday** — 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Release of all exhibits
- **Monday** — 6 p.m. Fair Clean-up

McCook murder involves questioning of Colbyites; no suspects yet

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A 53-year-old man was found dead at his mother's home in McCook, Neb., and law enforcement officials in Colby have been assisting in the investigation, said

Gary Shull, investigator.

The death of David Moreau, the victim in this case, has been ruled a homicide, said Red Willow County Attorney Paul Wood.

Although the incident happened during the latter part of July, to date

there are no suspects, authorities in McCook said today.

Colby's involvement, Shull said, has been in the questioning of some of Moreau's acquaintances now living here, but none of those people are considered suspects.

The body was first discovered by neighbors who found Moreau in his mother's front yard at 6:10 a.m., Sunday (July 18).

The pathologist's report, Wood said, indicated that Moreau died after being hit with blunt force

trauma to the head, but declined to offer motive or any suspects.

The McCook Police Department, the Red Willow County Sheriff's Office and the Nebraska Highway Patrol, have formed a team of officers to broaden the investigation,

Wood said.

McCook authorities are also asking for help from the public and particularly anyone who may have had contact with transients in the McCook area prior to the murder in July.

Race in 3rd District could remain in doubt

By JOHN HANNA

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — The Republican candidate in the 3rd Congressional District could remain unknown through the weekend, as county officials work through several thousand provisional ballots that could reverse the tiny lead Kris Kobach holds over rival Adam Taff.

The final, unofficial tally after Tuesday's election put Kobach just 87 votes ahead out of more than 86,000 cast. The winner will take on Democratic Rep. Dennis Moore in the Nov. 2 general election.

Taff's campaign continued to suggest Wednesday the tight result might be reversed once election officials in the district's three counties — Douglas, Johnson and Wyandotte — review provisional ballots. Such ballots are set aside by election officials when they are unsure whether someone is eligible to

vote in a particular precinct.

"This thing is way up in the air right now," Taff campaign manager Bob Zender said during a telephone interview.

Kobach's campaign remained confident, arguing that provisional ballots typically do not change the outcome of races.

"We are moving at a full general election mode today," said Kobach campaign manager Todd Abrajano. "We are engaging in the battle against Dennis Moore."

Taff and Kobach attended a unity rally in Overland Park on Wednesday evening that was sponsored by Johnson County Republicans. Party leaders, including Sen. Sam Brownback and state Attorney General Phill Kline, urged the two camps to work together no matter the outcome. Kobach and Taff said they would. Kobach told the crowd not to wait for the winner to be de-

termined to work to defeat Moore.

"If we sacrifice time now, we will pay in the end. We absolutely cannot give Dennis Moore any advantage," he said.

Taff said, "I will support our nominee with all my soul and with all my spirit, and we will win on Nov. 2."

The Kansas secretary of state's office estimated the number of provisional ballots in the 3rd District at about 3,700, but spokesman Jesse Borjon said not all were cast in the GOP primary.

In Johnson County, Election Commissioner Connie Schmidt said an initial tally showed about 2,800 provisional ballots there. The local board of canvassers — in this case, the county commission — plans to meet at 9 a.m. Monday to review provisional ballots.

Each ballot is in a sealed envelope, and Schmidt said election

workers will research each one's history and make recommendations on whether it should be counted. An envelope won't be opened until the commission determines whether the ballot inside should count, she said.

Schmidt said she did not expect an updated count in the 3rd District race until Monday evening. "It's very tedious work," she said. "It will take us through the weekend."

Local boards of canvassers in Douglas and Wyandotte county planned to meet at 9 a.m. Friday to review election results and determine which provisional ballots will be counted.

A review of the provisional ballots would not necessarily end the dispute. Whichever candidate comes out on the losing end could seek a re-count, though one would not be automatic.

courthouse to canvas election results from Tuesday's primary.

Volunteers needed Sunday for 'tear down'

The Thomas County Amusement Association is looking for volunteers on Sunday starting at 1 p.m. to help with the carnival "tear-down" and "put-up" party, said Wanda Brown, coordinating the event. Those interested are asked to go to the fairgrounds. There will be something for everyone to do, she said, so all ages and sizes are welcome. Depending on the number of volunteers, the project could take between four and six hours, but once the job is completed, the task of setting up again won't be for another 360 days, Brown said.

Blood drive scheduled

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross is holding a blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 17 at the Colby Community Building. For information on donating blood, to volunteer or to schedule an appointment to donate, call 462-2082 or visit www.redcross.org/br/centralplains.

Colby Rexford Grinnell



Great August weather

Tonight...Becoming partly cloudy. A 40 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph. **Friday...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. **Friday night...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 5 to 15 mph. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy. Highs around 90. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph. **Sunday and Monday...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s. Lows in the lower 60s.

The numbers

- Wednesday's high, 87
- Low this morning, 62
- Records for Aug. 5, 107 in 1934 and 51 in 1894
- Year ago today, 98 and 65
- Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00
- August, 0.00
- Soil temperature, 83

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

- Aug. 4 = 2.997 million gallons.

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.

