



# COLBY FREE PRESS



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Kansas State University Extension wheat specialist Jim Shroyer talked about different wheat varieties during the annual wheat plot tour Tuesday. The tour was held on the Mike Brown farm south of Levant.

## Wheat test plot tour looks beyond today

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

This year's harvest hasn't yet begun in this area, but farmers are already thinking ahead. Wheat producers found out what varieties they might want to plant next year during the annual wheat plot tour on Tuesday.

The tour took place at Mike Brown's farm south of Levant, sponsored by the Thomas County Extension Council.

Kansas State University extension wheat specialist Jim Shroyer and Northwest Research-Extension Center multi-county agronomist Brian Olson were the guest speakers.

Thomas County extension agent Doug Musick said the tour was better than last year but a little lower (attendance) than year's past.

He also explained why the tour is important.

"It's to help producers stay on top of the new varieties," Musick said. "And to help them make better planning choices in September."

He said the newest varieties are available, but if producers want it they'll need to make an early decision as early as July or August.

Harvest here is expected to start within the next two weeks and Musick said some farmers have tra-

ditionally keep back seed from year to year to plant. This year's is doing "OK" and he said some might want to keep it back if it's shown resistance to disease.

"Stripe rust has become a big threat," Musick said.

Both types affect the leaf of the plant, and can cause damage, he said. Damage, he explained, affects photosynthesis which in turn can reduce seed production. In some cases, severe damaged can actually kill a plant.

Before going down to the test plots, Shroyer explained how stripe rust has become a problem.

He pointed out that stripe rust, also known as yellow rust to the rest of the world, is identified by yellow pustules that can be found on rows down on wheat leaves.

The disease "likes" cool weather and wasn't a problem until 2001. Occurrences were few and far between then and during a 50-year span, he said.

That, along with leaf rust, have proven problems the past few years.

Shroyer said companies and universities talk about resistant varieties, but completely avoiding the diseases isn't possible.

"Resistance isn't immunity," he said. "Resistance means it's tolerant to it."

Wheat varieties are losing their resistance to stripe rust and Shroyer said producers could see more rust next year.

Out in the field, there were several varieties that are fairly tolerant of stripe rust, but they all had their individual characteristics. One example Shroyer liked the looks of was TAM, a wheat developed in Texas.

He said it was average in tests last year, yielded decent in southwest Kansas last year and will probably do good this year.

He also talked about some of the white wheat varieties, including Platte, which he said was a "good white." Shroyer said western Kansas is ideal for white wheat because it doesn't rain during harvest. But, last year, there were problems with sprouting in the whites because of the moisture during harvest.

Whites, he said, do tend to sprout more than red wheat, but reds also had sprouting problems last year.

"That was an unusual year," Shroyer said.

Overall, Musick said the wheat plots looked healthy and most of it would probably have average or slightly above average yields.

## Area businesses recognized at program in Colby

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

The state's commerce department was in Colby on Tuesday to recognize area businesses for their contributions toward keeping the local and state economy strong.

The Kansas Department of Commerce held the regional awards ceremony at the City Limits Convention Center in conjunction with Business Appreciation Month, giving merit awards in retail to J & B Market and Horlacher Jewelers, both of Colby.

"It is with great pleasure we recognize these and other outstanding Kansas companies, which have been nominated by people and organizations in their communities" said Commerce Secretary Howard Fricke.

During the presentation, a few highlights about Horlacher Jewelers, nominated by the Small Business Development Center at

**“It is with great pleasure we recognize these and other outstanding Kansas companies . . .”**  
Commerce Secretary Howard Fricke

Fort Hays State University, were made.

In choosing Horlacher Jewelers, it was noted that the store has been in Colby since 1927 and the owners travel to Belgium yearly to select diamonds for their customers. In addition, the store was congratulated for its sponsorship of Gold and Silver Achievement Awards for the local 4-H group during the last 50 years. The store was also honored for its community efforts in supporting local women's bowling teams, after-prom parties and graduation projects. The other Colby business recog-

nized, J & B Market, established in 2004 and nominated by the Thomas County Economic Development Alliance, received praise for its donation of hams to all the Christian concerts held in the area and contributions it made to local schools, organizations and other events. The market has fresh-cut meats, cut to order and a small line of groceries. The store also provides a few tables for customers to enjoy a noon meal of soup and sandwiches from its daily menu, according to information provided on the nomination.

Other merit awards in this region included: Hoxie Office Supply, Plum Creek Limited, both of Hoxie; Hometown Market, Bird City; True Value Hardware, St. Francis; Graphic Central, Smith Center; B&B Jewelry and Gifts, Osborne; Americ-Inn and the Dole-Specter Conference Center, Russell; Carmicheal True Value, Plainville; Harzler Hardware Store, Alton; Insurance Planning, Inc., Hays; Plains Mountain Truck and Equipment, Sharon Springs; Sawyer's Ace Hardware, Phillipsburg; Stockton Pharmacy, Stockton and Timeless Treasures, Downs.

Merit awards for service-type businesses included Howard Johnson Hotel-Lincoln L. in Goodland; Crossroads Express, Oberlin; Mapes and Miller Certified Public Accountant, Phillipsburg; Cheyenne County Hospital, Poling Chiropractic and Family Health Center and Zero's, all in St.

Francis; Shulz Aircraft, Russell; and four other Hays service businesses.

Regional achievement awards went to Coomes, Inc., Phillipsburg, for distribution; RANS, Inc., Hays, for manufacturing; Ellis State Bank in Ellis for retail and Nex-Tech/Rural Telephone, Lenora for services.

Manufacturing companies receiving merit awards included two businesses in Russell, Agco and John O. Farmer, Inc.; two in Norton — Miltech Machine Corp. and Natoma Corp.; Bird City Bird Seed in Bird City; Osborne Industries, Osborne; Roy Construction, Stockton; Sappa Valley Construction, Oberlin and Sheperd's Mill, Inc., Phillipsburg.

Before the end of June, the state's commerce department will have held seven ceremonies statewide. For questions call Kristy Druse, (785) 296-3805 or kdruse@kansascommerce.com

## Amended charges not new, Hildyard's attorney says

### Filing took place back on Feb. 15

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Friday's article in the Colby Free Press reporting that a Colby doctor is facing more charges before the state's medical licensing board prompted a response from his attorney in Hutchinson on Tuesday.

Mike O'Neal, who represents Dr. Victor Hildyard, Colby, said that he cannot explain why the amended charges from the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts in Topeka are only now being reported against his client.

"The amended petition adding the steroid counts is four months old," he said, having been filed on Feb. 15.

"The steroid cases are essentially

allegations of over-utilization based on averages of doctors who prescribe," he said.

"Dr. Hildyard is high, due primarily to his elderly and disabled rural patient load and the fact that so many patients that age and/or with disabilities don't tolerate oral steroids leaving them with no other real options."

The seven charges listed in the amended petition allege that in six charges, Hildyard gave patients an injectible corticosteroids before less potentially harmful treatment options were attempted and in the other charge, gave 87 intramuscular narcotic injections to a 72-year-old patient with chronic degenerative musculoskeletal problems.

"There are no allegations I can determine that there have been bad outcomes (regarding the steroid charges)," O'Neal said.

O'Neal also addressed the re-scheduling of his client's hearing, which was moved from February to June and now from June to October.

"I had a case that was to go to trial last week that the judge bumped due to staffing problems at his end," O'Neal said.

The judge rescheduled the trial for June 28, O'Neal said, taking the position that a civil trial does take precedence over an administrative hearing.

"The first dates we had where counsel had eight days available was in October," he said.

For that reason and with the hearing set for June 22, which was conflicting with the new trial date, the continuance was granted Wednesday, June 1, which will mean Hildyard's public hearing is now scheduled for Oct. 5 through Oct. 14 in both Colby and Topeka locations.

"Postponing the hearing was beyond our control," said Stacy Cook, attorney with the Kansas Board of Healing Arts in Topeka. "It was not because of this case (involving Dr. Hildyard) that required the delay," she said today.

In the initial petition filed with the Board of Healing Arts in August of 2004 the doctor was charged with 12 violations against the Kansas Healing Arts Act.

All 12 counts allege the doctor committed acts which are inclusive "but not limited to professional incompetency and or unprofessional conduct."

The additional seven charges, filed in February of 2005, are different patients and unrelated to the 12 original allegations filed in August of 2004, said Stacy Cook, attorney with the Kansas Board of Healing Arts.

## Window painting contest new fair activity

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Thomas County 4-H youth will have one more activity to look forward to during the fair this year. They'll be able to take part in the first annual 4-H window painting contest.

"We've never had this before," said fair board secretary Audrey Hines.

"Hopefully this will get people more into the fair."

Hines said there's been window painting before but it was never a contest.

This year, the fair board decided to make it a contest in an attempt to get more interest in the fair and also sweetened the pot to get more youth involved.

The contest is open to all 4-H members in Thomas County as well as county businesses.

They can paint the window of any willing business in the county — in

Colby, Rexford, Brewster and Menlo.

Prize money will be awarded, \$150 for first; \$100 for second, \$75 for third; \$50 for fourth and \$25 for fifth place.

Hines said 4-H members don't have to compete as a club. Individuals and small groups can participate. Their work must reflect the fair theme or the 100th anniversary of Kansas 4-H and must include a fair activity or entertainment, like the

carnival, races, rodeo or other entertainment.

Forms will be available by July 1 and can be picked up at the Thomas County Extension Office. Hines said she's also getting the information to the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce.

The deadline to enter is Monday, July 25.

Entries will be judged on Monday, Aug. 1 and winners will be announced at the fair barbecue.

## Wind whipped



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Gordon Gilbert, assistant director of public utilities for the City of Colby, inspected a power pole hidden by trees in the West 8th Street area on Monday after a cable line snapped due to strong winds. Gilbert and others in the utility department were kept busy that morning after wind gusts were reported at 52 mph with sustaining winds at 44 mph. However, gusts were higher later that day, said Mike Albers, technology director with the city.



