



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Harvest finished in county

By Tisha Cox  
Colby Free Press

Harvest in Thomas County is over for the most part. And, said Brian Olson, extension agronomist for northwest Kansas with the Northwest Research-Extension Center, it was much better than last year's. A few farmers do have wheat left to cut, but the glut of harvest is over.

He said while there were extremes on both ends of the spectrum, the average yield per acre was around 30 bushels. Some were as good as 60, he said, and others as low as 10-15 acres and some farmers didn't even cut what they had.

"I haven't heard any outstanding yields," he said, adding those yields were all on dryland wheat.

Olson also explained while the average yield was 30 bushels per acre, the weight of the bushels was 60 pounds or more. That, he said, helped make this harvest "respectable."

Problems from last year also didn't materialize.

"This year we didn't have any sprouting problems," Olson said. "The quality was better."

Last year's wheat was plagued with sprouting after harvest and also rust. He said the yields then were decent, but this year had it beat on quality. On irrigated, he said he heard yields as high as 80 bushels an acre in some fields but didn't have much information yet.

## Immigrant tuition law dismissed

TOPEKA (AP)—A federal lawsuit challenging a year-old state law giving some illegal immigrants a tuition break at state universities and colleges was dismissed Tuesday, although backers of the case promised to appeal.

Senior U.S. District Judge Richard Rogers ruled the students who filed the lawsuit couldn't sue because they didn't face an injury that is "concrete and imminent."

The judge wrote that this likely is the first federal case to challenge such a law.

At least eight other states have similar statutes.

At issue was a 2004 law allowing illegal immigrants to qualify for lower in-state tuition if they attend a Kansas high school for at least three years and graduate.

## Bombs bursting in air



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Fireworks lit up the skies over the Thomas County Fairgrounds Tuesday night. The display was postponed from Monday because of rain and went off without a hitch on Tuesday. The display, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and fired off by the Colby Fire Department, lasted about 20 minutes after beginning at about 10:15 p.m. Spectators watched from their cars at the fairgrounds and at vantage points along Range Avenue. The Kiwanis Club wanted to thank the many people from around the county who gave donations, without which the fireworks display would not have been possible.



## Legislators reconvene for 12th day of work

TOPEKA (AP)—Parents, teachers and students still faced the possibility that schools may not open on time in August as legislators resumed a special session on education funding.

Legislators returned today to the Statehouse for a 12th day of work, five days after missing a July 1

deadline set by the Kansas Supreme Court for providing an extra \$143 million for public schools. Lawmakers' failure to approve an education funding bill led the court to set a Friday hearing on withholding money from schools.

Still, legislative leaders hoped colleagues would need only a day

or two to approve a school finance bill. Lawmakers quit Saturday because the House had reached an impasse.

"I'm really optimistic we'll be done in a day or two," said House Speaker Doug Mays, R-Topeka.

House and Senate negotiators were working on a \$148.5 million

package, providing an increase in aid to all schools as well as additional funds for special education and programs for helping students at risk of dropping out.

But Mays and other House Republicans continued to insist legislators must also approve a proposed constitutional amendment to limit

one in Okinawa, Japan, going to Thailand and S. Korea and the second to Australia.

He said he and his fiancé, Megan Edmundson of Burlington, Colo., plan to make Colby their home.

He started as a police officer on Jan. 10. In addition to his fiancé, Quenzer's parents also live in Colby. They are Mike and Julia Quenzer.

Another new police officer, Jerad

W. Lange, 32, was born in Canon City, Colo., and raised in Granby, Colo. from May of 1973 until August of 1991.

A graduate of Pike Peak Community College in Colorado Springs and later taking course work in criminal justice at the University of Hawaii and Colorado State University, Lange said he started working at Winter Park, Colo. as a ski-patrol officer. From there, he worked six years at the Colorado Department of Corrections in Sterling.

Lange said he moved to Colby after his fiancé took a job at Citizens Medical Center.

"Everyone has been very receptive," he said about the town.

## Sebelius makes first visit to city as state's governor

By Tisha Cox  
Colby Free Press

Residents of Thomas County had the opportunity to spend a little time with the state's highest official Tuesday.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius spoke and answered questions at a public luncheon at Colby Community College during her stop in Colby. The governor is on a tour of rural Kansas this week. The luncheon was one of several stops she made in Colby.

Sebelius said she was "delighted" to be in Colby on the third day of her six-day tour.

"It was supposed to be a six day trip but the legislature didn't quite get their job done," she said.

Sebelius said it's their job to ensure there are "strong schools in each community and a strong teacher in each classroom."

"I am confident that they will do their job," she said.

She briefly touched on the special legislative session going on right now and said she didn't think the state Supreme Court will close down schools this fall.

"I think there is a remedy available," Sebelius said. "I continue to be hopeful."

She said the courts have been talking to the legislature since January and have given them plenty of chances to come up with a solution to the school funding debacle.

The court, she said, is going from a study done for the legislature six years ago and she added they haven't put any new money into the schools in five years.

Providing the best possible education and good jobs and a competitive environment is the best future that can be provided by the state, Sebelius said.

"That's probably our best economic development strategy," she said.

Health care was another subject she touched on. She said it's important and the key to business success and also key to making people secure about their own futures.

During her term, Sebelius also said the state has turned around financially to having only \$12 million in the bank to having more than \$400 million.

She also answered a question on wind farms. Sebelius said delivery to markets is a problem but it's a resource with the potential to be exploited.

"It's a wonderful resource we have," she said. "We could have a huge marketplace."

However, she added transmission lines are the big issue.



Gov. Kathleen Sebelius

The state could create its own transmission authority, which would give it the ability to put up transmission lines to get power where it needs to go.

On the federal level, she said Congress still needs to pass the energy bill that has in it a three-year extension on tax credits for wind power, which could generate more interest and investment.

Another issue Sebelius addressed was retaining population in rural areas and getting people to come back after their education.

She said economic development is one way to do it, and it needs to "look different" in each community in the state.

Recent prosperity summits held around the state are the first step, Sebelius said. At the summits, areas that have potential were outlined, such as marketing and branding, promotion, biosciences, an entrepreneurial center in Wichita and other projects that could create more opportunities around the state.

Colby Mayor Warren Hixson was pleased with how well the day went.

"I thought everything went really well," he said. "I think it was really wonderful she came."

Hixson said it was Sebelius' first visit to Colby as governor, although she had been to the community once before back before being elected in 2002. She was in town for the gubernatorial debates before the election that year.

He said he was glad Colby was a major stop on her tour and that she spent so much time in the community. She made stops at Kids Port, a class at Colby Community College and a public luncheon there, Pioneer Memorial Library, the Colby Visitors Center and Citizens Medical Center.

Hixson said Gov. Sebelius related well to all the different age groups she interacted with and said the community was fortunate to have the visit.

More photos on the governor's visit

See page 5



## Colby Police Department introduces three new officers on staff

By Patty Decker  
Free Press Editor

The Colby Police Department has some new people following the resignations of two long-time police officers — Tom Leavitt and Tom Nickols.

In order to fill some of that void, two police officers and one communications officer were hired.

Nick Quenzer, 27, a 1997 graduate of Colby High School, was born and raised here.

After military service, he said, he returned home and graduated from Colby Community College.

"After taking some classes in criminal justice and psychology, I liked it so much that becoming a



J. Lange



N. Quenzer



E. Griffin

police officer is what I decided I wanted to do," he said.

Quenzer was in the Marine Corp from the fall of 1997 through 2001. He was stationed in Hawaii and did two seven-month deployments —



