



COLBY FREE PRESS

When life gives you lemons . . .



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Rose Bush played by Tina Schmid, freshman at Colby Community College, received a glass of lemonade — lemon and all — from Judy Harrison, played by Regina Heier, during a dress rehearsal Tuesday night. The Colby Community College fall play is a comedy entitled, “Love Thy Neighbor,” and will be held at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Admission: \$5 adults and \$4 seniors and students. Bickner said the playwright, Gary Ray Stapp, a 1981 Colby College graduate, will be available to meet people after Friday’s performance.

Logan County favors proposal Redistricting idea still a ‘wait and see’

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Logan County Commissioners Carl Uhrich, Doug Mackley and Nick Scott on Monday signed a resolution to create a district made up of Logan, Gove, Thomas and Rawlins County Extension Councils.

Other area commissioners are taking a wait and see stance when it comes to redistricting the Extension Service.

According to Logan County Clerk Pat Schippers, the commissioners voted unanimously in favor of the resolution and signed it.

Executive boards from all four counties in October approved the proposed district. The proposed Extension district which would “have for its sole purpose the giving of instruction and practical demonstration in agriculture, marketing, home economics, 4-H club and youth work, community and resource development and economic development initiatives to all persons in the Extension district,”



C. Uhrich



N. Scott

the petition says.

In addition, the pending Extension district would provide information on subjects through practical demonstrations, meetings, publication, or otherwise in accordance with the program and service prescribed by the governing body of the district.

According to Barb Hopper, a deputy in the Thomas County Clerk’s office, commissioners Ron Evans, chairman; Paul Steele and Ken Christiansen are waiting to talk to other commissioners individually. Hopper said the commissioners want to do more research about the proposed district, including

“looking at a brochure” about it.

Gove County Clerk Julie Hawkey said commissioners Mahlon Tuttle, chairman, and Delmar Kaiser and Mark Coberly have again tabled the topic.

“The commissioners will meet with the Extension board on Nov. 8,” Hawkey said.

Rawlins County Clerk Meredith Hrnchir on Tuesday said Commissioners Charles Unger, chairman, Don Marshall and Wilber Henry have not voted on the resolution either.

“They are waiting on Thomas County and will talk about it again on Nov. 15,” she said.

Even if commissioners from all four counties approve the resolution to create an Extension Service District, qualified voters can protest the action.

Such action would require signatures of 5 percent of qualified voters to be file on a petition with the county election clerk within 60 days of the county’s last publication of its resolution.

Blood drive scheduled

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

Colby Community College’s student union will be the next location for a blood drive in Thomas County, said an American Red Cross official.

The drive is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 17, with members of the Central Plains Region, to include Thomas County, asking for donations. “You don’t have to be a caped crusader, police officer or firefighter to be a hero,”

said Pam Head, chief executive officer of the Central Plains Region, American Red Cross Blood Services in Wichita.

“Heroes come from all walks of life,” she said.

The requirements for giving blood are few, she said. A person must be in general good health, at least 17 years old and weigh 110 lbs. or more. The entire process takes about one hour with the actual donation of blood taking about seven minutes.

As for identification, the only thing necessary at registration is a valid driver’s license or other form with a photo.

Donations can help a premature baby who needs emergency surgery, a teenager who needs blood after a car crash or a young mother who needs platelets to help her fight breast cancer, she said. The Department of Nursing at Colby College is sponsoring the drive and appointments may be made by calling Tina Schrick at (785) 460-4797.

Elevator managers in county reporting ‘decent’ harvest

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Fall harvest in Thomas County is nearly complete and elevators are reporting decent yields.

Eric Sperber, manager at Cornerstone Ag in Colby, said harvest is about 70 percent complete, and they’re seeing quality not seen in several years.

“The grain quality this year is real good, especially compared to the past few years,” he said.

Sperber reported yields have been “average,” but he said that seems better than that after the past few seasons with drought.

On irrigated corn, he’s heard 200-plus bushels an acre, and up 100 bushels on dryland corn.

Sorghum and milo have been “pretty decent.”

Sperber said yields depended on where and when farmers got rain. In places where significant rains fell at critical times, yields were very good. Places with spotty moisture didn’t have yields that were as good.

Even an average crop is good news.

“It feels good,” Sperber said.

Cornerstone Ag has not piled corn outside. They’ve managed to make space for incoming grain by shipping out some of what they’ve

already taken in.

“That’s a good problem to face,” he said.

Either way, he and other elevator operators aren’t complaining.

Nate Reid, manager of Bartlett and Company Grain in Rexford, said harvest is 70-75 percent finished.

He said yields in the Rexford area have been very good.

Irrigated corn yields have ranged from 200 to 275 bushels an acre and dryland corn has been between 30 to 100 bushels an acre.

Dryland milo yields have been comparable to dryland corn and Reid hasn’t heard anything about irrigated milo or sunflower yields yet.

Soybeans have yielded 50 to 60 bushels on irrigated acreage and the dryland crop has averaged 30 to 35 bushels per acre.

Bartlett and Company has taken in so much grain they have piled it on the ground.

Frank Jurek, manager at the Kansas Grain Inspection Department in Colby, said much of his work with fall harvest has been dealing with sunflowers. Jurek said sunflower test weights have been about 28-33 pounds per bushel and corn has been about 60 pounds a bushel.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

A truck hauling grain dropped off its load Tuesday at the High Plains Co-op elevator in Colby. Area elevators are reporting a good har-

“Quality’s good on the sunflowers,” he said. “It must be a very good harvest for the most part.”

Brian Olson, extension agronomist for northwest Kansas at the Northwest Research-Extension Center, said harvest is rolling along. The one crop that is still standing is

corn, which he said farmers are working to get it cut.

And, Olson said, farmers are happy so far with the way things have gone.

“It was a pretty good harvest,” he said.

As of Tuesday, he’d heard reports

vest and most farmers are pleased with the results, said area agronomist Brian Olson.

that more elevator were starting to stockpile corn and sorghum, which hasn’t happened in at least five years. Because of drought conditions over that time, this year’s harvest might seem better than average. However, compared to good years in the past decade, this fall

harvest would be about average.

“It’s all in our perspective,” Olson said, adding drought conditions have helped change what’s seen as a good crop. He also touched on the condition of wheat planted last month. He said it’s doing well due to recent rains.

County approves trailer requests

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

The Thomas County commissioners discussed wages and an equipment replacement schedule for the county road department at its Monday meeting.

Commissioner Paul Steele said road department supervisor Clair Schrock brought a list of equipment and a replacement schedule for the commissioners to look at.

The equipment won’t be replaced all at once, instead over the next

three to four years, Steele said. Employee pay rates and job classification were also talked about.

Schrock also proposed buying a small trailer for employees in his department to use for lunch breaks during inclement weather out on worksites.

The commissioners approved the request, and for Schrock to spend between \$100-\$250 on a trailer.

Thomas County Health Department administrator Juanita Dewey also made a request for a trailer.

Steele said Dewey told the group grant money is available to purchase a trailer for them to use during when they’re out on job site activities, and will be made available to other departments also.

They approved the request and the trailer will cost about \$7,000, and will be funded completely by grants. Steele said Dewey also wanted to let them know the department has more than 800 doses of flu vaccine remaining, and is available to the public.

Pickups collide on Highway 24

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

A two-vehicle accident on U.S. Highway 24 Saturday sent a Plainville woman to Citizens Medical Center with possible injuries.

According to a report from the Kansas Highway Patrol, the accident happened at 2:55 p.m. at milemarker 58, about one mile east of Colby.

Charlie Jo Meitler, 18, was turning westbound onto U.S. Highway 24 from a private drive on the south side of the highway.

According to the report, her 1998 Ford Ranger pickup was struck by a 1994 Dodge Ram pickup driven by Patrick Dennis Campbell, 54, of Hoxie, while backing out.

Meitler failed to yield to Campbell, who was headed east on the highway.

The two pickups then collided in the roadway.

Meitler’s pickup came to rest on the highway, facing southwest.

Campbell’s Dodge ended up in the north ditch, facing east, the highway patrol said.

Both motorists were wearing their seatbelts at the time of the accident. No citations were reported.

