



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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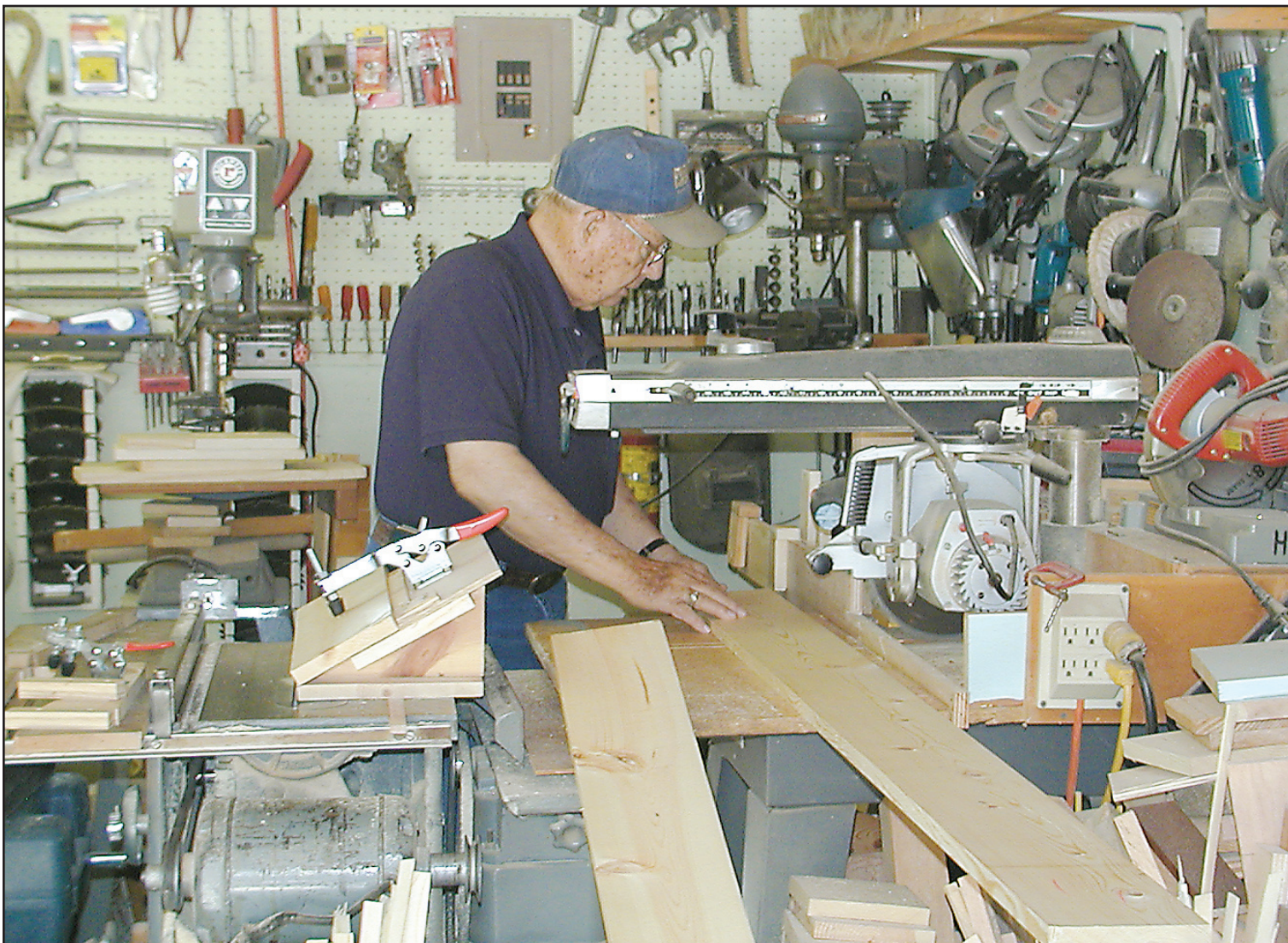
Wednesday

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## Helping others

Hank Vette of Colby is volunteering his time and talents to make personal energy transportation devices for children and adults suffering from polio and other physical disabilities. Vette is asking area lumberyards to donate the wood for this project. So far, Selden Lumber has given him almost \$500 worth of wood. The devices are part of Lions Club International and the United Methodist Church Missionaries.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

## Some wheat could be toxic

WICHITA (AP)- Regulators embargoed some winter wheat fields in some south-central Kansas counties and grain in three elevators after a spot check showed farmers had applied a toxic fungicide too close to harvest, the Kansas Department of Agriculture said Tuesday.

"We hope this is entirely precautionary to protect the integrity of Kansas wheat," said Kansas Agriculture Secretary Adrian Polansky. "We are very hopeful that this will not be a food safety issue, but until we can have those test results we need just to be very cautious."

Testing results on samples are expected Wednesday to determine whether residue levels are safe for human consumption, Polansky said.

At least 7,500 acres of winter wheat in 15 counties in the state were improperly sprayed with the fungicide Quilt, which requires a 45-day waiting period between application and harvest, the agency said.

About 20 fields covering 1,545 acres in south-central Kansas are under embargo in Butler, Cowley, Harper, Kingman, Reno, Sedgwick and Sumner counties, KDA said. An additional 5,999 acres also were improperly sprayed in Ellis, Gove, Jefferson, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Thomas and Trego counties — but those fields were not immediately embargoed because the wheat was still too green for harvest.

About 300 acres of affected fields in south-central Kansas already had been harvested before regulators clamped down and traced those loads to three elevators in Wellington, Garden Plain and Hutchinson.

The state agency — after consulting with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration — decided to embargo the south-central Kansas fields even before the test results were back. Their intent was to prevent potentially toxic wheat from those fields from reaching elevators where it could contaminate the rest of the state's winter wheat crop.

"I really don't believe there is a need for alarm, but we believe there is a need to be cautious and verify that situation before it moves beyond where it is at this point," Polansky said.

Regulators are especially concerned about south-central Kansas, where harvest has begun. Wheat harvested from affected fields has been traced to Scouler Grain in Wellington, the Farmers Co-op Elevator Co. in Garden Plain and ADM in Hutchinson.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment issued embargoes for those facilities Tuesday to keep that grain from being moved or mixed with other grain until it can be tested.

## Colby's first police officer to retire Friday

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
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Friday will mark the last work day for a Colby Police Officer who is the first law enforcement officer to retire from the City of Colby.

"Sergeant Kent Dible has told me that as far as he knows, no officer has worked at the Colby P.D. until he was eligible to retire under the guidelines, age plus years of service equals 85 points, of the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System," Detective Sergeant Gary Shull said.

Shull, who will turn 53 on July 4, will be honored at a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. on Friday at the Law Enforcement Training Center

“There has been so much technology added in the last 10 years.”  
Colby Police Detective Gary Shull

located at 360 N. Franklin Ave. in Colby.

Although Dible has been with the Colby Police Department 33 years, and Chief Randy Jones have served on the police force for 32 years, Shull's service in Oakley added to his 23 years in Colby makes him eligible for retirement.

"One of the deciding factors (to retirement) is that since this is a small agency there is no more room for advancement," Shull

said. "And since I've been with the city for so many years, I've reached the top of the pay scale. Besides, I'm ready for a change in a new career that has new challenges and hopefully just as rewarding."

Shull grew up in Colby and graduated from Colby High School in 1973, having worked during his school years at Larry's IGA in downtown Colby. He earned an associate degree in criminal jus-

tice from Colby Community College in 1979, but has already gone to work for the Oakley Police Department on Jan. 1, 1977.

"How many jobs do you start and get paid holiday pay on your first day, New Years Day?" he asked.

Shull said he worked his way up from "a rookie" patrolman to assistant police chief and worked in Oakley until 1985 when he left to join the department in Colby.

"I was hired by Colby Police Chief Mark Spray," Shull said. "I worked nightshift for 15 years, and was content for the first 10 years on the action shift, but then got tired of dealing what seemed exclusively with drunks whether it was college parties, drunk drivers or domestic disturbances. Back

then the officers did not rotate shifts."

In November of 2000, Shull moved to the position of plain clothes investigator. He said advances in technology have caused the greatest amount of change over the past several years.

"There has been so much technology added in the last 10 years," Shull said. "From voice recorders that record phone calls and radio calls, Emergency 911 servers, 911 address display computers, incident map plotting computers, dash video cameras, pocket digital voice recorders, computers that communicate with the Kansas Bureau of Investigations and Federal Bureau of Investigations, many

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## State officials provide disaster training in Brewster

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
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The aftermath of the tornado that destroyed Greensburg in May of 2007 taught state officials much about getting utilities back up and operational.

Thomas County Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan and Brewster City Superintendent Mike Schultz hosted a training seminar "Lessons Learned from Greensburg" in Brewster and Hoxie on Tuesday.

Featured speakers for the meetings were Bill Callaway, director of utilities for Clay Center Public Utilities Commission and Brad Mears, director of operations for the Kansas Municipal Utilities.

"I believe in public power," Callaway said. "But when I walked into Greensburg, I saw total devastation."

Callaway said he was in Pratt the

night the tornado struck Greensburg. Within hours, Callaway, along with others from across the state were assisting getting public utilities operable.

"The first thing we did was to secure and retrieve utility assets," Callaway said. "Next we designated a secure temporary shelter to contain environmental contaminants."

Callaway said using global positioning systems, state officials were able to located and secure transformers which contained hazardous materials.

"Mapping is very, very critical," he said. "we were able to find mapping of transformers."

Callaway went through steps of restoring a town's power, such as determining the electric distribution crews, materials used for distribution, and establishing proper routes for power and water lines, and sewer systems. He said one of the more important topics to

“I believe in public power. But when I walked into Greensburg, I saw total devastation.”  
Bill Callaway,  
Clay Center Public Utilities Commission

come out of the cooperative effort of city, county, state and federal assistance to Greensburg was the need for proper identification.

"I remember we sat three hours waiting in line for a proper I.D. tag to get us into Greensburg," Callaway said.

He said all city, county and state workers need identification tags so they can be easily identified in instances of providing aid to disaster stricken communities.

"Greensburg brought out the fact that we need to design a line of communication between emergency management and public utility managers," Callaway said.

"We found out we need a good communication system with one frequency that people can switch to and use in those emergency situations."

Callaway said working in Greensburg confirmed to him there is a need for a state-wide mutual aid agreement system. Mears agreed.

"Starting in July, Kansas will have a new program called KS-MAP," Mears said. "That stands for Kansas Mutual Aid Program."

Mears said challenges presented in Greensburg helped the state establish the new program that will help protect the health, safety and

welfare of residents who suffers loss from disasters such as flooding and tornadoes.

"The short-term response is for getting utilities up and running," Mears said. "The mutual aid agreements need to be in place before a disaster, you can do it after the fact, but it's better to do it before."

Mears said the all voluntary program will assist cities and counties with paperwork and manpower to "protect assets and determine the path of restoration." He said the Kansas Corporation Commission, Kansas Municipal Utilities, Kansas Rural Water Association, American Water Works Association and Kansas Water Environment Association have been instrumental in helping form the new program.

For questions about the upcoming program, contact Mears at (620) 241-1423 or Callaway at (785) 632-2137.

## Briefly

### Road work scheduled

A road construction job to seal the shoulders along Interstate-70 began today, said Kristin Brands, public affairs in Norton. Beginning just west of the US-24 Junction near Levant, the project ends at the K-25 Junction on I-70. Shilling Construction Co., Inc. of Manhattan, is the prime contractor with Heft and Sons, of Greensburg, performing the seal started the resurfacing project today. "Work will occur with no delay in the regular traffic pattern along this portion of the I-70 corridor," Brands said. "However, contractors will be reducing the two lanes down to one directional lane while the work occurs." The state's transportation department is encouraging drivers to be aware of highway workers and exercise caution when traveling through this and any other road work

zone in Kansas. "The project should be complete by the end of the week, weather permitting," she said. The estimated cost of construction for this project is \$254,364. For questions, call (785) 877-3315 or e-mail: kristenb@ksdot.org

### City street project to start

The City of Colby will be sealing streets on July 1, 2, and 3, according to city manager Carolyn Armstrong. The streets to be sealed are as follows: Strip on South Range in front of Montana Mike's Restaurant, Davis Avenue from Sewell Avenue to Franklin Avenue, Franklin Avenue from Davis to College Drive, Court Avenue from Pine Street to Plum Avenue, Court Avenue from Pine Street to Hill Street, all of Court Terrace, all of Court Place and the Cul-de-sac in Austin Court. Sealing will consist of a layer

of oil being spread on the street surface followed by a layer of gravel. Armstrong says it would be helpful if the public could avoid the areas as much as possible.

### Holiday trash scheduled

The Colby Sanitation Department has announced there will be no trash pick-up on Friday, July 4. Residential Friday trash will be picked up on Saturday. The department asks that residents have garbage on the curb by 8 a.m. Commercial Friday trash will also be picked up on Saturday.

### Diplomas ready

Diplomas for the Colby High School Class of 2008 can be picked up at the district's administration office, 700 W. Third St.

### No newspaper July 4

The Colby Free Press office will be closed Friday, July 4, and no newspaper will be published that day. Deadlines for classified word and display ads for the Monday, July 7 edition of the Colby Free Press and the week of July 7 in the Country Advocate will both be noon, Thursday, July 3.

### Firework donations sought

Kiwanis Club of Thomas County is asking for donations to defray the cost of fireworks for the annual Fourth of July fireworks display, said Rick Dickman, event chair. Anyone interested in helping can mail checks payable to: Kiwanis Club of Thomas County, P.O. Box 501, Colby, Kan. 67701. The display is at 10:15 p.m., Friday, July 4, at the fairgrounds.