



8 pages

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Colby students enjoy nice weather

Colby Middle Schoolers (above, from left) Evan Olson, Bryce Amberger, Tanner Elias, James Rebarchek, Casey Quagliano and about a dozen of their classmates played a pickup ball game during their lunch period Wednesday. About five or six students played at a time. The loose rules seemed to be to bounce the ball as hard as you can at one of the other players. The ball had to stay in motion, and if you couldn't catch it and bounce it back to one of the other players, you were out and another student took your spot. Olson (right, from left), Quagliano, Rylan Sanguinetti, Andrew Shubert and Justin Leth took a quick time-out to mug the camera.



Parts of Kansas report record corn harvest

MOUNT HOPE (AP) — Elevators in parts of Kansas are bursting with what is expected to be a record harvest of fall grains.

At Providence Grain near Sublette, 1.5 million bushels of corn and 300,000 bushels of milo had to be stored on the ground. Manager Jay Garetson said the elevator set single-day and single-week receiving records this fall.

"Everyone is trying to harvest at once," Garetson said, noting that wet weather has extended the harvest into mid-November.

He said elevators are staying open past midnight to help farmers bring in their crops.

"Normally fall harvest is more of a marathon," he said. "This has been a series of sprints."

In November, the Kansas Agriculture Statistics Service predicted that the corn harvest would reach 561.2 million bushels, which would be a record. The same might be true for soybeans, which are forecast to reach 157 million bushels.

Rain has delayed the sorghum harvest the most, with 59 percent of the crop harvested last week, behind last year's 71 percent and the five-year average of 85 percent. Eighty percent

of the corn crop has been harvested, behind both last year at 86 percent and the five-year average of 95 percent. And 82 percent of the state's soybeans are in the bin.

Kent Martin, agronomist with Kansas State University Research and Extension's southwest Kansas office, said he's hearing of bumper yields from those not hit by spring hail storms.

Dryland corn is hitting highs of 120 bushels an acre, he said. Sorghum is averaging from 40 to 130 bushels an acre.

Extension experts plan to teach holiday recipes

By Vera Sloan

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Registration deadline for the eighth annual Harvest of Holidays, an educational Extension program that will get you ready for the holiday season, is 5 p.m. Friday.

Diann Gerstner, family and consumer science specialist at the Thomas County Extension office, said the holiday preparation program will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday at the Colby Community Building. Registration cost is \$5.

Lori Sporer, Logan County Extension agent, will present "See You Later, Procrastinator," a program that will show how to get things done for the holidays without putting them off. She will go through a "12-step program" for those who always run out of time.

"Savor the Moment Through the Season," by Melinda Daily of Sharon Springs, will introduce the heavenly world of flavored and herbal teas. She will share information about different types of tea, blends and their medicinal properties, and will show her knack for brewing and finally enjoying teas. She will also show how to make

a fireside punch, and demonstrate the versatility of dipping teas into the punch.

"A Party That Cooks" will be presented by Gerstner, who will show how to hang out with the girls, enjoy some holiday down time and make the season a little less hectic with a fun casserole party.

During the session, a mini casserole party will include a hands-on lesson. The door prizes from her session will be casseroles to take home and freeze.

She will also show how to get friends together for a visit to make casseroles together, where

the ideas can be used to help with time management and money management, particularly when a group gets together to share time and ingredients.

"Casseroles are a great gift," Gerstner said, "and can be made for \$5 to \$7, and how many gifts can you buy for that small amount of money that are as appreciated as a homemade casserole?"

"Pre-registration is important, so that the extension office can know how much food to buy for the hands-on part of the program."

To register, call the office at 460-4582 before 5 p.m. Friday.

Gem farmer dies after truck accident

By Vera Sloan

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Lon E. Sowers was doing what he enjoyed most last Thursday, driving his team of Scottish Highlanders, pulling a four-wheel cart.

Sowers, 86, died Monday from injuries he suffered when a semi-trailer grain truck hit his rig on Thomas County Road 27 about two miles north of Gem.

Sowers always had an interest and a love of history, people and places. His grandson, Matt Ziegelmeier, said Sowers hitchhiked as a kid out of high school from Texas to Montana.

It was by chance that during his travels that he stopped in Broadview, Mont., at the Custer Hotel to eat lunch, and being short of money, to look for a job there.

It was also by chance that as he sat eating his lunch, he struck up a conversation with a farmer named Bill Arter, and landed a job with him.

Sowers worked the fields for Arter and helped him get through harvest. It was the beginning of a strong friendship which lasted for

Left turn caused crash

An accident that fatally injured an 86-year-old Gem area farmer happened about 5 p.m. last Thursday on County Road 27 about two miles north of Gem.

Trooper Andy Schippers reported that Lon Sowers was driving north in a cart pulled by two oxen. The other vehicle, a 1992 International truck with a hopper trailer, was driven by Terry Wendell, 62, Colby. Schippers said Wendell was behind Sowers and pulled into the left lane to pass as Sowers began to turn left in front of him.

An ambulance took him to Citizens Medical Center with what looked like minor injuries. He later was transferred to a Wichita hospital, where he died Monday. Wendell was not injured.

The oxen, misidentified as yaks in the report, were driven home by Pete Ziegelmeier.

See "ACCIDENT," Page 3

Activity center board suggests pool merger

By Kevin Bottrell

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Now that Colby citizens have passed the sales tax to pay for a new pool, one of the main unanswered questions is: where will it be?

Members of the Multipurpose Activity Center (MAC center) board appeared at Tuesday's meeting of the Colby City Council to propose a merger of the two projects. C.W. Cheney said the board

has 10 acres near Colby High School. The center itself would take up about three acres, he said, leaving seven for fields. City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the current estimate is that pool would take up anywhere from four to six acres.

Cheney said construction should be starting on the center as soon as all of the money, between \$4.5 and \$5 million in all, is lined up.

The center will include a rock-

See "POOL," Page 3



Check This Out:
(Your grandchild's name here!)

says there are only

35 Days
Until Christmas

(Your Name Here)
Call 462-3963



Briefly

Venture Scouts plan feed, fair

Colby Boy Scouts Venture Crew 157 will hold a pancake feed from 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and a craft fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Community Building. Donations will be accepted, with proceeds going to Scout service projects and activities. For information, call Jan Barnum at 462-6503.

Order pies now from Heartland

Heartland Christian School plans a bake sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Walmart parking lot. Pumpkin, apple and pecan pies are available by preorder, said Deena Bandy, so call her at 460-6419 to reserve yours.

Food bank needs donations

Genesis-Thomas County food bank needs nonperishable items for its Christmas Food Basket project.

Drop them off at the office, 350 S. Range, Suite 13, between 10 a.m. and noon and 1 and 4 p.m. Wednesdays, or at Leroy's Printing, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, First Presbyterian Church, Colby United Methodist Church or Trinity Lutheran Church. For information, call the office at 460-7930.

Get your Christmas decorations

The Colby United Methodist Church is having a Christmas decorations flea market from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday in the church fellowship hall. Decorations, greenery and other Christmas items will be available. For information, call the office at 460-2761.

Alliance to offer holiday service

The Thomas County Ministerial Alliance will sponsor a Community Thanksgiving Service at 6 p.m. Sunday in the Frahm Theater at Colby Com-

munity College. Ministers and musicians from area churches will team up for the event. Donations will be accepted to help with programs the alliance operates throughout the year. For information, call Jarrod Spencer at 443-2403.

Methodist youth cooking turkey

The Colby United Methodist Church's Senior High Youth Group will hold a Thanksgiving dinner from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday at the church. Donations will be used for the church's missions and ministries. For information, call Lisa Wilson at 460-2567.

Legion seeks deployed soldiers

The Colby American Legion Auxiliary is looking for soldiers deployed overseas to send holiday "care packages" to. If you have a family member or friend serving overseas, send information on where the auxiliary can send them a care package to Me-

gan Quenzer at nmquenzer@st-tel.net or 443-3611 or Abby Barnett at abbyjo_82@yahoo.com or 694-1626 by Saturday. The auxiliary is accepting donations for things to go in the packages until Dec. 6, when the packages will be put together. For information, call Quenzer or Barnett.

Meals on Wheels needs volunteer

The Senior Progress Center is looking for a volunteer to help deliver "Meals on Wheels" on Mondays every other month beginning in December. Director Kayla DeBoer said two volunteers work together to make the deliveries, and the run takes about an hour. For information, call DeBoer at 460-2901.

