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VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Harvesting crews can come to town from all over the world. a wheat truck like this one in the Kansas harvest, but Wilmer Framing houses in Pennsylvania is quite a stretch from driving Stoltzfus, Lebanon, Pa., says it's been a good experience for him. He said he left home the middle of April and will follow the harvest crew into Montana.

Combine crews in town for harvest

By Vera Sloan

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Wilmer Stoltzfus, a truck driver working for Gossen Harvesting out of Corn, Okla., says he came from his home in Lebanon, Pa., for his first wheat harvest.

Stoltzfus said he joined the crew in Oklahoma and has worked his way up. Now he's ready for the harvest to begin here.

"We had about a five-day break in Oklahoma from rain," he said, "and we've worked pretty steady after we got to Ingalls, Kan. Now we're just servicing trucks and waiting and will maybe take a test run today (Tuesday)."

Stoltzfus says he frames houses and hotels in Pennsylvania, but likes being a harvester.

"I just wanted to experience something different," he said, "and see some other things. It sure isn't like this in Pennsylvania. It's all work, but it's been a good experience."

Stoltzfus, who left home the middle of April, said this is his first trip to the Midwest, but he likes working the harvest.

Harvest office open for business

The Colby Harvest Office is open. The service is free to farmers and harvesters, and 77 crews have already registered, according to manager Roger Hale, who says he is busy at the new location in Truck Town. Hale is handling the Colby area. A couple of more days of heat and sun, he said, and harvest will be in full swing. Call Hale at 460-8785.

The Gossen crew, he said, has 22 men, nine combines, six semi-trailer rigs, trucks that haul combines, tools and equipment, and four campers where the crew sleeps. Two of them are equipped with kitchens to feed the crew, who eat in shifts.

"We'll go as far as Montana," Stoltzfus said, adding that the crew has no plans to go into Canada.



Stoltzfus took a look under the hood of one of his crew's grain trucks Tuesday. The crew has six of the semi-trailer trucks plus some to haul the nine combines around on the road.

School board looks at tech expenses

By Kevin Bottrell

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The Colby School Board got a look at some proposed revisions to technology section of the five-year capital spending plan at its Monday meeting.

The district has been putting together the plan, which will detail regular maintenance and equipment needs over the next five years, for the past several months.

Board member Kevan Taylor questioned technology coordinator Phil DeYoung about an upgrade to the Internet connection at the bus garage. DeYoung said that since the vocational agriculture classes are held there, the building needs better access to the school's network. The current connection is unreliable, he said, and students have to unplug or reset the connection often.

The new connection would be a point-to-point wireless system. The garage would have an antenna designed to pick up a wireless signal from the high school on the south side of town. DeYoung said that to access the Internet, computers in the garage will have to hook up

with wires, and no one outside the building could pick up the wireless signal.

Superintendent Terrel Harrison reminded the board that the plan is projecting what may happen. The district may not have to do some of the maintenance in the plan or may have to replace equipment sooner than expected, such as in the case of the two activity buses. The district is now allowed to keep those buses for 25 years, but would still have to replace them if they break down sooner, she noted.

The board plans to give final approval to the plan at the July 26 meeting and then decide if a tax levy will be necessary to pay the cost. In recent years, the board has not levied a separate tax for the capital improvement fund.

Board President Janice Frahm said she was pleased with the plan so far.

Lloyd Theimer, who farms in the south part of the county, spoke against a capital outlay tax. Wheat prices continue to fall, he said, and county residents should not be made to pay more taxes when they have less money coming in.

Theimer said the board was leaving the public with the impression that without a capital outlay levy, the district can't maintain

its buildings. He said if there are emergency needs, the district should go to the state board of education for help.

Theimer ran over his five-minute limit and was cut off by Frahm. Frahm said the board places limits on citizens' speaking times because they have to get through their agenda, and if many citizens want to speak, it could take all night. Harrison said the Kansas Association of School Board recommends allowing people five minutes each.

In other business, the board:

- Renewed their three-year participating district agreement with Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland and reappointed Willard Miller Jr. as the district's representative on the college board.

- Heard high school Principal Larry Gabel present an updated student handbook. Gabel said the administrators got together and combined the handbooks for all three schools into one so parents would not have to get separate books for each school.

Gabel said the team has made some changes to policy, but most of them involved getting

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Patrol says to mind the new traffic laws

The Kansas High Patrol is reminding citizens that several new traffic laws go into effect this week, and two laws that were in warning periods since last July are now enforceable with a citation.

Kansas' new "primary" seatbelt law has been effective since June 10, and beginning Wednesday, drivers and passengers can be cited for violation of the law. This law makes it possible for law enforcement officers to stop a car if the driver or front seat passenger is not wearing their seatbelt. The law also requires adult passengers in the rear seats of a vehicle to wear their seatbelts.

Officers can now issue citations for violating this law, with

a \$5 citation being issued for the first year, and a \$10 citation being issued on and after June 30, 2011. There are no court costs associated with this violation. The seatbelt laws for those under 18, and the Child Restraint Law have not changed.

The texting ban is another new piece of legislation in Kansas. The texting ban prohibits a driver from using a wireless device to write, send or read a written communication while operating a motor vehicle on a public road or highway. This includes text messages, instant messages and e-mails. There are some exemptions to the law:

- Law enforcement officers

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Briefly

Diplomas still available at office

Diplomas, transcripts and miscellaneous items for the Colby High School's Class of 2010 are available for pickup at the administration building, 600 W. Third Street. For information, call the district office at 460-5000.

Church plans video concert

The Colby Berean Church will hold a Gaither Homecoming video concert at 6 p.m. Sunday at the church. The patriotic concert is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For information, call the church office at 460-1968.

Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a 1/2-year-old male chocolate lab and two 6-week-old tiger-striped kittens available for adoption. Lost or

strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

Heartland selling fireworks

Heartland Christian School will be selling fireworks at the Colby Livestock parking lot on Country Club Drive from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Sunday. All proceeds will go to the school. For information, call Ronda Myers at 462-7727 or 443-1384.

Museum plans family show

The Prairie Museum of Art and History will put up a special exhibit from Sunday to Saturday, July 10, featuring brief histories and photos of the Carpenter and Owens families of Thomas County. Paintings and porcelain dolls made by Pearl Carpenter will be

on display, as well as a family signature friendship quilt. The public is invited to an opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the museum. For information, call 460-4590.

No trash pickup Monday

The City of Colby Sanitation Department will not pick up trash routes on Monday because of the Fourth of July holiday. Monday's residential route will be picked up on Tuesday. Have your tipper cans to the curb by 8 a.m. For information, call the Public Works Department at (785) 460-4420.

Picnic, music Wednesday

Colby's Picnic in the Park lunch-and-concert series continues at noon Wednesday at Fike Park with entertainment by Chace McNinch, Steven Kerksiek, Brock Wagoner, and Bryan and Austin Scheideman.

For information, call the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401 or the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643.

Move cars for street sealing

The City of Colby Street Department will be sealing the following streets next Thursday: Lue Drive, Brookside Drive, Eighth Street and Lynn Drive all east of Thompson Avenue, weather permitting. Have your vehicles off the streets starting at 8 a.m. that day. For information, call Chris Bieker at Public Works at (785) 460-4420.

