



Medical supplies bound for Africa



TAMA UNGER/Citizens Medical Center

Rod Williams, Kevan Trenkle, Ed McCart and James Carney loaded boxes of medical supplies onto a truck Wednesday. The supplies, including hand sanitizer, bandages, gauze and

intravenous tubing, are bound for a clinic in Ghana that Citizens Medical Center and the Colby Rotary Club help support.

Boy Scout plans for standpipe

By Kevin Bottrell
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Travelers exiting I-70 at Country Club Drive will get a little nicer introduction to the city when Andrew Ketchum completes his Eagle Scout Project.

Ketchum appeared before the Colby City Council on Tuesday to get approval to do some landscaping around the new standpipe. Ketchum said he wants to plant grass in a 15-foot circle around the pipe, with boxwood bushes spelling out "Colby" on the southeastern side and six locust trees around the perimeter.

Ketchum said he would also install a drip irrigation system for the trees. Since it is an Eagle Scout project, he said, all of the materials – or money to buy the materials – will be donated.

The city will maintain the landscaping in the future, said Public Works Director Chris Bieker, but it wouldn't cost any extra time since the city has to maintain the grounds around the standpipe anyway.

The city council approved Ketchum's project.

"I'm very pleased you're doing this," said council member Bev Eicher.

The council held a public hearing to discuss giving an alcohol waiver for a planned downtown restaurant.

Armstrong said Billie Cacciatore is planning to open a "home style" restaurant at 310 N. Franklin Ave., the former site of Casa De Burritos, and would like to be able to serve beer and liquor. However, the building is within 300 feet of a church, Redeeming Love. Sale of alcohol is prohibited within 300 feet of a church by municipal code unless the council gives a waiver. Armstrong said the church had no objection and no one from the public attended the meeting to object.

The council approved the waiver 6-1. Council President Jim Brown voted against the waiver. He said after the meeting that he thought the 300-foot ordinance is a good guideline to follow. Even though the church's minister and members didn't object, he said, if a new member comes in the future who does object, the city couldn't withdraw the waiver. He said he also voted against the same waiver for Casa de Burritos last year.

In other business, the council:
• Authorized the sale of \$5 million in general obligation bonds

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Harvest crew leader has long history in Colby

By Vera Sloan
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Mel Gossen, owner of Gossen Harvesting of Corn, Okla., wears many hats. When he's not cutting his way through the wheat fields from Oklahoma, Montana, Idaho and Kansas, he's busy running a dairy and a beef herd.

"My Dad started with a harvest crew in the early 1940s," Gossen said, "and loved doing it so much he stayed at it for over 65 years. In fact, he died during the harvest near Ingalls, Kan., three years ago, doing what he loved best. Dad was 84, and couldn't work, but he loved being around the harvest crews, so went along for love of it."

Gossen said he has three brothers in Corn who help with the dairy and beef herd. His mother, at 84 years old is still sharp, he said, and knows what's going on with all three of the business ventures.

The harvesting crew begins its months of combining and hauling in their own fields near Corn, not far from Elk City, Okla. From there they travel to their next stop at Ingalls, and then to Colby. Gossen said he's been cutting wheat for three generations of the same family in Thomas County. His dad began harvesting for John Kriss in 1944, then John's son Jack, and now John's grandson, Kriss Schroeder.

From Colby, they have harvest stops in Nebraska, the Dakotas, Montana and Idaho before turning

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State says wheat looks good

WICHITA (AP) – Government statisticians have raised their projections for this year's Kansas winter wheat crop as the ongoing harvest brings in near record yields.

Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service forecast today that the state will cut 369 million bushels from the winter wheat crop. That is up 5 percent from last month's forecast.

The new forecast is down less

than 1 percent from last year's crop because Kansas farmers are cutting just 8.2 million acres – about 600,000 fewer acres than last season.

Yields are expected to average about 45 bushels an acre. That would be the highest yield since 2003 and the fifth highest yield on record.

Cooler than normal temperatures coupled with high humidity have slowed harvest progress in

northwest Kansas.

The industry group Kansas Wheat reported Thursday that some farmers in isolated areas of the region were able to squeeze a few hours of cutting in between rain in the last few days.

Farmers in the Colby area are reporting yields from 50 to 85 bushels per acre with 62 to 65 pound test weights. Some of the protein levels have come in as high as 13.5 percent.

Briefly

Picnic, music Wednesday

Colby's Picnic in the Park lunch-and-concert series continues at noon Wednesday at Fike Park with entertainment by Sappa Strings. For information, call the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401 or the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643.

State office to close for lunch

The Social and Rehabilitation Services office, 1135 S. County Club Dr., will close for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on weekdays until further notice. The office has previously been open during the lunch hour. For information, call the office at 462-6760.

Street sealing postponed

The City of Colby Street Department street sealing project on Lue Drive, Brookside Drive, Eighth Street and Lynn Drive, all east of Thompson Avenue,

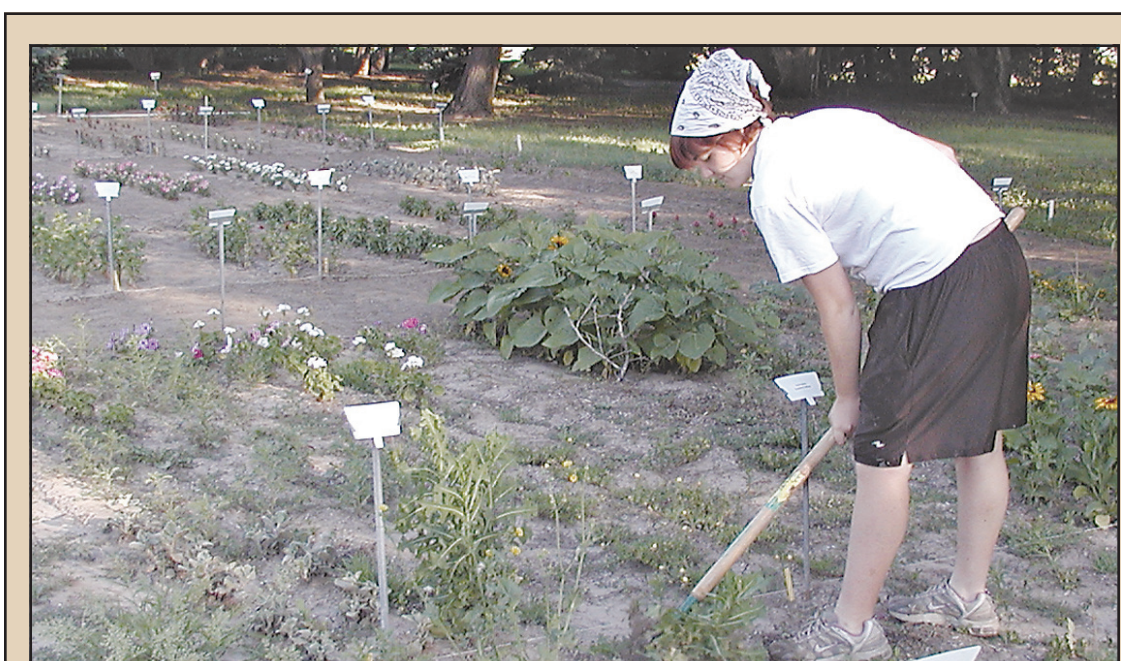
has been delayed by rain until Tuesday. Have your vehicles off the streets by 8 a.m. that day. For information, call Public Works Director Chris Bieker at (785) 460-4420.

Sign up for food by Monday

Prairie Land Food sign up is open until Monday at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. Fourth St. Delivery will be Saturday, July 24, at the Sacred Heart School gym, 1150 W. Sixth St. For information, call 460-3579.

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Merle Wolfe's home, 880 E. Eighth St. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call the



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Flowers aren't the only things that grow at the Kansas State University Research Station in Colby. Madison Gawith, a Colby High School junior, says she is continually weeding. She says she also does mowing and planting and thinks it's a great summer job.

Flowers thrive at K-state station

By Vera Sloan

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Colby may not have a regular walking trail yet, but for the growing numbers who enjoy walking, the grounds at the Kansas State University Research Center on the west side of town are a favorite place to take a stroll.

For 9 1/2 years, Rodney Zimmerman of Colby has been planting flowers, mowing and keeping

the grounds at the center beautiful. With the help of the Thomas County Master Gardeners, he planted 7,200 bedding plants of 40 different varieties, in the station's test trial plots this spring.

"There are four sites around the state where research stations plant annuals for the Prairie Star Flower project," Zimmerman said. "A variety has to do well three consecutive years to make it onto the Prairie Star list. (That) means they are adapt-

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