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BOB HANZLICK

Jim Diebert Harvesting was cutting soybeans for Tom Redmond and Don Woofter on Friday in a field about six miles north of Colby. Woofter who's been raising beans since the mid 1970's said soybeans has been a good crop for him and he expected to finish harvesting Tuesday. Diebert's crews have harvested Redmond and Woofter's fields for more than 20 years.

Soybeans becoming important area crop

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press
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Soybean harvest in Thomas County has begun, but it isn't in full swing yet. Although soybeans aren't new to Thomas County, planted acres have been inching up since the mid 1980s.

Soybeans now take up over 20,000 acres in the county and the crop is taking its place alongside corn to wipe the shine

off Thomas County's "golden buckle of the wheat belt" title. Ross Sloan, manager of Farm Services in Colby, said planted acreage of dryland and irrigated soybeans is a fairly even split.

"Dryland beans will normally make around 30 bushels to the acre," he said, "and it's not unusual for irrigated beans to yield around 60 to 70 bushels an acre."

Don Woofter, who farms north of Colby, has been planting soybeans since the mid 1970s and says it's a good rotation

crop with corn on half of the circle and beans on the other.

"We have small wells, and it's a good way to save on water too," Woofter said, "and the yields have been good that way, because beans don't take as much water."

Soybeans are also a legume that puts natural nitrogen back into the soil.

Monday's cash price for soybeans at Hi-Plains Co-Op was \$9.90 a bushel, corn was \$4.41 and wheat was up at \$5.76.

Not many farmers are willing to settle for \$230 an acre with 40-bushel wheat when 40-bushel soybeans can bring in nearly \$400 an acre, according to *Farm Futures*, a farm progress publication.

The publication says that, for the first time in history, Kansas will be planting more corn and soybeans than it does wheat. So, it asks, is Kansas still the wheat state, or just another corn and bean state?

Department of Agriculture statistics show that wheat acreage across the state

has slowly been whittled from 10 million acres to 8.6 million acres.

Thomas County wheat farmers, who have consistently out-produced any other county in the nation, have held top spot on the production list. Now, with high hopes for a drought-resistant corn, it looks like the county won't be the stronghold for wheat production that it has been in the past.

Colby man sentenced to prison time for theft

One of two Colby men who plead guilty to transportation of stolen property was sentenced to three years in prison and ordered to pay more than \$300,000 in restitution.

According to court documents, Ryan Hanzlick was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Wichita on Friday, Sept. 17. For three counts of interstate transportation of stolen property in 2006 and 2008, he was given 36 months in prison and three years probation.

Hanzlick was also ordered to pay \$81,919 to Farm Bureau Insurance, \$121,985 to Allied Insur-

ance, \$1,000 to Roric Paulman and \$125,000 to John Deere World Headquarters for a total of \$329,904.

Hanzlick and Matthew Jones were arrested last September after a routine traffic stop turned up a stolen combine. More than \$1 million worth of stolen equipment was found on Jones' property north of Colby. Both men were charged with 12 counts of transportation of stolen equipment, and each plead guilty to three. The three charges carried a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison and a \$750,000 fine.

Jones is scheduled for sentencing today.

Rexford celebrates homecoming

It's time for Homecoming at Golden Plains High School. The Golden Plains Bulldogs, who went on the road to face Dighton last week, will come home to play against the Cheylin Cougars at 7 p.m. Friday at the Rexford football field.

The school has a week of festivities before the game. Monday was Wake Up Day. Students and

teachers came to school wearing pajamas and toting stuffed animals. Tuesday was Opposite Gender Day. Today is Duct Tape Day, where students are encouraged to wear clothing or gear made of duct tape. Thursday is Costume Day and Friday is Black-Red-White Day.

Homecoming events start Thursday with a pep rally for the Golden

Plains Middle School volleyball and football game. The rally will begin at 2:20 p.m. in the school gym. The volleyball and football teams take on Greeley County at 4 and 5:30 p.m. at the school. A jersey auction, bonfire and hotdog feed will follow the football game at the field.

See "REXFORD," Page 3

Coming to a halt



BRANDI TODD

Taylor Todd brought her horse to a stop during the reining competition at the Kansas State Fair. Todd won first place in the competition.

City of Oberlin plans 125th anniversary events this weekend

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Oberlin Herald
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After a year of planning, it's time Saturday to celebrate the City of Oberlin's 125th Anniversary.

While there have been events throughout the year, Saturday will be packed with something for everyone to do to celebrate the city's quasiquintennial.

The first Saturday in October has been a celebration day at the Last Indian Raid Museum, which holds its Mini Sapa celebration the first weekend in October to commemorate the Last Indian Raid.

However, this year the museum is only open for two hours, said Director Sharleen Wurm, because they want the celebration to be focused on the city's anniversary. She said the museum wants people to take part in all the activities going on dur-

ing the day.

The museum will do fund raisers for both breakfast and lunch, with the money raised going for upkeep of the facility.

Mrs. Wurm said it's important for people to take part in the Mini Sapa Day so that they can not only help celebrate the city's 125 years of history, but also to be part of the future of the city.

A trail ride will start at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Oberlin Cemetery and go southeast

about seven to nine miles. The ride will circle around and end at the cemetery, with Gary Richards, a cowboy and real estate broker, leading the group. People should bring their own horses, said Chamber of Commerce manager Carolyn Hackney, adding that she wasn't sure if there will be wagons on the ride.

There's no cost to join the ride. Ms. Hackney said organizers hope the riders will come in the quasiquintennial

parade in the morning, have lunch at the museum and then join the trail ride.

There will be prizes for the youngest rider, the oldest rider and the person who traveled the farthest to get here.

Rusty Addleman said the items that they get out of the time capsule will be taken to the museum.

Anyone who wants to put in an item, See "OBERLIN," Page 3

Briefly

Clinic has stray ferret

The Colby Animal Clinic has a stray black and tan ferret. The clinic also has a long-haired, white and gray kitten for adoption. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

Students plan massage clinics

Students from the Physical Therapy Assistant program at Colby Community College will hold a massage clinic from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday in room 804 of the Health Science Building. The cost is \$12 for half an hour - \$10 with college ID - or \$22 for a full hour. The students are raising money for a trip to the spring physical therapy conference. For information, call Trudy Wildeman at 460-4797.

Massage class needs clients

The Therapeutic Massage Program at Colby Com-

munity College is offering massages by students in the Massage Clinic I class from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays. For an appointment, call (785) 460-5427. The fee is \$5. Any gratuities will be put into the Massage Therapy Club fund to help students pay for the National Certification Exam for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, said Debra A. Waites, director of the program.

Milling on Range to last two weeks

APAC Construction will be working on a project to mill and repave South Range Avenue, from near College Drive to just north of Interstate 70. Drivers should watch for construction equipment and slow-moving vehicles and drive carefully, said city Public Works Director Chris Bieker. The work should take about two weeks. For information, call the Public Works Department at 460-4420.

Play poker for Big Brothers

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County is sponsoring a poker run fund raiser at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the American Legion Post, 1850 W. Fourth St. Registration will be from noon to 1 p.m. A silent auction will follow the run, and the Big Brothers Big Sisters will provide dinner at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Diane Stithem at 460-9125.

Olympic athletes bowl Saturday

The Special Olympics West Region Bowling Tournament will start with opening ceremonies at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at Colby Bowl. Teams from Hays, Wakeeney, Atwood, Russell and Colby will compete. For information, call Denise Mentlick at 443-1719.

Center offers dad program

The Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Cen-

ter us offering "24-7 Dad," a fatherhood program, starting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Redeeming Love Ministries, 345 N. Franklin in Colby. To register or for information, call Paige Campbell at 460-8177 or e-mail paigec@st-tel.net.

School to hold book fair

Sacred Heart School will hold its annual Scholastic Book Fair from 1:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, and 9 a.m. to noon Friday, Oct. 8. All proceeds go to the school library. For information, call Dave Evert at 460-2813.



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