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Hail continues to plague farmers

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With yet another hail storm passing through the county on Saturday night, it is anyone's guess as to when the hail season will end. The storm dumped hail from Brewster to Selden as well as in parts of Sheridan County.

"Out of the approximate 650,000 acres of crop land in Thomas County, there has been around 45

to 50 percent of it hit by significant hail," said Ross Sloan, Director of Farm Services in Colby.

The estimate includes all crops, with damage estimates being from 20 percent to 100 percent in places, Sloan said. Exact dollar values on the damage are still unknown.

"I don't believe I've ever seen a summer where we've had so much rain," said Gerald Tubbs who farms northwest of Levant. "We've been lucky to not get the hail, and don't have any fall

crops out, but I don't believe I've ever heard of so much in Thomas County."

Tubbs added that he was pretty sure they had never gone into wheat planting time with this much moisture before.

Wheat planting is only about 30 days away, and farmers should not have any trouble in getting it up this year. Kansas Agricultural Statistics Report reveals 73 percent

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Council to hold hearing to fix liquor license mix up

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The Colby City Council approved holding a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15 to decide whether or not to give Casa De Burritos, a restaurant on North Franklin Avenue, a waiver to serve liquor at their restaurant.

The restaurant had acquired a city license after obtaining a state license without having a public hearing with the council. City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the city license was mistakenly granted to them and the business has been stripped of its license until a ruling is made at the hearing. The state application grant was signed in error by city Clerk Joni Ketchum and the city grant was signed in error by city Finance Director Deborah Zerr.

"I asked twice if they were sure this didn't have to go to the city council," said Brent Powell, co-owner of the restaurant. "We have been selling liquor for three weeks. We don't feel like we should be paying for the city's mistakes."

Powell said he thought his restaurant should be allowed to continue selling liquor until Sept. 15.

Casa De Burritos has to get a waiver because they are within 300 feet of Redeeming Love Church, Armstrong said. Under city law, no alcoholic liquor shall be sold or served by a person holding a license or permit from the city whose business or other premises are located within 300 feet of any school, church,

nursing home, library or hospital, to the nearest portion of the building occupied by the premises. Any club, drinking establishment or temporary holder of a permit can only get a waiver after a public notice and hearing by the council finds that the location does not have adverse effects to the safety or welfare of the public.

In other news, the council:

- Approved a 2009 street maintenance project that will fill cracks on Brookside and Lue Drive east of Thompson Avenue. The council accepted a bid of \$24,000 from Maxwell Material, based in Salt Lake City, Utah to purchase crack sealing material in styrofoam containers. Other bids the council received included \$26,865 from Deery Material, based in Great Bend, \$25,970 from Pavement Maintenance Supply, based in Wichita and \$25,488.15 from Paving Maintenance Supply, who bid with cardboard boxes rather than styrofoam.

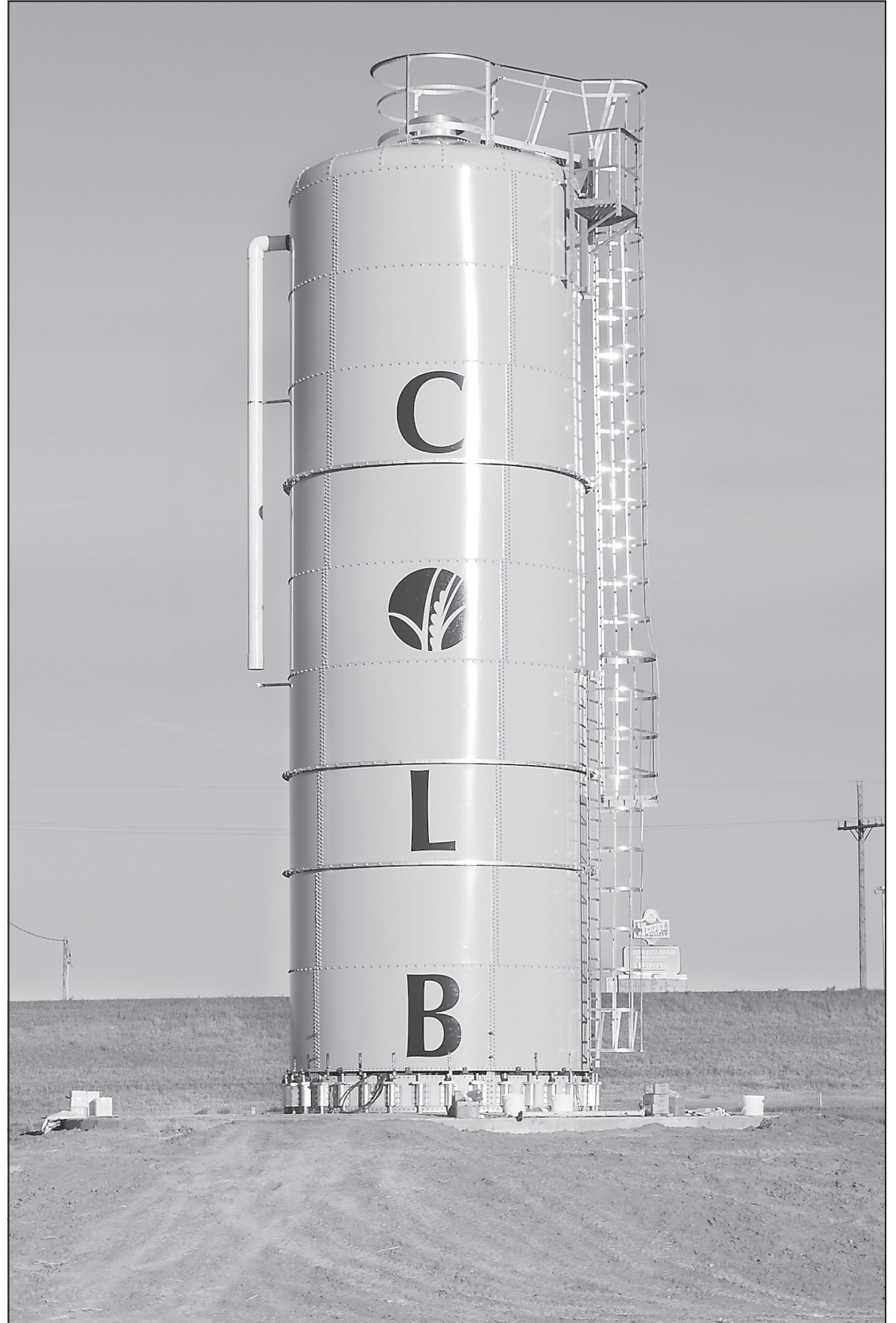
Armstrong said styrofoam containers are preferred over cardboard boxes because the crack sealing material doesn't have to be taken out of the container to be melted down

"You can just dump all of the styrofoam material into a heated pot and melt it before it's used to fill in the cracks," said Armstrong.

She said cardboard box containers are more of a hassle because you have to recycle or trash the containers.

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One letter to go ...



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

The new stand pipe at the intersection of Country Club Drive and Interstate 70 is nearing completion. When finished, the pipe will display the name of the town and the wheat logo. Workers have been building from the bottom up, with only the "Y" panel yet to go at the end of the day Thursday. The pipe will provide back-up water pressure in case the of a problem with the water tower.

Out in the field



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Colby Ag Center this week set up tractors, combines and other ag equipment in the field south of their new building on Horton Avenue. The Case International dealer is preparing to move from their current building on Fourth Street to the new building south of Interstate 70.

State government calls for more agency budget cuts

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas' budget director is asking agencies to look for an additional \$250 million in future spending cuts, but also suggested Thursday that some legislators are too pessimistic about the state's finances.

Budget Director Duane Goossen said he's asked officials for proposals to deal with a 5 percent drop in available tax revenues during the state's 2011 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2010. But he said Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson's administration hopes to avoid such cuts.

Some Republicans in the GOP-controlled Legislature expect to make deeper cuts for fiscal 2011. They're relying on projections from legislative staff showing the state facing a budget shortfall of \$530 million for fiscal 2011.

But Goossen said those projections assume tax revenues fail to

meet expectations for fiscal 2010 and grow by only 1 percent in fiscal 2011.

"I would say they're being pessimistic," he said during an interview. "There are a range of assumptions that you could plug in here, and we shouldn't really be using a number like \$500 million."

State officials and university economists won't issue an official forecast for 2011 — and the revenue predictions used in budgeting — until November.

But Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jay Emler said he believes the legislative staff's projections are realistic because of the economy and because Kansas typically lags behind other states in coming out of recessions.

Emler, a Lindsborg Republican, said of Goossen: "I hope he's

right, but I think he may be a little too optimistic."

House Republican leaders are worried enough about fiscal 2011 to schedule Appropriations Committee meetings this summer and fall, with legislators out of session. Its first special meetings are Monday and Tuesday.

The state has seen four rounds of spending cuts in eight months to prevent a budget deficit from developing. In July, Parkinson made \$160 million in adjustments under a law that allows the governor to take such action after legislators have adjourned for the year.

Parkinson acted after the state ended its 2009 fiscal year on June 30 with tax collections \$124 million, or about 2.2 percent, less than anticipated and was forced to delay tax refunds and aid payments

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Briefly

Dance team to hold car wash

The Colby High School Dance Team will hold a car wash fund raiser from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday in the Dillon's parking lot. The team is raising money for their trip to the Liberty Bowl in Memphis, Tenn. in January. For information, contact coach Denita Rodgers at 460-5300.

Music Boosters plan picnic

The Colby Music Boosters will hold their annual potluck picnic at 5 p.m. Saturday at Fike Park. Anyone with a music student or an interest in music is welcome; bring a side dish to share, table service and lawn chairs. The group promotes and keeps people informed about the music programs in Colby schools. Drinks will be provided. For information, call Becky Schiferl at 460-0121.

RC Club to hold Sunday races

The First Baptist Church RC Club will hold its last August races at 2 p.m. Sunday at the church. Kids 10 or older and adults are welcome; the church can provide cars. For information, call 462-2867.

Church plans video concert

The Colby Berean Church will hold a free Gaither Video Concert at 6 p.m. Sunday at the church. Lifelong Thomas County resident Willie Engelhardt will also be celebrating his 94th birthday at the concert with cake and ice cream. For information, call the church at 460-2763.

Gem Lions' hog roast next week

The Gem Lions Club will hold its annual hog roast from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Gem Community Building. Entertainment will feature the Jeff Wag-

ner Family, the Bugbee Sisters and other area entertainers. Donations will be accepted for the meal, with the proceeds used for community projects. The Lions also will be collecting used eyeglasses and hearing aids. For information, call Ken Poland at 462-7809.

School calendars offered for \$5

Colby Public Schools pocket calendars will be available at the Colby High School volleyball and football scrimmage on Friday, Aug. 28. The calendars, which cost \$5, are a fund raiser for the Colby Music Boosters. For information, call Kris Lemman at 460-6586, Elaine Bremenkamp at 462-7860 or any Colby music teacher.

Western artist's work at museum

The work of nationally known artist Keith Avery

is on display at the Prairie Museum though the end of August. Avery's realistic items include detailed paintings and drawings of horses and cowboy life. The exhibition is open during regular hours. Call (785) 460-4590 for information.

City picking up grass clippings

City crews continue to pick up grass clippings. Clippings must be at curbside by 8 a.m. on your regular trash day in a separate tipper can from household trash. Put clippings in the tipper loose, not in plastic bags. For questions, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.



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