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Governor seeks aid for county

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Because of a hail storm that swept through Thomas County in mid July, Gov. Mark Parkinson has requested the county be declared an agricultural disaster area.

Parkinson sent a letter Monday to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack asking that he declare a disaster for Greeley and Thomas counties. The storm passed over Colby in the afternoon on July 12, dropping hail up to baseball size.

The hail cut a swath through the middle of the county, the same area hit by a hail storm last year.

At the time, Ross Sloan, county executive director for the U.S. Farm Service Agency, said the storm affected about 35,000 acres of farmland in Thomas County. Corn tops were knocked off and wheat blown over. Some fields were a total loss.

In Colby, cars were dented and windshields blown out.

Thomas County is already under a disaster declaration issued in August. The county was not in the primary disaster area for these storms, which occurred from May 6 to June 5, but Gove County is, and farmers here are covered un-

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No surprises yet for game warden

Mike McGinnis, a Topeka native, took over as game warden for Thomas, Logan and Sheridan counties with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks after Benny Young retired in early March.

McGinnis, a recent graduate of Emporia State University with a degree in environmental biology, started work in mid-September.

He said he enjoys hunting, office work.

which he got into while going to college. He said he hunts for geese, ducks and pheasant.

McGinnis said this is basically the kind of job he went to college for, although this is the first time he has spent much time in northwest Kansas. He said nothing about his job has surprised him so far, adding that he has done mostly



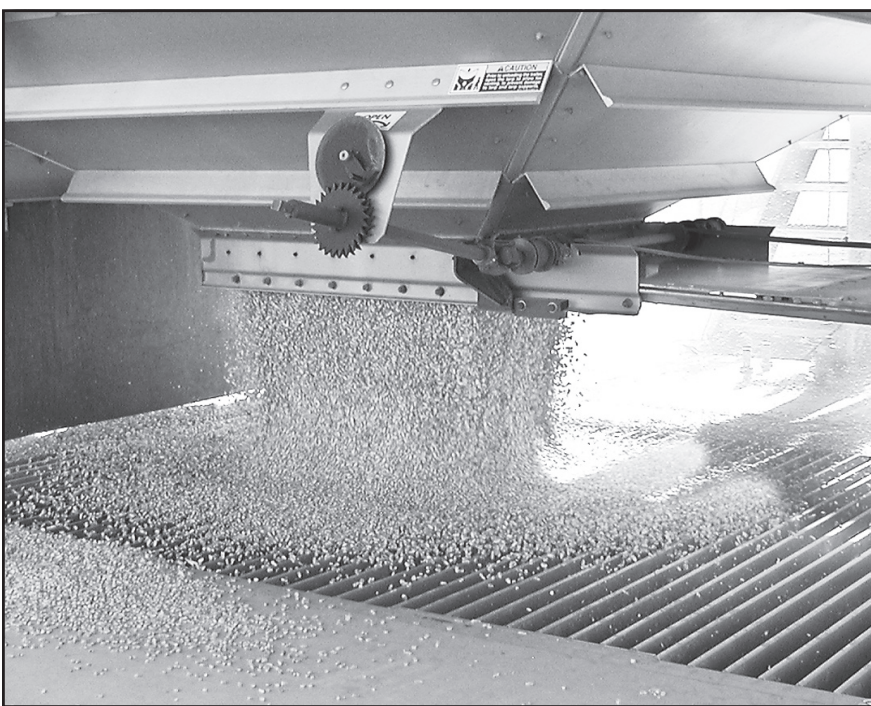
M. McGinnis



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Corn piles up at area elevators

Dryland corn harvest came to Thomas County this year with a bang, and you can't drive many miles in Thomas County without seeing "corn mountains" dotting the landscape. This pile of corn at Breton, north of the Nine-Mile Corner, grew overnight after harvest started about a week and a half ago. Yields have been extra ordinary good and the weatherman has cooperated with no measurable rain - making great harvest weather, but poor for the guy who wants to get his wheat up.



Technical college plans rural development conference

Northwest Tech is planning a second Rural School and Community Development Conference for next Friday.

"How can I make a difference? A question we all ask; but it is possible for us to positively impact our communities," said college President Dr. Ed Mills. "Join other educators, local, regional and state leaders as we explore opportunities to invest in the future of our communities."

The conference will feature guest speakers Patrick J. Carr, co-author of "Hollowing Out the Middle," and Cinda Baxter, founder of the "3/50 Project."

The conference will begin at 8 a.m. at the Student Union building on campus.

Patrick Carr is associate professor of sociology at Rutgers University, and is an associate member of the MacArthur Foundation's Research Network on

transitions to adulthood.

He earned his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago in 1998, and his research interests include communities and crime, informal social control, youth violence, and the transition to adulthood.

He is the co-author, along with Maria J. Kefalas of "Hollowing Out the Middle: The Rural Brain

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Opponents object to campaign ad

TOPEKA - Republicans are accusing Attorney General Steve Six of being a hypocrite after his campaign began airing a television advertisement criticizing his Republican opponent in the attorney general's race for his dealings with the payday loan industry.

The commercial says Republican Derek Schmidt, the Kansas Senate majority leader, accepted campaign contributions from short-term loan companies and then voted for a bill that would have allowed the companies to increase the interest rate on their loans to nearly 400 percent.

In response, Republicans point out that the Demo-

cratic attorney general accepted \$11,500 from the payday and car title loan companies since 2008, according to Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission records. Schmidt accepted \$3,600 from the industry since 2005.

"The money he is using to pay for these attack ads comes from the same industry he is criticizing," said Ashley McMillan, executive director of the Kansas Republican Party.

Gavin Young, spokesman for Six's campaign, said voters should know Schmidt accepted contributions

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Will it fit through the door?



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

P&M Contracting workers lucked out Tuesday when they changed out the old boiler system in the county court house for a new one, with barely a hair's width between the new system and the boiler room door. One of the installers was being particularly careful to not mark up the new one and waited until he had the pipe connections in place before taking off the wrapping. The cost of replacement for the old boiler system and the six chillers for cooling got a boost from a partial grant through the Kansas Commerce Commission. The new system should be up and running in time for Jack Frost to say it's time to turn on the heat.

Briefly

Women's group to sell greenery

The Colby Presbyterian Women are selling fresh Christmas greenery to raise money for mission projects. Greenery includes wreaths, swags, garlands, holly, table decorations and more. Orders are due by Sunday, Oct. 31, and delivery will be the first week of December. To order call the church at 462-6342, Mary Smith at 462-3387 JoAnne Sunderman at 460-2476.

Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a 1- to 2-year-old female vizsla (a Hungarian retriever breed), a small 1- to 2-year-old black-and-white male mixed-breed dog and several 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.

Medics plan information meeting

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services plans a meeting for anyone interested in becoming a first responder or emergency medical technician at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the ambulance garage. For information, Dawnelle Umberger at 460-4585.

Kiwanis to dish out flapjacks

The Colby Kiwanis Club will have an all-you-can-eat pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 220 N. Lake. Proceeds will go for Christmas and youth projects and other community service. Tickets, \$4, are available from any Kiwanis member. For information, call Kenton Krehbiel at 462-6553.

Wine, cheese will benefit cancer

The Northwest Kansas Foundation for Hope will hold a come-and-go wine tasting benefit from 4 to 7

p.m. Sunday at City Limits Bar and Grill. Tickets are available at Colby Dodge, Donelan Jewelry, Homeland Realty, People's State Bank and S&T Communications. All proceeds go to helping area cancer patients with expenses. For information, call Pat Sloan at 443-3261.

Screenings offered for kids

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center and Colby School District staff will conduct early childhood screenings for kids 5 and under from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday at the Colby United Methodist Church. To make an appointment, call grade school nurse Amy Hutfles at 460-5111.

Genesis needs names for baskets

Genesis-Thomas County food bank plans once again to help area families during the holiday season. Forms are available for families in need who would

like to receive a food basket. Come to the office, 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 13, from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays by Tuesday, Nov. 9. For information, call Genesis at 460-7930.

Berean Church to study Esther

The Colby Berean Church will be doing the Beth Moore study "Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman" and a six-week Crown Money Map Seminar from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sundays starting Oct. 31. Enrollment for Esther will end Friday, Oct. 22, so books can be ordered. For questions or to register, call the church office at 460-2763. For information on the money seminar, call Jerry Barton at 443-3680.



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