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Exhibit focuses on poverty

A multimedia exhibit focusing on poverty in Kansas will be on display at the Prairie Museum of Art and History until Monday, Sept. 30.

"Poverty: A to Z" features real stories, original art and music.

"Poverty affects every Kansan," says the first panel. "Economic insecurity infects our people, our neighborhoods, our schools, our businesses, our communities and our governments ... (and) understanding poverty is the responsibility of every Kansan."

"By all accounts, it is an eye-opening exhibit on the experience of poverty and the cost to society as a whole," said program director

Ann Miner.

"Poverty is part of urban and rural areas alike and is no stranger to our part of the country, with 50 percent of our school students on free and reduced lunches," said Miner. "This exhibit can help us understand more about this crucial issue."

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admittance is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$2 for children 6 to 16. Thomas County residents receive half-price admission, and Thomas County Historical Society members visit for free.

Irrigated corn crop gets boost from rain

By Angie Haflich
The Garden City Telegram

GARDEN CITY (AP) – While Mother Nature provided some much-needed moisture this summer, which helped the upcoming crop of irrigated corn, things haven't fared so well for dry land corn this year.

John Holman, cropping systems agronomist with Kansas State University Southwest Research Extension Center, said the irrigated corn harvest looks to be better than it has been in the past two years, *The Garden City Telegram* reported (bit.ly/1ewhoUi).

"I would say that 50 to 60 percent of the irrigated corn is in good condition, and maybe 30 percent is in good to excellent condition, so 20 percent is in that fair to good range," Holman said. "I'd say the last two years, the majority of both irrigated and dry land has both been poor to very poor."

Holman said, depending on the variety, maturity and when it was planted, a small percentage of this year's irrigated corn was classified as being in poor to very poor condition.

"If the corn happened to be tasseling when it was hot, those fields were hurt by the heat. There are some fields like that, but I'd say those fields are the exception, not the majority," he said.

Holman said milder temperatures and the rainfall received in August helped alleviate some of the strain put on irrigation systems.

"The rain came in a two-week window at just the right time," he said.

Mike Deaver, who farms near Plymell, said they have only received about eight inches of rain

fall for the whole year, but he does anticipate a better crop of irrigated corn this year.

"It's going to be better than last year just because we didn't have the extreme 100-degree temperatures, so it pollinated better," Deaver said.

Jarvis Garetson, who farms near Copeland, said he expects to see as good a crop or better than last year's.

"I am hoping to be better than last year's, but if it's the same as last year's, I will be really happy," Garetson said. "We've got some fields that look just really exceptional. The August rains helped finish it out strong, and then we have some fields that will be pretty short. Some of it was hail, wind issues early in the season, and some of it's lack of water as the Ogallala continues its decline."

He said the condition of the fields will translate into varying yields this year.

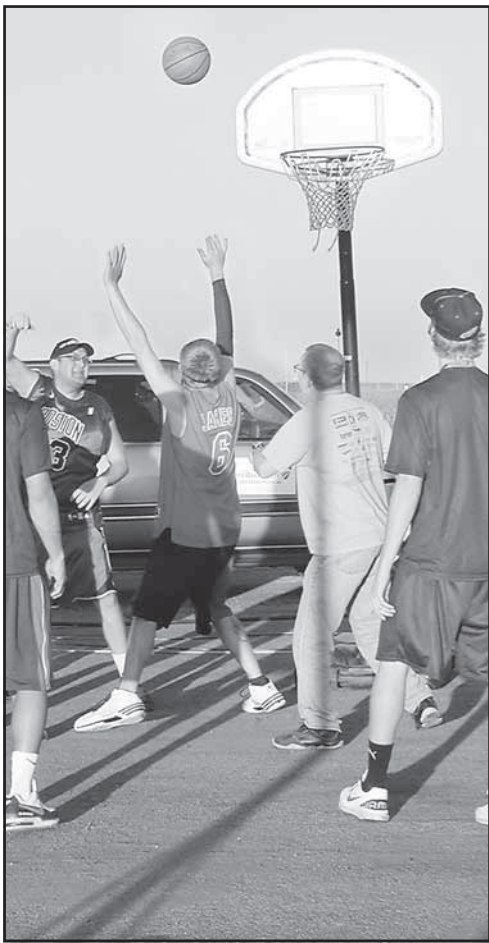
"On a bushel per acre, I think we'll see higher yields than last year. Some will be right on par, and then we have a couple of circles – one circle is a disaster. We had to abandon it because of the way the water declined," Garetson said. "The proof is in the pudding when the combine gets out there."

He anticipates the average yield to be 200 to 210 bushels an acre.

"I think we'll see a high in the 250-bushel-per-acre range and a low – other than the one we abandoned – a low of 160 bushel per acre," he said, adding that he expects to begin harvesting corn around the last week of September.

Holman said that the majority of corn in the area is currently in

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SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Trucks were shining as they passed through Colby Saturday morning (top), having been given a thorough detailing (second from top). The World's Largest Truck Convoy started in the Oasis Parking lot with a basketball game (above) between Special Olympics athletes and the Colby Community College basketball team. The athletes got to ride through town along with the convoy, which followed Colby policeman Ray Schweitzer (above left), State Trooper Adam Medlicott carrying the torch and Michelle Morris in the last stretch back to the parking lot.

Heat wave hits; convoy rolls on

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press
sdieter@nwkansas.com

Colby residents braved a heat wave Saturday morning to see a long parade of trucks and motorcycles roar into town for the seventh year.

The western Kansas legs of the World's Largest Truck Convoy this year included a grand total of 61 vehicles: 37 trucks, 21 motorcycles and three classic cars. About 35 Special Olympics athletes rode along with the convoy and helped out by blasting the truck horns as they passed through town.

State Trooper Adam Medlicott ran a torch down Horton Avenue to lead the convoy into the Oasis Travel Stop's parking lot as part of the Special Olympics' law enforcement torch run. He was accompanied by Colby Police Officer Ray Schweitzer and Michelle Morris, who works at the Thomas County attorney's office.

Last year, the convoy included 52 trucks and about 30 motorcycles. Organizers said triple-digit temperatures over the weekend might have helped keep some people home this year.

"I would say, I don't know for sure, if it was the heat or people were just busy ... we never know what the cause is," said Denise

Mentlick. "Our numbers were down from last year, but it was a great show, despite the triple-digit temperatures that we had."

Mentlick volunteers to work on the convoy, along with her father Joe and mother Jane. Her brother Greg is a Special Olympics athlete, one of those riding along. Joe Mentlick got the idea to start a convoy here after participating in one in Salina in 2006.

Jane Mentlick said beforehand that it cost \$100 to register trucks in the convoy, and \$25 to register other vehicles, but the exact amount of money raised from the convoy had not been added up.

"It was a crazy Friday, Saturday and Sunday," Mentlick said. "Our calculators don't work that fast; they were brain-dead from the heat Saturday."

She was able to say that upwards of \$1,150 was raised from two donation-optional dinners in the Oasis parking lot, cooked by Modern Woodmen of America volunteers. A pulled-pork dinner was served the night before as people got ready for the convoy.

Mentlick said about 50 athletes gathered in a tent at the northeast side of the lot that night. They played a pickup game with the Colby Community College basketball team while truckers shined their vehicles. The

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Some counties charge extra driver's license fees

HUTCHINSON (AP) – Some Kansas counties have started charging additional fees to handle driver's license business for out-of-county residents who want to avoid long waits in their own communities.

Wichita resident Tammy Katzenmeier, who drove the roughly 30 miles to Newton last week to have her driver's license renewed, said she didn't mind paying the extra \$20 fee Harvey County charged because it meant she didn't have to wait in line elsewhere.

"I took my son to get a learner's permit test in Hutchinson in May or June, and we had to wait 2 1/2 hours. That was on the first day," she told *The Hutchinson News* (bit.ly/17LepEv). "We went back a second day because we'd left after we got tired of waiting. The second day, there was already a line of

15 people at 7 a.m., and we waited about an hour and a half."

At Newton on Thursday, Katzenmeier was immediately seated and walked out about 10 minutes later.

Harvey and Butler counties are among those who started charging extra fees to out-of-county residents, while treasurers in Stafford and Kingman counties are consider similar fees.

The Department of Revenue's Division of Vehicles full-service offices in Hutchinson, Wichita and McPherson can't charge additional fees because they are run by the state. County treasurers elsewhere are free to decide whether to charge such fees.

"We get a lot of traffic from all areas around us," said Stafford County Treasurer Lisa Milton. "Even

the UPS man renewed here because he knows there's no lines here. I don't think people would mind (the extra fee), especially when you come from those larger counties."

Driver's license offices are typically the busiest in summer, when roughly 35,000 teenagers are flooding in to take their driver's test, Revenue Department spokeswoman Jeannine Koranda said.

"So if you're doing a (driver's license) renewal, which takes about five to six minutes plus processing time, and the drive tests take 45 minutes," the lines get bogged down, she said.

A sharp rise in concealed carry permits also has contributed to backups in the offices, Koranda said. Those seeking a concealed carry license get permitted for one through the Kansas Attorney

General's Office, but they head to DMV stations to complete the process and obtain a card that looks like a driver's license, she said.

Kingman County Treasurer Donna Rohlman said her office has discussed an extra fee for out-of-county residents, but she has decided against it so far.

"We get a lot of conceal-and-carry and CDLs," she said. "We've had them lined out the door with up to a two-hour wait, but a lot of people would rather drive to Kingman for the two-hour wait than go to Wichita for a seven-hour wait."