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Dry weather is good news for milo crop

By Kevin Bottrell
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Fields in Thomas County become more brightly colored by the day as the grain sorghum crop matures.

Brian Olson, regional agronomist with the Kansas State University Research and Extension Center here, said the grain sorghum, often called milo, is going to do well this year because of the weather in August, as long as farmers managed the moisture in their no-till fields. Hot and dry weather, he said, speeds up the maturation process in the milo, as long as there is plenty of moisture

in the soil.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture reports that 53 percent of the state's milo crop is listed as in "good" condition and 28 in "fair" condition. The department report for last week shows sorghum maturity and coloring ahead of last year by about 15 days.

Last year's crop did well, too, Olson said, but it was late in maturing.

"Some guys did get a little hurt if they got their sorghum in late," he said.

Corn and soy beans are another story, however. Those two crops do better with a cooler and wetter

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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Parade heralds 'Clash of the Eagles'

Todd Kane (above, left) and Quade Woofter, dressed as a Colby Eagle and a Hugoton Eagle, duked it out during the homecoming parade Friday in downtown Colby. The parade included the Colby High marching band (right) playing the school fight song, "Louie Louie" and other popular tunes; the cheerleaders riding an old fire engine; king and queen candidates in golf carts; and a float from each class. One float featured an beat-up old car in Hugoton colors next to a beefy muscle car in orange and black, while another featured a large orange hand crushing a Hugoton player.



Governor lands new job in health

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson will become head of an association representing health care and assisted-living providers after his term ends in January.

Parkinson says Monday that he will become president and chief executive of the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living. The Democrat, a former Republican state chair, became governor in April 2009 when Kathleen Sebe-

lius resigned to become U.S. secretary of Health and Human Services.

The organization Parkinson will join represents assisted-living, nursing-home, developmentally disabled and subacute care providers for more than 3.5 million people.

Before becoming lieutenant governor under Sebelius, Parkinson worked in the nursing-home industry.



COLBY POLICE DEPARTMENT Surveillance cameras caught this man (above) at the scene of a theft at the Super 8 Motel on Thursday. Police are seeking information on him and a black pickup truck (right) seen leaving the motel parking lot about the same time.



Police seek man caught on camera

The Colby Police Department is looking for a man who was caught on camera at the scene of a theft Thursday.

Police Chief Randy Jones said several hundred dollars worth of tools, including a saw and power screw gun, were stolen from Efran Enriquez, a subcontractor working on the Super 8 Motel on Thursday. Work crews have been remodeling the outside of the building, and when they got back from lunch that day, they discovered the missing

tools.

Jones said the workmen went to the motel manager, who called police. Security cameras show a man walking around inside the motel at 12:18 p.m., about the time of the theft, and a black pickup truck leaving the parking lot. The photo was not high enough resolution for police to get a license plate number, however.

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Two state candidates debate before cheering, jeering crowd

By John Hanna
AP Political Writer

HUTCHINSON — Democratic gubernatorial nominee Tom Holland sharpened his attacks Saturday on his Republican opponent's career in Congress and declared that Sam Brownback couldn't be trusted to carry out an ambitious new state transportation plan.

But Brownback, who's giving up a U.S. Senate seat to run for governor, said Holland, a state senator, represents current failures in state government. Brownback also tried to tie Holland to President Barack Obama and the health care reform law he championed by the Democratic president.

The two candidates had their first debate of the fall campaign Saturday in an open-air arena at the Kansas State Fair, with several hundred of their partisans waving signs, cheering, booing and regularly heckling both candidates. No other debates have been scheduled, though both camps promise there will be more.

Holland raised transportation as an issue a day after Brownback was endorsed by the Kan-

sas Chamber of Commerce, the state's largest business group. The Chamber opposed this year's increase in the state's sales tax, and some of the money will be used to support the state's 10-year, \$8.2 billion program of transportation projects. Backers like Holland see the program as promoting economic development and preserving a good highway system, and past programs have been popular.

"Quite honestly, I don't think we can trust Senator Brownback to implement that," Holland said during the debate. Later, during his closing statement, he added, "Real leaders shouldn't hide their agenda from the people."

Brownback chastised Holland during the debate for telling the audience to side with local chambers over the state group, saying as governor, he'd bring people who disagree together. After the debate, the GOP nominee said he supports having a "robust" transportation program and that Holland didn't have any ideas of his own.

"My opponent wants the status quo," Brownback said during his closing statement. "The status

quo that he seeks is like President Obama — more government, more regulation, more taxes."

Brownback, from Topeka, and Holland, from Baldwin City, both hope to succeed Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson, who plans to return to business after leaving office in January. Libertarian Andrew Gray, Topeka, and Reform Party candidate Ken Cannon, Andover, also are on the ballot but were not invited to Saturday's debate.

A debate at the state fair between the major party nominees for governor or U.S. Senate has become a tradition, allowing the candidates to mingle with fairgoers between livestock judging and live music at a venue offering delicacies such as turkey gizzards and "alligator on a stick." Debate organizers encourage audience participation — and members of the crowd occasionally shout at each other.

Holland, the owner of a technology consulting firm, has served in the Legislature since 2002. Brownback won a seat in the U.S. House in 1994, then his Senate seat two years later. Holland has

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Briefly

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 the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

You could help sing out 125th

Singers from all over Thomas County can join the Thomas County 125th Anniversary choir, which will perform at the celebration at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Colby Community Building. Practices will be at 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 21, 28 and Oct. 5, at the Colby United Methodist Church. For information, call Jan Wolf at 460-3535.

Flu shots available Sept. 22

The Thomas County Health Department will have a flu immunization clinic from 2 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 22, at the 4-H building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds. For information, call 460-4599.

Church plans mission auction

The Colby United Methodist Church will hold a dinner and auction to raise money for missions at noon Sunday, Sept. 26, at the church. The church is looking for items to auction. These can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the church, 950 S. Franklin Ave. For information, call the office at 460-2761.

Museum plans '125' quilt show

A special quilt show celebrating Thomas County's 125th Birthday will be held at the Prairie Museum of History and Art from Oct. 7 to 31. Quilts of any size,

pattern or age with a Thomas County connection should be entered at the museum by Friday, Sept. 24. Call (785) 460-4590 for information.

College pool open weekdays

The Colby Community College indoor swimming pool is open to the public for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday this fall. Open swimming is from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday and Thursday, 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 4 to 6 p.m. Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Cost for general admission is \$3, but monthly and yearly passes are available. Call manager Kipp Nelson at 460-5476 for information.

Head Start taking applications

Thomas County Head Start preschool is accepting applications for 3- and 4-year-old children. The pro-

gram takes applications all year, but children must be 3 by Sept. 1 to start class in the fall. Tuition is free. To apply, call 460-6067.

Keep growing for contest

The Thomas County 125th committee is holding a "beard and bonnet" contest through Oct. 9. For men, there will be prizes for the longest beard and mustache and for the most unique beard and mustache. For information, call Bob Renner at (785) 462-5279. For women, there will be prizes for the prettiest, most unique and craziest hats and bonnets. For information, call Kathy Calliham, 462-2081.

