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## High speed chase ends south of Mingo

By Kevin Bottrell

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A high-speed chase that began Wednesday morning in Sherman County ended less than a half hour later when Kansas Highway Patrol troopers forced the vehicle off I-70 southeast of Mingo.

Tod Hileman, public resource officer for the Highway Patrol, said the patrol was contacted by a Sherman County dispatcher just before 11 a.m. (Central Time) Wednesday. Michael Singleton, 40, of Pueblo, Colo., had called the office and was making “strange remarks.” The dispatcher asked troopers to keep an eye out for Singleton’s car.



M. Singleton

Hileman said troopers found the car on I-70 just over the Sherman County line, but when they tried to stop it, Singleton took off heading east. He evaded two sets of spike strips. Colby Police Chief Randy Jones, four officers and two deputies assisted.

Singleton was finally stopped when he hit a third set of spike strips at the Mingo exit. Hileman said he drove into the median around mile marker 65, went across the westbound lanes, through the ditch and into a field, where troopers arrested him.

Singleton was transported back to Sherman County, and the incident is under investigation. He is being charged with fleeing and eluding law enforcement, reckless driving and possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

## Health department working on grant for trail

By Christina Beringer

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Thomas County Health Department administrator, Kasiah Rothchild, attended the regular commissioner’s meeting on Monday morning as a representative of the health department and as a supporter of Thomas County Coalition’s efforts to gain public support for a walking trail to be developed in Colby.

Rothchild said the coalition has partnered with the Regional Prevention Center to apply for a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation in Wichita. The funding opportunity could potentially earn the project as much as \$35,000. To supplement the grant application, she is seeking letters of support to show community interest.

The commissioners made a unanimous decision to support the project and the coalition’s effort to seek funding from the foundation. A signed letter of support was presented to Rothchild for inclusion in the application.

Rothchild was also given permission by the commissioners to submit an advertisement to the *Colby Free Press* for four file cabinets her office no longer needs. It was suggested to list them for \$30 each.

In other business:

- The county’s register of deeds, Laura Volk, is needing two new computers for her department which has become overloaded. Bids were sought from Office Works of Colby, Cumulus Computers of Colby and Doc Pro of Montana who provides software for the department.

Volk stressed her desire to choose one of the local companies to ensure the availability of personal customer support.

The commissioners unanimously approved Volk purchasing two \$979 Nimbus 4010 computers

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## Register now for water summit

There’s still time to register for Gov. Sam Brownback’s Ogallala Aquifer summit next Thursday at Colby Community College. Register for free at [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org) or Kansas Water Officer at (785) 296-3185 by 1 p.m. Friday.

The summit, from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the Frahm Theater on campus, will serve to gather ideas to conserve water and extend the life of the aquifer without compromising the western Kansas economy. Brownback will speak at the summit along with experts from areas affected by water issues such as irriga-

tion, municipalities, agriculture retail, banking, economic development, livestock and other industries.

Another water meeting will be held the day before. The Kansas Water Congress will meet from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday in the student union to talk about water issues and come up with recommendations for the state Legislature. The congress is made up of government representatives, groundwater management districts, mining firms industrial directors and other stakeholders.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Corn in this field in southeast Colby was looking healthy this week after several recent rain storms. The National Weather Service, however, is predicting 100-degree weather throughout the weekend.

## Corn growing strong across northwest Kansas

By Kevin Bottrell

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Kansas is growing its largest corn crop since 1933, and while recent rain showers in Thomas County may have slowed the wheat harvest, it has benefitted the corn.

The latest Agricultural Statistics Report, issued on June 30 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, reports that farmers planted about 20,000 more acres of corn in northwest Kansas than last year. In 2010, northwest Kansas farmers planted 950,000

acres of corn, compared to 970,000 this year.

Farmers across Kansas planted 250,000 more acres of corn, which the department says could be the largest crop harvested since 1933.

In Thomas County, farmers have planted at least some more acres of corn, but not quite as much milo. Milo will usually fares better on dryland, said Clint Millima, Thomas County extension agent, and corn does better on irrigated land. However, he said, the area has seen some good rain showers during the growing season in the past several years

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## Agriculture company holds ‘Applicator Rodeo’ east of Colby



CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press

Two crop producers attending the CHS Inc. Applicator Rodeo on Wednesday were on opposite ends of a wooden post during a challenging contest to see who could effectively push a volleyball past a goal line without using their hands.

By Christina Beringer

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Travelers driving into Colby on U.S. 24 may have seen an unusual site on the south side of the road next to the CHS Inc. building on Wednesday. The company sponsored an all-day Applicator Rodeo, with red and yellow striped tents, spray rigs and display booths that could easily be seen from the highway.

To name just a few of the company’s functions, CHS supplies crop nutrients, livestock feed and grain and provides business solutions to their applicators.

Susan Putnam, the business development coordinator for the company’s office in Colby said applicators, seed representatives, chemical representatives and managers from John Deere and other manufacturing companies from as far as Texas had been invited to the event.

“The rodeo is a fun learning day for our applicators,” said Putnam.

“We are teaching safety in agronomy, how to identify weeds and also giving producers the opportunity to test-drive the newest equipment in precision technology.”

In attendance to answer questions about one of CHS’s partners in business was general marketing manager Arnie Sinclair from AgCo Application Equipment, a manufacture of sprayers, spreaders, tractors and combines.

“We have been partners with CHS for over 30 years and this is probably the fourth rodeo we have attended,” said Sinclair. “It’s a great opportunity for applicators to try new equipment and a way for them to take pride in their work.”

Sinclair and his team were not only discussing services offered by the manufacturing company, but was also enticing some competition with a game of balance and stamina to try and move a volleyball past a line without using their hands.

The game had some semblance to table hockey, with the little table

hockey man being a bag of tennis balls dangling from the center of a wooden post. The post was then fastened with rope around two opponents’ waists and the players on either side of the post had to move in such a way that the bag of tennis balls would “kick” the volleyball one way or another. The person to get the volleyball past their goal was named the winner and received a \$50 gift card for Cabela’s. All winners from the day were then eligible to win a grand prize.

Supporting the community, the company’s applicators and growers and providing young adults from Colby a reason to make the area their permanent home is of top priority, said Vice President of Farm Supply Larry Schermerhorn.

“We want to let our community members in on the excitement going on at CHS. We are doing what we can to show appreciation to our custom applicators and

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## Hundred-degree weather kills 4,300 turkeys at southeast Kansas farm

By Roxana Hegeman

The Associated Press

WICHITA — A heat wave that has pushed temperatures well over 100 degrees has killed tens of thousands of turkeys and chickens in Kansas and North Carolina and left farmers across the lower part of the country struggling to cool off their flocks.

In North Carolina, about 50,000 chickens died at a farm after the power went

off for less than an hour. In Kansas, one couple lost 4,300 turkeys that took 26 hours to bury.

“It felt like a war zone. It felt like hell,” turkey grower Holly Capron said.

The heat wave that started over the weekend has been spreading east. Four of the nation’s top turkey-producing states — Arkansas, Missouri, North Carolina and Virginia — were under a heat advisory Tuesday. Arkansas and North Carolina are also leading chicken producers.

Temperatures in Kansas on Sunday reached 110 degrees, with a heat index of 118. It was 106 in the buildings near Columbus where Capron and her husband raise 22,000 turkeys for Butterball LLC. She said they’ve been running big fans and fog nozzles in their poultry buildings, and they’ve had a tractor pulling a spray wagon to water down the birds. They lost 140 birds on Saturday, but nothing prepared them for Sunday, when 4,300 died.

After receiving approval from state

regulators, the Caprons, their workers and friends began digging a massive hole — 60 feet long, 40 feet wide and 10 feet deep — to bury the nearly 50-pound birds. They started at 11 p.m. Sunday, and the last turkey was buried 26 hours later. The crew worked around the clock. No one slept.

“It was literally overwhelming during the night,” Capron said. “I honestly wanted to start crying. My husband was in shock.”

She blamed the deaths on a heat spike

that hit about 5:30 p.m. Sunday. The Kansas Department of Agriculture’s Division of Animal Health confirmed that heat, not disease, caused the deaths, department spokeswoman Chelsea Good said.

In North Carolina, the heat wave killed

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