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# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Wheat here much less than usual

By Sam Dieter  
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As the wheat harvest winds down, Thomas County farmers are seeing a crop cut down by freezes and dry spells to a fraction of what it could have been.

Kansas Agricultural Statistics predicted in its most recent report that 24 million bushels of wheat will be harvested in northwest Kansas and 328 million will be harvested statewide. That works out to 86 percent of last year's harvest statewide and just over half — 53 percent — in the northwest.

In this area, a predicted 660,000 acres will be harvested

out of 950,000 planted last fall. The forecast is for a yield of 36.5 bushels an acre, and many harvesters are seeing even less.

One of them is Jim Deibert of Colby, who runs a custom combine crew and was just north of town cutting wheat on the Fourth of July. He said wheat fields have yielding about 30 bushels an acre in the county.

"And we're awfully glad to have that," Deibert said. "I mean, we didn't think very long ago that we were going to have anything."

He said he thought a few rains in May helped save the crop.

People in the harvesting business seemed to agree on that

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## House farm vote sets up food fight

By Mary Clare Jalonick  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House approval of a scaled-back farm bill is setting up what could be an even bigger fight over food stamps and the role of domestic food aid in the United States.

Food stamps have been a part of farm bills since the 1970s to gain urban Democratic votes for the rural measure. But that union has soured this year as the food aid has exploded in cost and House Republicans have taken aim at the program. Normally bipartisan,

farm bills have become much less so.

Republican leaders in the House won passage of the smaller farm bill on a party-line vote Thursday by dropping a section of the bill that dealt with food stamps, saying they would deal with that issue in a separate bill. After rallying most of his caucus to vote for the farm portion of the bill, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., said Republicans would "act with dispatch" to get a food stamp bill to the floor.

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## State tourism tour to visit Pickin' here

Colby's Pickin' On the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival next Thursday through Sunday, July 21, will be featured on the state tourism office's Faces and Places Tour this year.

Jenni Harrison, travel blogger for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, will

visit Colby to cover the event, listening to the live bluegrass and folk music. She plans to visit with event attendees, snap photos and shoot videos to share on Facebook, Twitter and other social networks, encouraging visitors to share their experiences, too.

Harrison will also distribute Kansas travel guides, transportation maps and other free giveaways from Kansas Tourism.

This is the third year of the Faces and Places Tour, a six-month summer road trip promoting Kansas communities, attractions and events. Tour "roadies" will visit more than 30 towns this season, traveling in a graphic-wrapped minivan sponsored in part by BriggsAuto.com.

Follow the tour on Facebook (#TravelKS) or the Kansas Tourism website at TravelKS.com.

## Feds limit arsenic in apple juice

By Matthew Perrone  
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON — Parents who have been fretting over the low levels of arsenic found in apple juice can feel better about buying one of their kids' favorite drinks.

The Food and Drug Administration is setting a new limit on the level of arsenic allowed in apple juice, after more than a year of public pressure from consumer groups worried about the contaminant's effects on children. Nationwide, apple juice is second only to orange juice in popularity, according to industry groups.

Studies have shown that the juice contains very low levels of arsenic, a cancer-causing agent found in everything from water to



File Photo

April Swartz at Lemon Aid stand last year.

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SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Police blocked off the northbound lanes of Range Avenue on Tuesday (above) and directed traffic as a Woofter Construction crane lifted components for a new heating and cooling system to the roof of Colby Middle School.

## Crane blocks street for school lift job

A summer-long upgrade for the Colby School District's buildings came a step closer to completion Tuesday morning as a crane lifted heating and cooling equipment onto the roof of Colby Middle School.

Police blocked off the northbound lanes of Range Avenue as the huge machine lifted equipment to go into a penthouse on the middle school's roof, where it will replace outdated equipment that was taken down last month. Meanwhile, workers have been replacing the old roof

covering with a white membrane that is fully attached to the roof, can withstand 120 mph winds and has a 20-year warranty.

"They'll be finished before school starts," said Scott Strom, business development manager for 360 Energy Engineers, the Lawrence-based firm coordinating the project.

The project is part of a \$1.5 million energy-saving upgrade to buildings which the district had been planning all last year

See "CRANE," Page 2



## Girl's stand supports shelter

By Heather Alwin  
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For the fifth year in a row, 11-year-old April Swartz will raise money for the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter at her "Lemon Aid" stand in Colby.

April comes by her love of animals naturally — her mom, Tammy Swartz runs Swartz Veterinary Hospital, where the April's stand

will be set up.

Tammy said April "always wants to help." And, as an honorary board member of the shelter, the girl wants to do whatever she can to help the pets that live there.

Last year, April raised over \$800 for the shelter, and one year she made enough money to buy all the dogs wading pools for the summer.

This year, April will add lemonade snow cones to her list of treats

for sale, along with cookies, Rice Krispie treats, brownies and, of course, lemonade.

The no-kill shelter will have adoptable pets at the stand and April will accept used or unwanted pet toys, food or other pet-care donations for the shelter.

April's stand will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 23, at the clinic, 1775 W. Fourth St.



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