



COLBY  
FREE PRESS

# Rain, hail keep eyes skyward

By **PATTY DECKER**  
*Free Press Editor*

Even though Sunday's early evening thunderstorm was considered severe by weather officials, the rainfall was still a welcomed sight in the area.

The official total for Colby Sunday night as reported by the Northwest Research-Extension Center was .47 inches with one-inch diameter hail. However, unofficial reports varied from .80 inches on the north side of the city to .70 inches on the east and .60 inches at Colby's city hall.

Colby's official rainfall total for August to date stands at 1.68 inches.

"We also had many hail events reported," said Steve Rubin, meteorologist with the National Weather Service Office in Goodland.

"What started as a mostly sunny, hot day," he said, "changed quickly when the cold moist air to the east and dry hot air to the west collided, causing the explosive development we saw last night."

Surprisingly, the severe thunderstorm, which brought hail ranging in size from three-quarters of an inch on up to nearly three inches in diameter, resulted in little if any reported damage in the county.

"We received no reports of major damage," said Tom Jones, Thomas County Sheriff today, who was out on patrol during the storm, "but those were some mean looking clouds out there."

Mike Albers, the emergency coordinator for the Amateur Radio Emergency Services in a four-county area to include Rawlins, Thomas, Logan and Gove Counties also agreed that the storm didn't produce major damage.

"We had winds gusts along the front of the storm reported in the Levant-Brewster area ranging from 50 to 70 mph," he said, "and some of that downdraft from the storm shot wind out ahead of it just south of Colby,

north of Rawlins County and into Logan County as well."

Albers, along with other members of the local Trojan Amateur Radio Club's SkyWarn group, were also deployed to areas to confirm or not confirm tornadoes to the National Weather Service office.

While Colby's rainfall totals were varied, other preliminary storm reports from around the area indicated similar or higher precipitation totals.

For example, in Leoti, hail sizes ranged from three-quarters of an inch in diameter at 6 p.m. to three inch and more in diameter by 7 p.m. Rainfall totals for Leoti were gauged at 1.30 inches. Oakley saw .48 inches of rain and in parts of Logan County hail ranged in size one and a half inches to three inches in diameter one mile south of Page City. In Mingo, Willie Engelhardt said he had .18 inches, which was among the smaller totals in the area.

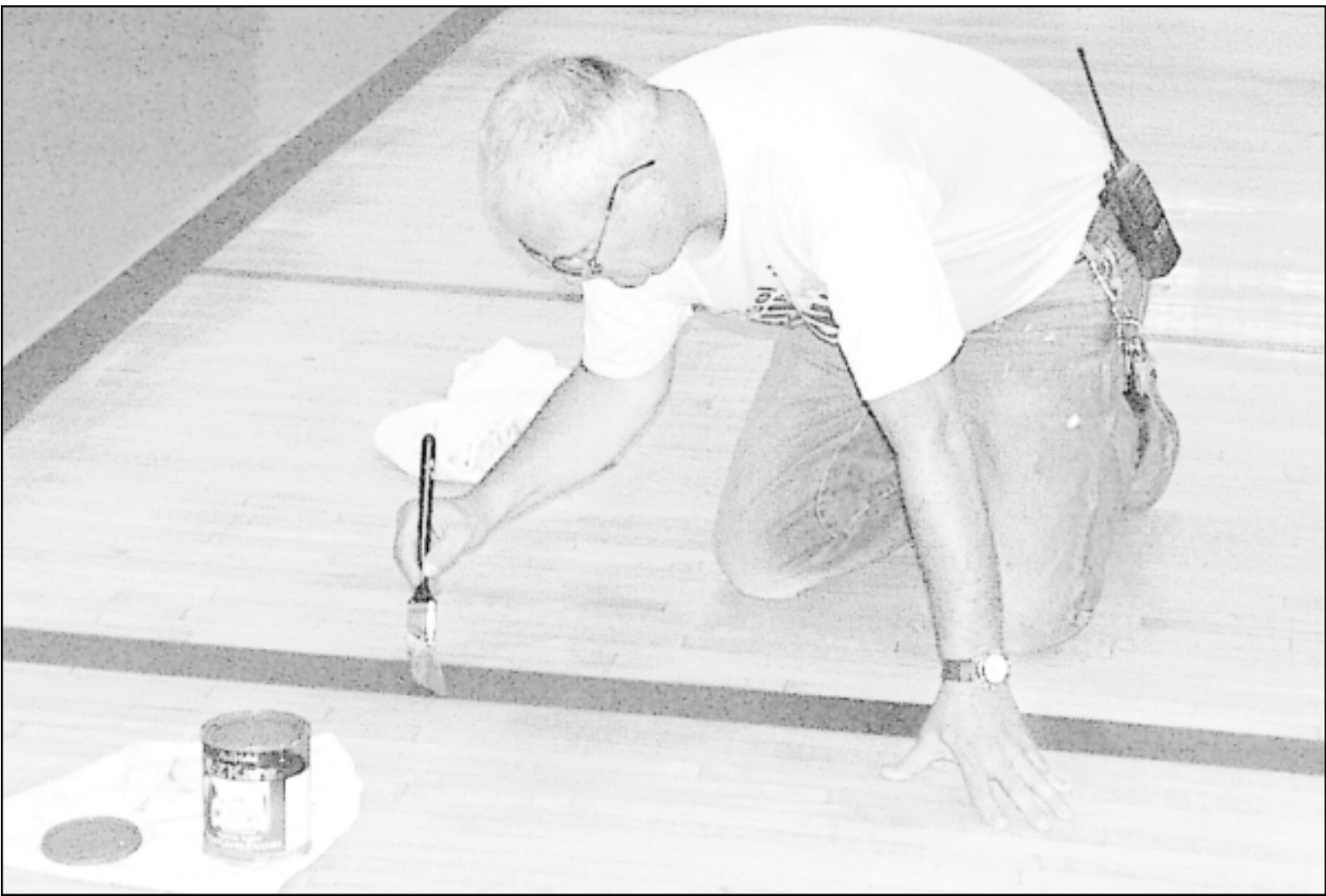
The storm report list also showed Grainfield with .47 inches of rainfall and Trenton Dam with .65 inches.

Other areas pummeled with hail included the area 15 miles northeast of McDonald in Rawlins County with .75 inch hail; three miles south of Winona with three and a half inch diameter hail; an area 10 miles north and northwest of Atwood with one and three-quarter inch diameter hail and four miles west of Quinter in Gove County.

The most severe reports came from Red Willow, Neb., which is north of Oberlin and considered in the McCook, Neb. area. Weather officials said a storm spotter called in a tornado some eight miles south and southeast of Bartley.

In addition, a tornado was spotted three miles south of Winona by a local resident with a second report from a storm spotter in that same area at around 7:20 p.m. Within 15 minutes, another report indicated that there was a rotation overhead in the Winona area.

## 'Lining' things up



CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

Schools throughout the area are making final preparations in anticipation of students returning to classes within the next couple of weeks. In the Oakley School District, Larry Morel (above), who is head custodian, repainted lines on the high school gymnasium floor. In addition,

Morel said that plans are in place to put another finishing coat on the floor. Students in Oakley will be in school for half a day on Thursday, Aug. 22, with their first full day on Friday, Aug. 23, beginning at 8:20 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

# Amusement group looks at future plans

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**  
*Colby Free Press*

The Thomas County Amusement Association met recently at the Thomas County Office Complex to continue work on their plans for a home-owned carnival and promotional efforts.

The association received some funds

during the Thomas County Fair. With the money donated from the Colby Ag "dunking booth" and donations at the information booth, the association enriched itself by \$1,245.

Plans are being made to participate in the Fall Festival which is being sponsored by the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 7.

They will have three rides from Mile High Jumpers and possibly some other fun activities in their area of the festival. Volunteers are needed to help run the rides and booth.

Anyone interested can call Kerry Wark, president, or any other member of the board.

In other promotional plans, an infor-

mation booth was manned at the sidewalk sale in downtown Colby on Thursday, and the group will hand out flyers at the Rexford Alumni Celebration on Aug. 31. Representatives will be going to the Brewster "Hotdog and Watermelon Feed" on Aug. 16, to inform residents of the association's plans.

# Despite strength, Sebelius faces tough battle for governor

By **JOHN HANNA**  
*Associated Press Writer*

TOPEKA (AP) — Democrat Kathleen Sebelius looks almost invincible in the governor's race right now.

She has won two terms as insurance commissioner in a Republican state and entered the general election campaign for governor with about \$1.27 million, unsullied by a primary race.

A recent pre-primary poll suggested that significantly more likely voters preferred Sebelius to any of the three Republican contenders. GOP voters nominated State Treasurer Tim Shallenburger, the most conservative contender and the one who did worst against Sebelius in the polling matchups.

But the Republican primary is over, and Sebelius is likely to have a tough race, despite advantages she now enjoys.

"It's never easy for a Democrat in Kansas," state Democratic Party

Chairman Tom Sawyer said. "These polls will get tighter."

Joining Sebelius and Shallenburger on the Nov. 5 general election ballot are Libertarian Dennis Hawver, an Ozawkie attorney, and Ted Pettibone, a St. Marys businessman.

The Kansas Constitution prohibits Republican Gov. Bill Graves from seeking a third consecutive term.

Almost since Graves won his second and final term in 1998, Democrats have viewed Sebelius as their strongest candidate for this year's race.

She was the only member of her party to file for the office, allowing her to build an organization and raise money quietly.

Her campaign began broadcasting positive television ads late in the primary election season.

Meanwhile, Shallenburger was immersed in a contentious race with Senate President Dave Kerr, of Hutchinson, and Wichita Mayor Bob

Knight.

He entered the final week of the primary campaign with less than \$86,000 in campaign funds and likely ended it with relatively few dollars in his treasury.

In addition, a pre-primary poll suggested that Shallenburger would be the weakest candidate against Sebelius.

The survey of 731 likely voters was organized by the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Kansas and sponsored by seven media organizations. It had a margin of error of 3.6 percentage points.

In a Sebelius-Shallenburger match, Sebelius was the choice of 45.6 percent of the respondents and Shallenburger, of only 24.1 percent. Another 30.4 percent were undecided.

But Shallenburger dismissed the numbers as irrelevant, saying, "That campaign hasn't started yet."

Shallenburger was right to point to such a poll as meaningless a full three

months before the general election.

First, few Republican leaders expect Shallenburger to have much trouble raising money. He said he might need as much as \$1.5 million and is confident he can raise that sum. That would bring his campaign total to about \$2.1 million.

Sawyer suggested that Sebelius would need to raise another \$1.3 million, bringing the total since the start of her campaign to \$3.1 million. The spending record is \$2.61 million, set by Republican Gov. Bill Graves in his 1998 campaign for re-election.

But even if Shallenburger raises less money, his primary campaign showed he can minimize a fund raising disadvantage with volunteers. His conservative base connects him to a well-organized network of activists.

"I think Shallenburger will be very able to raise money, and he will have enough to run a winning campaign," said Sen. Derek Schmidt, R-Independence, a moderate.

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Sawyer said that even if Sebelius raises more than \$3 million, she'll need the money to compete.

"This is a very Republican state," Sawyer said. "It takes a little more for a Democrat to break through."

Sawyer was acknowledging a constant fact of Kansas political life. However good a Democratic hopeful for statewide office may be, that candidate confronts a big GOP advantage in voter registration.

More than 710,000 Kansas voters were affiliated with the Republican Party — about 272,000 more than those identifying themselves as Democrats.

"The bottom line for Republicans in Kansas is that you've got to give them a reason not to vote Republican," said Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh, a moderate.

"I don't see that happening in this race."

# US Airways files for bankruptcy nearly one year after Sept. 11

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — US Airways has become the first major airline to declare bankruptcy since last year's terrorist hijackings, a move that came 11 months to the day after the industry was rocked by the attacks.

US Airways, the nation's seventh-largest carrier, said flights will continue normally, and the company expressed optimism that it will emerge

from bankruptcy early next year.

In its Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing Sunday, the company listed assets of \$7.81 billion and liabilities of \$7.83 billion and said its cash flow was relatively stable.

But Chris Chiamas, US Airways' vice president for corporate affairs, said that would not last with the peak summer travel season about to end.

"You do not want to enter bankruptcy in a poor cash position," Chiamas said at a brief news conference.

Chapter 11 allows a company to continue operating and hold its creditors at bay while it puts its finances in order. A hearing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Alexandria was scheduled for today to discuss the filing.

US Airways had been struggling well before Sept. 11.

In July of 2001, the airline suffered a blow when federal regulators balked at a proposed purchase by United Airlines that would have given US Airways investors \$60 a share.

After the attacks, no airline was harmed financially more than US Airways.

The Arlington-based carrier is the largest airline at Reagan Washington National Airport, which remained closed for weeks after the attacks.

In addition, Chiamas said, the airline suffered disproportionately when many travelers opted to drive or take the train instead of making short-haul flights up and down the East Coast — US Airways' strength.

server." Reservations can be made by calling Lori Haberer, 462-6557.

## Volunteers needed for 'Relay' event

Cheryl Schwarz and Chuck Dempewolf, co-chairperson's of the Relay for Life event are inviting people to take part in this unique fundraising event beginning Friday, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. Kicking off the event, Schwarz said, will be the cancer survivors walking the first lap on Friday night. The luminary lighting ceremony will be held at 9:30 p.m. and if anyone is interested in walking as a cancer survivor, purchase a luminary or to help in any way, call her at 462-3232 or Dempewolf at 462-3481.

## Briefly

### Hunter education course slated

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Colby volunteer instructors and the Colby Recreation Department are sponsoring a hunter education course. The course will be held at the Colby Community Building on Tuesday, Aug. 27, and Thursday, Aug. 29, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 31, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. "Students must attend all sessions," said Benny Young, with the Wildlife and Parks Department. In addition, anyone born on or after July 1, 1957, must take and pass a hunter education course before they can hunt in Kansas. Students must also pre-enroll at the Pirate's Den at Southwind Plaza, Colby. For information, call 462-6631, 462-7602 or 462-3367.

### Youth activity in September

The Community Awareness Team is sponsoring a "Coffee House Night" in the City Limits conference room, Saturday, Sept. 14, from 8 to 11 p.m. The activity will feature an open microphone for youth to share poetry, music or other talents, and refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to all students. For questions or information, call Janet Worthy, coordinator, 462-8152.

### Mosquito spraying to begin

The City of Colby crews are preparing to spray for mosquitoes for the remainder of the summer and anyone who would like to be notified when crews will be in their area

can call Jo Strange, executive secretary to the city manager, at 462-4410. In addition, the city is urging residents to check their yards and empty anything that is holding stagnant water, such as cans, swimming pools, tires, etc., to keep the mosquito population to a minimum.

### After 5 Club meets in Colby

The High Plains Kansas After 5 Club will holds its 'Fish and Tackle' meeting on Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Colby Community Building's Little Theatre.

Featured guest is Jim Ferguson who will share stories on adventures in the outdoors. The guest speaker will be Kelvin Boltjes of Sidney, Neb., whose topic will be "Life Pre-

