



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## Storm chaser sees tornado south of town

By Kevin Bottrell

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A large thunderstorm pounded northwest Kansas on Tuesday, dumping a half-inch of rain on Colby around midnight and producing a tornado near the Logan County border.

Mark Buller, a forecaster with the National Weather Service in Goodland, said a storm chaser who had been following the storm across Colorado and Kansas spotted the tornado at 10:35 p.m. about 9 miles southeast of Brewster and called it in again at 10:55 p.m. The storm chaser didn't provide any details on how big the tornado was, likely because it was dark and difficult to see. Buller said a similar tornado was spotted near Ruleton more than an hour earlier. That tornado had a significant amount of rain near it, making it

hard to see.

Buller said the weather service has gotten a report of damage to a house in the area where the tornado touched down.

The storm also produced some hail. Weather spotters called in hail up to 1.75 inches in diameter in southern Thomas County — near where the tornado was reported — and up to 1 inch in diameter north of Brewster.

Extension Agent Clint Milliman said he hadn't heard of any crop damage from the hail. Crops such as corn and milo are mature enough to avoid most hail damage, he said, but could be affected by high winds. Wind damage could cause some lodging of crops, particularly those with shallow roots, though a hard hail could possibly bruise milo.

The service recorded straight

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## Recycle center to charge fee for e-waste items

By Vera Sloan

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The myth that the Northwest Recycling Center in Colby is closing its program to collect electronic waste is just that — a myth — says Director Lynette Koon.

The truth is that a grant which has provided free recycling for "e-waste," or electronic waste, such as old phones, computers and televisions, is coming to an end this month. The center will continue taking e-waste items, but people

will have to pay a small fee for each one they drop off. Businesses have always had to pay the fees.

And if anyone wants to get rid of an old television or computer, they should hurry, because only three drop-off days remain before the fees go into effect.

Koon said the grant was provided by the state as an incentive for people to "clean out" their homes and keep the electronic junk out of county landfills.

"You can see that recycling of

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## College team leads recovery run-walk

Runners from the Colby Community College women's cross country (above) team began the first leg of the Recovery Month 5k Run-Walk on Friday, organized by the Thomas County Coalition and Regional Prevention Center. The runners and walkers went all the way from the Colby Community Building to the end of West Fifth Street and back. They had lunch in Fike Park after the run. Orvella Romine with the Prevention Center estimated there were 50 people present and 15 to 20 runners and walkers. The college's men's team was on hand to help (left) but did not run. Before the run, May Ken Bieber read a proclamation recognizing September as Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. Romine said she thought the event went well, even with all the other events going on that weekend.

KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press



## Board of Regents wants \$50 million

TOPEKA (AP) — The Kansas Board of Regents has approved a plan to seek a \$50 million increase in state funding for post-secondary schools and create a new program to provide financial help for low- and middle-income students.

The regents will try to persuade lawmakers to approve the proposal during the next legislative session, which will convene after elections for all Kansas House seats and with a new governor.

Kansas has cut funding for higher education by about \$100 million in the last two fiscal years. But with the state facing serious budget problems, Regents Chairman Gary Sherrer said it will not

be easy to persuade lawmakers to endorse the plan.

"The people of the state are committed to higher education," he said Wednesday. "We need to make sure the people who allocate resources to higher education sense that commitment."

The funding request includes a \$20.5 million increase for inflation during the past three years and seeks restoration of \$15.7 million for deferred maintenance at state universities, Washburn and community and technical colleges.

It also includes \$14.1 million to invest in high-demand academic

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## Convenience store raises money for kids

By Kevin Bottrell

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Since the beginning of the month, Love's Country Store has been filling its windows with hearts.

Each heart represents a \$1, \$5 or \$25 donation to the Children's Miracle Network. The money goes to children's hospitals in Kansas. General Manager Jason Juhan said the store has already raised more than \$700 and there's still half a month to go.

Each donor gets a paper heart

with their name — or any name they would like — on it that hangs in the window.

"I've had people sign with cartoon names," he said. "It's whatever name you want to put."

Juhan said there is also a change jar inside the store for people who want to drop a few coins in. Love's is also holding events to promote the fund raiser, including a raffle.

"For each dollar donated, you get your name in once," Juhan said.

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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Jason Juhan, general manager at Love's Country Store, stood in front of windows full of hearts, each one marking a donation to the Children's Miracle Network.

## Briefly

### Church plans to cook pancakes

The Colby Berean Church will hold a pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 210 Lake St. Donations will be accepted for the church's missions. For information, call 460-2763.

### Walk for Alzheimer's Saturday

Come cheer on the teams in the Alzheimer's Memory Walk at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Fike Park. The Memory Walk is a nationwide fund raiser for the Alzheimer's Association. Money raised will go to research and care. For information, call Brittney Johnson at 462-2104.

### Evolution-creation talk Sunday

College View Baptist Church plans a talk on evolution and creation at 10:45 a.m. Sunday at the church. Robert Martin, founder of the Institute for Research

on Origins in Topeka, will speak. For information, call Wes Barnett at (361) 459-9348 or e-mail him at wesb@st-tel.net.

### Coach plans fitness camp

Colby High School boy's tennis coach Matt Ludwick is planning to start a fitness camp for adults. Ludwick will hold an informational meeting for the camp 8 p.m. Monday at Colby United Methodist Church. For information, call Ludwick at 462-2271.

### Legion has answers for vets

The Colby American Legion will offer a session for all veterans and families who want to learn more about veterans benefits at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Village Inn. The session is part of the American Legion-Veterans Affairs Tour, including state and district Legion officer. For information, call Charles Yunker at (785) 232-9315.

### County office to close Tuesday

The Thomas County treasurer's office will close Tuesday so the staff can attend motor vehicle registration training. The office will resume normal hours Wednesday. For information, call the office at 460-4520.

### Flu shots available Sept. 22

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

### Picnic for families next Monday

Experts say the more often kids eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use drugs, so the Thomas County Coalition plans a Family Day picnic from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 27, at Fike Park. The celebration will include

the Jazz Band and Sunflower Singers from Colby Community College. Cake, popcorn, drinks and child car safety seat checks will be provided. Bring a picnic supper and a blanket for you and your family. For information, call 460-8177.

### County band looking for players

Anyone who plays an instrument is welcome to join the Colby Community College band for a performance at the Thomas County 125th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 9. The rehearsal schedule will be announced. For information, call Tony Schroer at 460-5519.



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