

# Bats eat insects, not trick-or-treaters

Bats are one of the iconic symbols of Halloween, but these often misunderstood mammals are not as frightening as their reputation.

It is hard to pinpoint why people are afraid of bats. One reason might be their appearance. Another might be because bats are nocturnal they have an automatic association with all that is dark and evil. Whatever the reason, Halloween is a good time to remember the important contributions bats make and to debunk the myths that have stalked the misunderstood night-flying creatures for hundreds of years.

"Bats have had bad PR, just like spiders and snakes," said Tina Jackson, a Colorado Parks and Wildlife bat specialist. "You just say the word 'bat' and people automatically think bad things. But bats are beneficial animals. They play key roles in the world's ecosystems. People shouldn't fear these animals at all."

Despite the hysteria portrayed in old Hollywood films, bats are not airborne rodents that mysteriously

morph into blood-sucking vampires. They are, however, the only mammal capable of true flight.

Bats possess extraordinary echolocation skills that allow them to perform astonishing mid-air maneuvers while relying only on sound to hunt for insects.

Their expert flying ability helps bats play an essential role in controlling pests, pollinating plants and dispersing seeds. Bats that eat nectar and pollen are said to be the only source of reproduction for many of the world's night-blooming flowers. Bats that eat mosquitoes provide an essential service reducing mosquito populations.

"When people sit outside on warm summer evenings and they're not bothered by mosquitoes, they should thank the local bats," Jackson said.

One negative image attributed to bats is that they carry rabies. While that can be true, Jackson says most bats in the wild are free of rabies and other sicknesses. Only a small minority of bats carry the rabies virus.

In Colorado, incidents of people being bitten by rabid bats are very low. In most cases, someone finds a sick bat, touches it and gets bitten. As with other wildlife, "People should not handle them," Jackson said.

There are 18 species of bats in Colorado. The little brown bat and the big brown bat are found in caves, trees, houses, abandoned mines, buildings and other habitats throughout Colorado. Townsend's big-eared bats are primarily found in caves and inactive mines.

All the bat species in Colorado are insect eaters. Experts say a single little brown bat, one of the most common species in the state, can consume as many as 600 mosquitoes per hour.

Most Colorado bats migrate to some extent, although little is known about this behavior. The advantages of having separate summer and winter roosts must be substantial, however, to justify sometimes lengthy commutes. Brazilian free-tailed bats travel 1,000 miles or more into the inter-

rior of Mexico each fall, probably the longest migration of any bat in the world.

During the past year, Parks and Wildlife biologists have increased efforts to learn more about Colorado's bats in light of recent declines of bat populations in the eastern United States caused by a disease called "white-nose syndrome."

The disease is caused by a fungus known as *Geomyces destructans*. In the four years since it was discovered, white-nose syndrome is responsible for the death of more than one million bats. Some bat populations have experienced declines of over 90 percent after becoming infected with this disease.

White-nose syndrome is named for the white, powder-like material seen on the nose, ears and wings of infected bats. Bats in Europe are known to carry the fungus but experts are still unsure why it showed up in North America. The bat populations in Europe are not experiencing similar declines, leading some researchers to spec-

ulate that it may have been present there long enough for the bats to develop a natural resistance.

White-nose syndrome has not been found in Colorado. Since being first documented in 2007 in a cave in New York, white-nose syndrome has spread to 16 states and 4 Canadian provinces. In 2010, a cave in northwestern Oklahoma, less than 200 miles from the Colorado border, tested positive for the fungus.

Because so many natural bat habitats are in decline, wildlife biologists believe it is important to preserve some abandoned mine openings for bats. To conserve bat

roosts, Colorado Parks and Wildlife sponsors the "Bats/Inactive Mines Project," aimed at installing special "bat gates" at the openings of abandoned mines. The gates are designed to allow bats to fly in and out of the mine openings while preventing humans and other animals from getting in.

For information about Colorado bats visit: [wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/Profiles/Mammals/BatsOfColorado/Pages/BatsOfColorado.aspx](http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/Profiles/Mammals/BatsOfColorado/Pages/BatsOfColorado.aspx).

## Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Lola M. Skiles, deceased.

Case No. 10-PR-35

### NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

The State of Kansas to All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed on October 24, 2011, in said Court by Frank J. Skiles, executor of the estate of Lola M. Skiles, deceased, praying for final settlement of the estate, approval of his acts, proceedings and accounts as Executor, allowance for attorney fees and expenses, determination of the heirs, devisees and legatees entitled to the estate and assignment to them in accordance with the Will of Lola M. Skiles, deceased. You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 21st day of November, 2011, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on said day, in said Court, in the City of Colby, Thomas County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Frank J. Skiles, Petitioner

Laurence A. Taylor, #9496  
1480 West Fourth  
P.O. Box 509  
Colby, Kansas 67701  
785-462-6736  
Attorney for Petitioner

(Published in The Colby Free Press on Friday, October 28th, November 4, 11, 2011)

## Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of Loren D. Turner, Deceased.

No. 2011-PR-40

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The State Of Kansas To All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that on October 3, 2011, a Petition for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act was filed in this Court by Sheryl Cersovsky, an heir, devisee and legatee, and executor named in the "Last Will and Testament of Loren D. Turner," deceased.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

SHERYL CERSOVSKY  
PETITIONER

John D. Gatz, #10808  
Attorney at Law  
P. O. Box 346  
Colby, Kansas 67701  
(785) 460-3383  
Attorney for Petitioner

(Published in The Colby Free Press on Friday, October 14, 21, 28, 2011)

## Meet to boost entrepreneurs opportunities

Registration has opened for the Rural Opportunities Conference, an educational event for rural entrepreneurs and telecommunications professionals. Sponsored by the Kansas Department of Commerce, it will be Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 16-17, in Salina.

The conference will feature sessions focused on market research; analysis and data usage; advertising and promotions on social media; economic gardening; exporting and industry creation; the future of rural telecommunications; technology expansion and a review of broadband applications for community institutions.

Gov. Brownback will speak at the opening luncheon. Other speakers include Don Macke, director of the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship in Lincoln, Neb., and Ron Wilson with the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State.

Registration fee is \$60 per person and ends Wednesday, Nov. 9. To register, sign up for exhibitor space or view the complete schedule and list of speakers, go to <http://tinyurl.com/66xugr2>.

Contact Tricia Kensinger-Rice with the Department at (785) 296-0650 or [trice@kansasccommerce.com](mailto:trice@kansasccommerce.com) for information.

## Notices

**Golden Shears Barber Shop** 315 Center, Oakley. Tuesday - Saturday, 8 a.m. - noon & 1 - 5:30 p.m. 40 years experience. Call for appointment 785-671-4213.

---10/26---11/21---

**Company's Coming: Carpet Cleaning Special** - 3 Rooms, only \$149.95! Dry-Foam Safe and Green Seal approved. Servicing NWKS mileage free since 1987! A+ Cleaners (785) 538-2526 or (785) 443-5400, Johnene Cheney.

---10/26---12/19---

**Dan is back!** Dan Geschwentner. Small remodeling and repair jobs. Call 785-443-3673.

---12/15---TFN---

**Classified ad deadlines** (word ads only). Noon the day before publication (noon Friday for Monday paper). Please check your ad the first time it runs. If you find an error, please call at (785) 462-3963 so it can be corrected, since we will not be responsible for errors after that first day. The Colby Free Press.

---3/1---TFN---

## Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies' Auxiliary

Ladies Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary met Oct. 12 with President Anita Thiel presiding. Meeting opened per ritual with prayer, patriotic instructions and flag salute.

Prisoner of War/Missing in Action prayer was offered and hospitalized veterans and women veterans were remembered.

Roll call was taken, minutes read and quarterly audit read.

Treasurer's report was heard and bills presented.

Correspondence read was general orders and letters from district senior vice president and department president.

Legislative chairman read information about women pilots' service and service retirements for veterans.

Hospital chairman showed wheelchair bags made for Leavenworth hospital and reported a funeral dinner served.

Americanism report was a walker caddy made and given to a knee replacement patient.

Publicity reported September meeting item in *Colby Free Press*.

A monetary donation was made to Cancer Aid and Research as token of appreciation for senior vice president's visit and help.

A night of bingo proceeds was allowed for the Growing Dollar program.

Quarterly reports for July, August and September were filled out.

A \$300 donation was allowed for Cancer Aid and Research fund raising.

Bills were presented and allowed for payment.

National Home prayer was offered and meeting closed with ritual prayer.

Next meeting will be Nov. 9 at 5 p.m. at the post home.

## Help Wanted

**Nanny and/or domestic help** needed. Farm and ranch setting. Duties include household operation and some care for 4 children, ages 3 - 11. Separate housing available, must be able to deal with stairs daily. Non drinking/smoking environment. 785-626-6105.

---10/28---

**We are looking for** an individual for our chrome shop. This person will be responsible for restocking shelves, ordering inventory, creating graphics, and helping customers trick their trucks. This is a full time position with benefits available. Apply in person at 105 W. Horton Ave., Colby or email a resume to [ann@semitruck.com](mailto:ann@semitruck.com).

---10/28---11/10---

**CNA's earn top pay** in the state! Now hiring for immediate openings. FT, PT, PRN. All shifts available. Flex schedule. Mileage comp. Contact First Call Medical Group asap at 785-945-3666.

---10/27---11/2---

**RN Consultant needed** for a growing Assisted Living Facility in Colby. Stop by Fairview Estates Retirement Community for an application, 1630 Sewell Ave., Colby, KS 67701. EOE.

---10/19---10/31---

**Now hiring CNA and CMA** shifts. All shifts available and flexible schedule. Previous experience preferred. Apply in person at Fairview Estates, 1630 Sewell Ave., Colby, KS 67701. EOE.

---10/19---10/31---

## Help Wanted

**Hiring Truck Drivers** - Good driving record, CDL and drug testing required. Excellent pay with benefits, including health insurance, retirement and vacation. To apply call Sporer Land Development, Inc. 785-672-4319, Oakley, KS. Equal Opportunity Employer. women & minorities encouraged to apply.

---10/19---10/31---

**Law Enforcement - The Gove County Sheriff's Office** is accepting applications for the position of Undersheriff. Basic requirements are: 3 to 5 years prior law enforcement experience. Must be able to pass background investigation. Meet all the requirements for certification as a Kansas Law Enforcement Officer. Wages are very competitive and complete family health insurance with prescriptions and dental. Deadline for application is Friday, November 11, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. To request an application, contact the Gove County Sheriff's Department, PO Box 146, Gove, KS 67736, Phone 785-938-2250. EOE.

---10/19---10/31---

## Help Wanted

**Assistant Recreation Director** wanted for Colby, Kansas. Under the supervision of the Recreation Director, responsibilities include coordinating and assisting in the development, planning, organization, and administration of community recreation programs for seniors, adults, and youth; supervising recreation programs; performing maintenance work at the ball field complex; performing administrative duties that may include payroll and monthly reports and other work as needed and assigned. Answers and fields phone calls. Excellent benefit package with a starting salary of \$10.50 hourly, DOQ. Persons wishing to apply may pick up an application at the Recreation Office, 285 E. 5th Street or at City Hall, 585 N. Franklin, or can print off an application form at [www.cityofcolby.com](http://www.cityofcolby.com). A full job description is available at the Rec. Department or City Hall. Applications must be returned by 12:00 p.m. on Friday, November 18th, 2011. EOE.

---10/17---11/15---

## Help Wanted

**Needing someone** to deliver newspaper bundle to Oakley 3 to 4 times a week. This would be great for someone who already commutes to Colby from Oakley. Please call the *Colby Free Press* if interested. 785-462-3963.

---9/28---TFN---

**Now hiring for all positions.** Apply between 6 a.m. - 1 p.m., Monday - Saturday. See Don or Tammy at Village Inn Restaurant, 2215 S. Range.

---9/7---TFN---


## Help Wanted

**Substitute Teacher Needed:** Thomas County Learning Center, current Kansas teaching or substitute license preferred. Please submit resume. For more information call 785-465-7900.

---10/17---10/28---

**Wanted - Experienced Truck Driver.** Good pay, benefits, decent home time. Jack 785-675-8375 or Jim 785-675-2196.

---10/12---12/5---



**Fiscal Year 2012 General EQIP and WHIP Sign-up Ends November 15, 2011**

**Tuesday, November 15, 2011**, is the cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) applications in Kansas to be considered for Fiscal Year 2012 funding.

Stop by your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office to get more information about helping you help your land. Applications are accepted year round.

**Office Address: 915 East Walnut, Colby, KS 67701**  
**Office Phone: 785-462-7671**  
**Web sites: [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip)**  
**[www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip)**

USDA NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## You're Invited

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**Saturday, Nov. 5th • 5:30 p.m.**  
City Limits Convention Center

5:30 Social Hour	• Live & Silent Auctions
6:00 Dinner	• Man Cave Raffle
7:30 Live Auction	
9:00 Dance	

**Tickets: \$35 each, Table for 8 \$240**

*For more information & advance tickets call:*

Mary Ann Downing 785-443-1684	LeAnna Soehner 785-462-1095
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Send a letter and resume to Sharon Friedlander, Publisher, at 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701, [sfriedlander@nwkansas.com](mailto:sfriedlander@nwkansas.com) or apply in person. No calls please.



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