



Radar failed to predict deadly twister

By Stan Finger
The Wichita Eagle

WICHITA (AP) - On radar, the thunderstorm appeared to be weakening. It had been hours since the storm produced two brief, weak tornadoes in Reno County, and spotters reported no signs of funnels as darkness shrouded the Kansas plains Tuesday night.

for Morris County into neighboring Wabaunsee County. That meant the only tornado siren in tiny Harveyville was never activated, and the town was hit without warning. "The radar didn't show rotation until it was directly over town," said Chad Omitt, meteorologist in charge of the weather service's Topeka branch. "It just makes us sick." The tornado, rated an EF-2 with maximum winds of 130 mph, killed one person and injured at least 11 others in Harveyville. An estimated 40 percent of the town

Red Cross seeks donations

As it continues its disaster relief efforts, the American Red Cross needs contributions to help pay for its response to the Harveyville tornado. Donations can be made:
• Online at: www.redcross.org.
• By mail to: American Red Cross 1221 SW 17th Street Topeka, Kan. 66604 Attn: Disaster Relief
• By calling toll free: (866) 990-9910.
• Texting "redcross" to 90999 to make a \$10 contribution by phone.

of about 250 was damaged or destroyed by the tornado, which was on the ground for about five miles and was at most 150 yards wide.

It touched down a mile southwest of Harveyville and raced toward the town at 60 mph. That meant it struck the west side of town in less than a minute. "It was a rain-wrapped tornado - at night," Omitt said. "Nobody would have seen it." Four minutes before the tornado touched down, the private forecasting service AccuWeather issued a tornado warning for two clients in the area: Westar and the Kansas Turnpike Authority. "We were watching that cell because it had been persistently having tornadic signatures," said

Mike Smith, senior vice president for AccuWeather Enterprise Solutions, based in Wichita. Along with producing two tornadoes in Reno County, the cell had strengthened over Marion and Chase counties to the point that the Wichita branch of the Weather Service issued a tornado warning that included the caution: "The potential for a large tornado is high!" Strong thunderstorms typically rely on the atmospheric instability fed by sunlight and weaken

See "RADAR," Page 2

Kobach says Constitution's meaning lost

By Kevin Bottrell
The Goodland Star-News kbottrell@nwkansas.com

It may sound cliché, but alligator really does taste like chicken. That's what about a hundred people had a chance to find out Saturday at a Wild Game Banquet at the Brewster School. The banquet included pheasant, buffalo, moose, shark and more. People came from around the area to sample the exotic food and to hear Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach.

The Supreme Court didn't strike down those laws. Kobach cited the Wickard v. Filburn case of 1942, in which Roscoe Filburn had been prosecuted for defying a federal quota on crops. Filburn had produced more wheat than was allowed, and even though he had grown it solely for his own uses and didn't intend to sell, he

See "KOBACH," Page 2

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach (right) was deciding what to eat Saturday at a Wild Game Banquet at the Brewster School. Kobach (below) spoke to about 100 people on issues the country is facing, focusing on differing interpretations of the U.S. Constitution.

KEVIN BOTTRELL Goodland Star-News



College finances on a rise
Cash balance up; could drop later

By Kayla Cornett
Colby Free Press kcornett@nwkansas.com

The Colby Community College trustees heard Monday that the school's cash balance had improved since December, when only about \$130,000 remained in the bank.

Alan Waites, vice president of business affairs and chief financial officer, said the January year-to-date expenditures are on track, \$148,800 of purchase orders were open on Jan. 31 and the cash balance was much improved at \$2.21 million.

"January and February are strong cash-flow months," Waites said.

He said the overall budget forecast remains at \$13.12 million, where the college has been for the last three or four months. Year-to-date actual spending was \$7,148,076 by Jan. 31, he said, leaving \$5,971,924 in the budget.

Waites went through the cash flow analysis next. He said the cash balance was \$130,000 on Dec. 31, but the college brought in \$3.497 million during January, including a state operating grant of \$1.153 million. Waites said the college used \$1.420 million during the month, leaving \$2.21 million available.

He finished his report by saying that his staff continues to watch all expenditures and "live within our means" to assure budget compliance. He said cash flow should be strong from January to March, but will be challenging again through the spring and summer months. Budget work will begin soon for the 2012-13 school year.

In other business, the board:
• Heard from Dr. Keegan Nichols, vice president of student affairs and marketing, who said the college has 1,376 students enrolled in 14,490 credit hours. Nichols said these numbers are up from both last year and from the fall semester.

• Heard from Joyce Washburn, dean of academic affairs, who said the college should know by March 14 if the medical coding program has been approved.

• Heard from Barry Kaaz, dean

See "COLLEGE," Page 2



Kansans asked to help save 'Home on Range' cabin

WICHITA (AP) - Kansans are being asked to help pay for repairs to a 140-year-old cabin where Brewster Higley wrote the lyrics for what would become the state song, "Home on the Range."

The cabin still stands along Beaver Creek in Smith County, though it badly needs of repair and renovation. The State Historical Society recently announced a \$24,600 grant to help with the restoration but supporters

say it will take an additional \$50,000 to fix the cabin, The Wichita Eagle reported (bit.ly/w9uyxL).

In the fall of 1872, Higley, a frontier doctor, wrote a six-verse poem he called "My Western Home." It was later set to music and became "Home on the Range."

State Sens. Bob Marshall, R-Fort Scott, and Allen Schmidt, D-Hays, co-sponsored a Senate resolution that recognizes the historical significance of the cabin and en-

courages Kansans students and others to help raise money. Kansans who want to help have three ways to contribute to the effort. "Coins for the Cabin" asks Kansans students, their teachers and families to donate a few cents or dollars to the restoration fund. Letters were sent last week to each of Kansas' 293 school districts asking for help.

See "CABIN," Page 2

Republicans to vote on presidential candidates at caucus here on Saturday

Thomas County Republicans will caucus Saturday to help decide who'll represent the state at the party's national convention - and who they'll vote for.

The session will begin, as will all others across the state, at 10 a.m. at the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community College campus.

Josh Faber, chairman of the party's Central Committee, said the format will be similar to that used four years ago, when the caucus was at the Community Building.

Party workers will start checking credentials - the photo identification now required to vote in Kansas - at 9 a.m., Faber said. People need to be sure to have their driver's license, passport or a similar

government-issued photo ID, he said. To vote, you must be a registered Republican; the primary is not open to Democrats and independents.

The eight candidates on the ballot include the front runners, Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul, he said, but also several who have dropped out since the ballot was set:

Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Jon Huntsman and Rick Perry. Candidates or their representatives have a chance to explain positions, then the vote will be done by secret ballot.

"It's not like a regular election," Faber said. "People can talk about their selections and even campaign."

The caucus must close at 1 p.m., he said, but anyone who's passed the ID check by that time will be allowed to vote. People can come when they want until then.

There'll be no proxy or advance voting, he noted, adding that he expects 400 to 500 people to show up.

