

Weather

Weather service helps spot storms

Briefly

From "WEATHER," Page 1

as opposed to a report from just one of the general public, we'd tend to lend a little more credence to their report," he said, "just because they've gone through some form of training."

Floyd started the class with statistics, radar images of storms and pictures taken from the ground. In the last 10 years, he said, Kansas had the second-highest number of tornadoes in the country, after Texas. On the High Plains, he said later, many tornadoes never hit a structures, so he has to rate them in the least destructive category. Although last year was a fairly light in terms of tornadoes and other storms, the year before, 550 people died from 1,600 tornadoes nationwide.

In that year, Floyd said, the

Weather Service discovered that people have become accustomed to repeated storm warnings and do not seem to take notice. So the agency added descriptions of possible damage during a given storm to warnings.

"So now they're going to say, spotters reported seeing this and take cover," Floyd said, "and by the way, the roof is going to be ripped off your house."

One of his pictures was taken the day after a hail storm in Colorado last year, when so much hail fell that it looked like a blizzard. He also had pictures of collapsed houses that looked as if they had been knocked over by a tornado, but said they were caused by "straight-line" wind from thunderstorms, which cause more damage than tornados.

The class finished with a

description of the "super cell" thunderstorms that cause high winds and can spawn a tornado. Floyd described the the updraft of warm air that pushes moisture high into the atmosphere to form the towering clouds commonly seen during thunderstorms.

The warm moisture cools and falls as rain on one side of the storm, but no rain falls from the base of these clouds under the storm updraft. A shelf cloud - often mistaken for a wall cloud - hangs beneath the base where rain falls, Floyd said, and most of the wind damage from thunderstorms occurs when air is pushed outward ahead of the storm by the falling rain.

"Kind of put yourself through a mental checklist when you're looking at clouds before you call them in," Floyd advised.

He explained that the smaller

wall cloud hangs below the rain-free base of the thundercloud, under the updraft, and tornadoes usually form in this part of the storm. He showed pictures of tornadoes of different shapes and sizes. In one, the funnel cloud itself was not connected to the ground, but spinning dust showed that the wind was reaching down that far.

"We just are encouraging you that if you see something somewhere and you've got a cell phone and you've got cell phone coverage, just give us a call and tell us what you see," he said.

Leroy and Barbara Kerksiek of Colby, who were at the class, said afterward that they appreciated the information

"It was an excellent class, a lot of good information," Leroy said. "I think this is good,

Colby schools plan after-school activities

From "SCHOOL," Page 1

Then comes the enrichment activities, Vaughn said, adding that, "That's going to be the real fun part."

Activities the school is planning for kids will include reading and writing, Wieland added, but also board games, drama, music, photography, and sports like gymnastics, martial arts and cupstacking - exactly what it sounds like, but fast.

"There's been research provided that if you do some of these things, it may help their reading skills and math skills," said Principal Lance Krannawitter.

Vaughn said she plans to go to a workshop to learn how to build robots out of Lego

blocks, something she said whole manuals have been written on. Field trips are planned to area museums and businesses, because as Weiland said, the school wants kids to understand the connection between education and business.

Vaughn said she is contacting businesses and volunteers to help with the activities. For instance, she said, she called several dance studios asking them to help teach the kids.

The Colby Recreation Department has been asked to help, along with Crista Carter, an education teacher at Colby Community College, and Diann Gerstner at Thomas County Extension, who already teaches kids how to cook after school.

The activities will cover all types of learning, Vaughn said.

The school is talking with potential volunteers who might teach puppetry, crochet and knitting, guitar (the school ordered 10 guitars), photography and the leaders who direct 4-H kids in their projects.

Everything the kids do will tie into their school subjects, Weiland said

Money for the program will come from a grant from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, worth just under \$600,000.

Weiland announced that the district got the grant at last month's school board meeting, that it will pay for the activities until September 2017.

Be ready to help when chasing tornadoes

From "CHASING," Page 1

As it is, the huge tornado, rated an EF5, the biggest, killed 162 people, the highest death toll from a twister in more than 60 years.

Piotrowski kept filming as he followed in the tornado's wake, showing entire neighborhoods reduced to rubble. The sight and sound of people climbing out of the rubble and frantically shouting for loved ones made some gasp in a standing-room-only crowd at the conference.

While most of the presentations at the conference were

about past memorable chases and how to better read data, radar and the sky in anticipation of being well-positioned for developing tornadoes, Piotrowski used much of his time to make an impassioned plea for storm chasers to be ready to help the stricken should a tornado strike a city or a farmstead.

"I didn't mean to use so much time on that," he said apologetically after his presentation, "but it's so important."

Staying safe during severe weather is the focus of Severe Weather Awareness Week, which was being observed last

week in Kansas. The statewide tornado drill was at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Veteran storm chaser Shawna Davies calls rescue and recovery "the other side" of storm chasing, yet many chasers ignore or avoid areas damaged by tornadoes.

"There's still too much of a 'golly gee' factor among the chasers who converged on Denver for the conference," she said.

In other words, they focus only on being in a position to see and capture tornadoes on camera.

Jon Davies, Shawna's hus-

band and a veteran weather researcher and storm chaser in his own right, said he heard a lot of people complain about the fact that "there weren't many tornadoes to chase" last year.

Davies and Wichita storm chaser and severe weather photographer Jim Reed were eating in Great Bend after chasing storms in central Kansas on an April day in 2003 when they spotted emergency vehicles streaming north out of town. Hoisington had been hit just after sunset by an EF4 tornado.

They immediately headed to Hoisington.

High winds knock out power here for 2 hours

From "WINDS," Page 1

Saturday, the Kansas Department of Transportation closed the westbound lanes of I-70 at 5:45 p.m. at Goodland, as the road was closed from Denver east in Colorado and hotels were filling up along the highway. The closure was extended all

way to Hays at 10:04 p.m., along with the westbound lanes of U.S. 36 from Atwood to Colorado, K-27 from Sharon Springs to Nebraska, K-161 from Bird City to Nebraska and U.S. 40 from Sharon Springs to Colorado.

I-70 east and west reopened at 7:30 a.m. Sunday. Kristen Brands, public affairs man-

ager for the department, said the westbound lanes between Salina and Hays were closed 15 minutes later because of visibility problems. All roads in the state had opened back up by 10 a.m., but westbound I-70 was closed again at Goodland between 1:50 and 4 p.m. because of accidents and blowing snow in Colorado.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS



Wednesday Evening March 13, 2013

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Middle	Neighbors	Mod Fam	Suburg.	Nashville		Local	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Nightline	
KBSL/CBS	Survivor: Caramoan	Criminal Minds			CSI: Crime Scene		Local	Late Show Letterman	Ferguson	
KSNK/NBC	Whitney	Whitney	Law & Order: SVU		Chicago Fire		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	J. Fallon	
KSAS/FOX	American Idol				Local					
<b>Cable Channels</b>										
A & E	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.
AMC	Underworld							Underworld		
ANIM	River Monsters		North Woods		North Woods Law		River Monsters		North Woods	
BRAVO	Real Housewives		Rachel Zoe Project		Brad Wrld		Happens	Rachel Zoe Project	Brad Wrld	
CMT	Mindy McCready		Son-in-Law					Blazing Saddles		
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360		E. B. OutFront		Piers Morgan Tonight	
COMEDY	Chappelle	Work.	South Pk	South Pk	Work.	Tosh.0	Daily	Colbert	Work.	South Pk
DISC	Weed Country		Under Siege: Border		Weed Country			Under Siege: Border	Weed Country	
DISN	Wizards	Wizards:Waver				Good Luck	ANT Farm	Good Luck	Wizards	Wizards
E!	Kourtney-Kim		Burning L	Burning L	The Soup		After Lat	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea
ESPN	NBA Basketball							NBA Basketball		
ESPN2	College Basketball		College Basketball					SportCtr	SportsCenter	
FAM	Harry Potter-Phoenix						The 700 Club	Prince	Prince	
FOOD	Restaurant: Im.		Restaurant: Im.		Restaurant Stakeout		Restaurant: Im.		Restaurant: Im.	
FX	The Fighter				The Americans		The Americans		Justified	
HGTV	Cousins	Cousins	Property Brothers		Hunters		Property Brothers		Property Brothers	

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	HIST	LIFE	MTV	NICK	SCI	SPIKE	TBS	TCM	TLC	TNT	TOON	TRAV	TV LAND	USA	VH1	WGN	
Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	The Bible			America Unearthed	Pawn	Pawn			America's Supernanny	Project Runway	Washington Heights	Ridic.	Ridic.		
Preachers' Daughters			Preachers' Daughters			Project Runway	Wife Swap				Teen Mom 2	Teen Mom 2	Teen Mom 2	Washington Heights	Ridic.	Ridic.	
Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Friends	Friends	Friends	
Haunted Collector			Haunted Collector			Stranded	Haunted Collector				King	King	King	Stranded			
Batman Begins			Batman Begins								Conan	Conan	Conan	Men-Work	Conan		
Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan				Sophtiatown	Black Roots					
On the Bowery			Come Back, Africa								Hoard-Buried	Addiction	Addiction	Addiction			
Boast's Finest			Southland								Boast's Finest	Southland					
King/Hill	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Unit			Dragons	Incredibl	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	
Feed-Bea.	Feed-Bea.	Feed-Bea.	Extreme Houseboats				Killer RV Upgrades				Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Cleveland	Cleveland		
Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	The King of Queens						Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU			
Black Ink Crew			Jacksons-Dr'm								100 Sexiest Artists	100 Sexiest Artists	100 Sexiest Artists	100 Sexiest Artists			
Rules	Rules	Rules	WGN News at Nine				Funniest Home Videos	Rules	Rules		Liars	Liars	Liars	Liars			
Harry Potter-Azkaban			Cowboys & Aliens				Real Time/Bill Maher	Crossfire Hurricane			HBO	Banshee	The Hangover Part II	Girls Bed	Life-Top	Life-Top	Meet
Shameless			Jim Rome on Showtime	Californ.	Lies		Jim Rome on Showtime	60 Minutes Sports									