



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Tornadoes kill 32, seven are Kansans

By **CONNIE FARROW**

*Associated Press Writer*

Swarms of violent thunderstorms and tornadoes crashed through the nation's midsection, killing at least 32 people in Kansas, Missouri and Tennessee. Eight people were missing in this hard-hit town.

Houses across the region were blown apart by Sunday's storms, trees were uprooted and power lines and other debris blocked roads. Travelers were evacuated from the terminals at Kansas City's main airport and given shelter in tunnels.

Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius declared seven counties disaster areas and seven Kansans were counted among the dead.

Eighty homes were damaged or destroyed in Kansas' Crawford County, at least 20 of them in the Franklin area, said county emergency management director Edlon Bedene.

"It wiped out a third of the town, I hate to say it," Bedene said. "The trees are like somebody came in and cut them off 10 feet above the ground. It's a mess."

Several homes were severely damaged in Kansas City, Kan.

"My daughter's room is gone, but she's OK," resident Jodee Nirschl said, her voice breaking and tears coming to her eyes. "As long as I have my kids and my husband, I'll

be OK."

In the southeast Kansas town of Franklin, about a third of the town was wiped out, said Eldon Bedene, Crawford County emergency management director. Dogs were brought in from Wichita to search through the debris.

At Kansas City, Mo., International Airport, officials stopped all flights and evacuated the terminals. Passengers were ushered into tunnels leading to parking garages until the storm passed.

In Pierce City, Mo. not a home or business was left untouched in the town of nearly 1,400, and wreckage made it impossible to walk the streets.

Two bodies had been pulled from the rubble of the town's nearly leveled National Guard Armory.

Officials initially feared the eight missing were killed in the armory, where several people had taken shelter.

After sunrise today authorities had found no sign of anyone else, and regional emergency official Glenn Dittmar said he was "99 1/2 percent" sure that no one else would be found there.

"I've never been in anything like this. It was absolutely terrible," said Pierce City clerk Julie Johnson, who rode out the storm in the armory bathroom.

## Picture is still unclear on expanded gambling

TOPEKA (AP) — The Statehouse still has no clear betting line on the chances of passage for a bill authorizing more gambling in Kansas.

There are no signs that the Senate is warming to the idea, even though proponents still hope expanded gambling will become part of plan for balancing the state budget.

Proposed by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius as a way to raise revenue, expanded gambling never has received debate in the Senate, where Republican leaders still have not committed to a vote.

The Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee did receive a brief-

ing Saturday morning on two gambling bills, one of which was passed by the House the previous day on a 66-58 vote. The Senate committee took no action on either.

Although differing in key aspects, both bills provide for the Kansas Lottery to oversee the operation of slot machines and other electronic gambling devices, and for the state to share the profits from the new gambling.

Under the House-passed measure, the machines could be installed — if voters in the affected counties approved — at Kansas' five dog and horse tracks and at new gambling parlors in Dodge City and Geary County.

## The first of many



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

In preparation for this year's Thomas County Fair, the first ride owned by the Thomas County Amusement Association was installed on Saturday at the fairgrounds. Commercial Sign Company assisted in the permanent installation of the Para-Trooper

which has been adopted by the Shriners. Currently, the association has purchased nine rides and are planning to have things up and running for a July 4th celebration. The association continues soliciting support for its cause.

## Street surfacing is on council agenda

By **PATTY DECKER**

*Free Press Editor*

The Colby City Council has a full agenda when it meets Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers, 585 N. Franklin Ave.

The council plans to discuss the resurfacing of Fourth Street from Franklin Ave. to Range Ave. and review funding, which Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, said will not be adequate for the entire length of the project due to changes in the location.

When the project was first slated for the year 2006, she said, the Kansas Department of Transportation approved the geometric improvement project to resurface Fourth

Street between Range and Franklin Avenues.

The city's engineering firm, Penco, has updated the five-year plan to accommodate the additional money needed for the project and the hope is the state will combine the projects and target completion at the same time.

As part of the same action, the council is expected to either approve or not the updated five-year plan for submission to the state.

Armstrong is expected to talk about the water rights contract and the engineering proposals for a new city well. She also said the preliminary water reports, not including the uranium tests, are coming back

good.

The council will also be taking action on a resolution to establish an urban area boundary line and functional classification systems.

In explaining the resolution, Armstrong said the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 requires the Kansas Department of Transportation to maintain a 5 to 10 year future functional classification system of roadways in order to receive federal money.

As part of the process, Armstrong and Gerry Bieker, public works director, reviewed proposed changes in the urban area boundary lines and classifications.

Possible changes, she said, could

be in the area south of Country Club and College, which needs to be expanded to the east and also the area directly east of Horton Avenue should be included in the resolution.

If the resolutions are approved by the council, they would still need concurrence with the Thomas County Commissioners and the Kansas Department of Transportation. The council will also consider giving the state's transportation department authority to award the viaduct contract to APAC in Hutchinson by committing city money to the project.

An executive session to discuss a real estate purchase is also scheduled for between 10 and 15 minutes.

## Hinrich, Collison, Boschee... *And now Bobby Knight*

By **TOM (TD) DREILING**

*Free Press Publisher*

It's not everyday that one of the nation's top college basketball coaches shows up on Colby's doorstep.

But that happened this past week.

Sitting in the Colby Community Building watching the Colby Community College men's basketball Trojans work out was Bobby Knight, head coach of the Texas

Tech Red Rangers and former long-time coach of the Indiana Hoosiers.

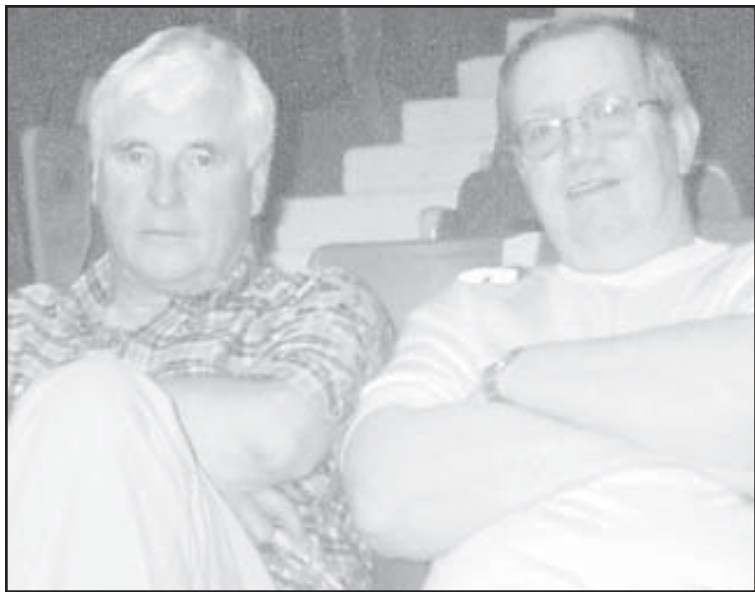
Knight, according to Rich Epp — radio voice of the Trojans — was on the road taking a look at what might be out there.

Epp said Knight spent about an hour at the practice. Their conversation — Epp and Knight — didn't reveal any secrets, other than Knight was touring the territory by car.

Knight did mention, Epp related, that he might be interested in returning sometime to hunt pheasants.

Knight's appearance in the community building came on the heels of the Kansas University 'Barnstorming Tour' which stopped here to play a Northwest Kansas All-Star bunch.

The KU delegation included such names as Kirk Hinrich, Nick Collison and Jeff Boschee.



Coach Bobby Knight and Rich Epp, voice of the Colby College Trojans, talk basketball while watching the Trojan men's practice in the community building late last week.

## Briefly

### 'Bike Rodeo' is canceled

The Bike Rodeo, scheduled in Colby on Wednesday, has been canceled. Connie Walden, a nurse at the Thomas County Health Department, said today the reason for the cancellation was "a lack of interest. But we'll try again next year."

### Fair board to meet Thursday

The Thomas County fair board will meet Thursday at 8 p.m. at the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Committee reports from building and grounds, carnival, rodeo, parade, demolition derby, races, fair books and advertising will be given. The meeting is open to the public.

### Dinner to honor Trojan cagers

An awards dinner at 6 p.m., Tuesday, for the Colby Community College men and women's basketball teams, will be held at the Colby Quality Inn. Cost for the meal is \$10 per person. Following the meal, women's head coach Tom Stephens and men's head coach Brian Ostermann will reflect

on their teams accomplishments during the 2002-2003 campaign. Tickets or questions can be directed to Doris Anderson through Monday by calling 462-3984 ext. 243.

### 'Booked for Lunch' is Wednesday

Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. 4th St., is continuing its series, "Booked for Lunch," beginning at noon on Wednesday with Sharon Kriss reviewing *By the Light of the Moon* written by Dean Koontz. The event is open to everyone and the review begins at 12:15 p.m. A light lunch will be provided by the Friends of the Library and free-will donations will be accepted. For questions or information, call 462-4470.

### Childbirth classes underway

Childbirth education classes are underway, said Amy Hutfles, one of the teachers. The classes are from 7-10 p.m. on May 8, 15 and 22 in the Health Sciences Building on the Colby Community College campus. The cost is \$40 and includes books and materials.

### Brownies want damaged flags

The Colby Brownies are conducting a public service activity to give both residents and businesses the opportunity to properly dispose of worn American flags, said Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, one of the Brownie leaders. A flag receptacle will be located in the foyer of the Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. 4th, Colby, for flags to be dropped in. The receptacle will stay at the library until just before the ceremony at the Colby Municipal Airport, at 6 p.m. on Friday. For questions, call Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer at 462-3298.

### Photos of military personnel wanted

Colby Photo at 420 N. Franklin is wanting to honor military members either serving overseas or in the United States. Ardath Beringer, owner of Colby Photo, said the "window to honor our troops," can also include Reserve and National Guard members as well. Any photos used in the tribute to American soldiers, she said, will be returned to the family and friends. For questions, call Beringer at 462-8169.



### Maybe showers

**Thomas, Logan Counties**  
Tonight...partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west late.

Tuesday...partly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s. West wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southeast late in the morning. Tuesday night...mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 40s. Chance of rain 40 percent.

Wednesday...cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs near 60. Chance of rain 30 percent.

Wednesday night...cloudy. A chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the mid 40s. Chance of rain 30 percent.

**The numbers**  
Sunday's high, 74  
Low this morning, 40  
Year ago today, 90 and 43  
Records, 96 in 1936, 26 in 1944  
24-hour precipitation, 0.00  
Month's precipitation 0.14  
**Water Usage/Colby**  
Average May 2-3-4=1.421 million gallons

