



COLBY FREE PRESS

20 pages

Rainstorms cause high water, floods

By Kevin Bottrell

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A stormy weekend in northwest Kansas brought rain, hail, floods and tornadoes to the area Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The first storm blew through town late Friday night and early Saturday morning, dropping .07 to .29 inches of rain. That storm produced several tornados and large hail in surrounding counties.

The National Weather Service in Goodland reported a tornado in a rural area northeast of Hoxie at 8:20 p.m. At 9 p.m. two or three tornadoes were reported at the same time south of Jennings. Jacquelyn Boultinghouse, emergency coordinator for Decatur and Sheridan Counties, said sheriff's deputies reported seeing multiple tornadoes on the ground for at least several minutes. Some damage to buildings and trees, including broken windows, downed tree limbs and tin plates torn off roofs, has been reported in the area, she said.

The largest hail was reported in Decatur County on Friday, where spotters saw hail as big as 1.75 inches. Spotters also reported hail in Greeley, Wallace and Sherman Counties between 9 and 10 p.m.

Prairie Dog Creek, which runs through north Colby, came out of its banks in Norton County, four miles northeast of Clayton, about midnight Saturday. The creek is still running high today. A flash

flood also washed out part of K-9 on Friday night.

The heaviest rain hit Colby late Saturday night, with rain gauges reporting 1.11 to 1.57 inches Saturday night.

Elsewhere in Kansas, storms left about 4,000 people without power Sunday in Reno, Sedgwick and Saline Counties and flooding as deep as three feet in downtown Wichita. Flash flood warnings continued to be in effect for central and eastern Kansas this morning.

Northwest Kansas often gets late-evening storms in the summer. Dave Floyd, warning coordination meteorologist with the weather service, said the timing of the storms depends on where they form. The severe storms that hit the Colby area can form in several places including the Rocky Mountains in southern Colorado, the Palmer Divide near Limon, Colo., or the wind convergence zone near Goodland.

"It depends on where the air is the most unstable," he said.

Storms that form over the mountains in the early afternoon will reach Colby by 9 p.m. or later.

However, Floyd said, some of the most severe tornado days have come from storms that come out of the south. Large, slow-moving weather systems moving north from Oklahoma produced destructive tornadoes in 2007 and 2008 and were responsible for the Brewster, Goodland and Gove tornadoes in May.



These dark clouds that moved over Colby on Sunday didn't produce much rain, unlike storms Friday and Saturday night, which dumped heavy rain on much of northwest Kansas. The National

Weather Service forecast indicates high temperatures in the 80s and 90s during the day and slight chances for more thunderstorms each night this week.

KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

A brand new flag



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary presented this flag to David and Jatón Denneler in May. Pictured are (from left) David Denneler, Rosalie Seemann, Mary Weed, Florene Messamore, Lily Theiler, Jatón Denneler and Donna Bennett. The Dennelers have had a flag flying 24 hours a day, seven days a week at their house north of Colby, even installing a spotlight to keep it lit. Jatón said the Kansas wind is hard on flags and they have to replace it about every three months.

Colby artist puts on show in Hays

By Vera Sloan

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From a love of playing in the mud with her little brother, Jonathan, as small children, Jennifer Higerd decided she would like to spend the rest of her life "playing in the mud."

With a Masters of Fine Arts degree, and using a potter's wheel to fashion objects of art from clay, Higerd will hold her first public art exhibit starting today and ending Thursday, July 1, in Raric Hall on the Ft. Hays State University campus.

Higerd said she didn't pursue her love for art made of mud until after she had followed her adventuresome spirit to far away places.

A 1993 Colby High School graduate, she attended Kansas State University, graduating in 1997 with a degree in French and political science. And not wanting to enter politics, she said, she actually wanted to be behind the scenes doing research.

"I went to work in the state house after graduation from K-State," she said, "but when my boss became state treasurer and asked me to follow him with his job, I knew that wasn't for me, so I left Topeka and went to visit an aunt

in Iowa."

Higerd said while she was in Iowa she accompanied her aunt to a church service where a missionary from Africa was speaking.

"The missionary was telling how badly French teachers were needed in Africa," she said, "and with a degree in French, and an adventuresome spirit, I thought that might be something I could do."

So it was off to Africa and the Ivory Coast where she taught French, English and Western Civilization History to middle school age kids in a private boarding school.

Higerd said that although the Ivory Coast region is pretty well modernized, it was still a total culture shock to see how people live on so much less than Americans do.

"Everyone was happy," she said. "They were genuinely a happy and friendly people, living in a beautiful country, but with very few material possessions. It really made me think about what it would take to make me happy."

She said many people think of Africa as dry desert, but the Ivory Coast area is a rain forest, and instead of having spring and summer, their seasons are wet and dry.

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Colby artist Jennifer Higerd adjusted some of her artwork that is going on display today in Hays.

Inserted in today's
Colby Free Press

Colby All School
Reunion
Special Section

Includes schedule of events,
information on museum exhibits
and stories from Colby High School alumni.

Secretary race may be most interesting

By John Milburn

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Few people would argue that the race for Kansas secretary of state has ever been the most compelling of the statewide races.

After all, it's perhaps the most clerical of the statewide offices. Charged with registering Kansans to vote, conducting elections, registering businesses and certifying notary publics, it's the one office

that keeps the trains running on time.

The duties are important functions of state government, but they're rarely issues that lure voters to the polls to demand systemic reform.

Enter Kris Kobach.

The former Kansas GOP chairman and immigration attorney is making voter fraud his central campaign theme. He wants new requirements placed on registering to vote and casting ballots,

similar to the laws he helped write in Arizona.

"Kansas voters have a very clear choice," Kobach said. "I am confident they will agree with me that now is the time to restore the integrity of Kansas elections."

Kobach says he will be aggressive in prosecuting cases of voter fraud, doing the investigative work and taking them to the attorney general for charges to be filed.

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Briefly

Registration open for reunion

Registration is still open for the Colby All School Reunion, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Any Colby High School alumni who plan to attend the reunion should go to www.eaglesalumni.org or the high school commons from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

Candidate to meet and greet here

Republican congressional candidate Rob Wasinger will be visiting with Colby-area voters from 2 to 2:45 p.m. Thursday at J&B Meat Market. For information, call the Wasinger campaign manager Billy Valentine at (620) 794-2560.

Crews fogging for mosquitoes

Colby city crews will be fogging for mosquitoes beginning this week. They start south of Webster on Mondays or Tuesdays and north of Webster on Thursdays. Check your yards and empty anything

holding stagnant water, such as cans, swimming pools or tires, officials said. For information, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.

Group wants grant applications

The Thomas County Community Foundation is accepting applications for the second quarter cycle. Non-profit, governmental or school agencies in Thomas County are eligible for small grants of about \$500. Applications are due to the foundation by Wednesday, June 30. For information, call 460-9152.

Eagles' books a bargain right now

The price of "Flight of the Eagles," a book by Gary Adrian about the history of Colby High sports, will increase from \$25 to \$30 on Wednesday, June 21, to cover printing costs. Books can be ordered at the old price at www.colbyeagles.org or send a check

to the Colby Booster Club at Box 136, Colby, Kan., 67701. Books will also be available at the All School Reunion this week. For information, call Adrian at 460-2931.

Picnic, music Wednesday

Colby's Picnic in the Park lunch-and-concert series continues at noon Wednesday at Fike Park with entertainment by Shannon, Rachel and Amy Myers. Heartland Christian School will serve cold watermelon. For information, call the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401 or the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643.

Church plans racing Father's Day

All NASCAR and racing fans are invited to the Colby Church of Christ at 10:30 a.m. Sunday for a special Father's Day event. The church plans a "manly" day with a racing theme and a message titled "It's

About Winning." Dress is comfortable and casual. For question, call Jarrod Spencer at (785) 443-2403.

College pool open weekdays

The Colby Community College indoor swimming pool is open to the public for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. Monday through Friday this summer. Open swimming is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Cost for general admission is \$3, but monthly and yearly passes are available. Call manager Kipp Nelson at 460-5476 for information.

