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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

This storm, seen from Colby's Shalz Field Municipal Airport looking north, passed over Colby about 10 p.m. Monday and continued up to Oberlin and Norton. Although it produced a lightning show, only trace amounts of rain were found in gauges in the morning, but the storm dropped nearly three inches of rain and blew down trees northeast of Thomas County.

## Big thunderstorms give Colby a miss

By Kevin Bottrell  
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For three days straight, big thunderstorms have moved through northwest Kansas, dropping hail, tornadoes, rain and winds near 70 mph, but Colby residents hardly felt a thing.

Sunday's storm produced a possible "gustnado" and a funnel cloud as it passed directly over town but dropped only trace amounts of rain in the county. Monday evening, another storm passed directly overhead about 10 p.m. and produced an impressive lightning show but only scattered rain. Volunteer weather spotters recorded .15 inches of rain in Levant and

less than .03 inches in Colby. Surrounding counties, however got hail and high winds Monday. The National Weather Service office in Goodland reported winds in Oberlin up to 68 mph, enough to break windows and three-inch tree limbs. Oberlin also got 2.16 inches or more of rain in about half an hour, briefly flooding streets. Spotters in St. Francis re-

ported hail up to 2.5 inches and winds got as high as 62 mph at the Norton Airport. Yuma County in Colorado was particularly hard hit. Trees and power lines were blown down, some snapped in half. A trained spotter reported a tornado near Vernon, Colo., that destroyed a barn. Thomas County only caught the edge of Tuesday's storms, again recording only

trace amounts of rain. The storms mostly passes southeast of the area, dropping rain from Logan to Phillips counties. Spotters in Hoxie and Decatur County reported the largest hail, 2.75 inches, at 5:23 and 5:45 p.m. Tuesday. Spotters in Norton and Wichita counties reported damage to trees and shingles blow off roofs.

## County's software issues generate more paperwork

By Vera Sloan  
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Another program issue with the county's new computer software has delayed a training session for workers at the Thomas County Courthouse.

The county bought the programs in January for \$154,035 from Computer Information Concepts, a firm out of Greeley, Colo. Workers have had a tough time since getting a handle on how to do their jobs using the new system.

"They were supposed to be here the end of July and first of August for the tax training," said County Clerk Shelly Harms, "but they have had to reschedule to the end of September when I'm trying to do valuation and levies. I understand they are having a program issue with the software."

Commissioner Paul Steele said he had put a "hold" on the last payment to the firm, which had been approved at the June 14 meeting, after Harms told him they were having more issues.

Susan Guill, deputy county clerk, asked the commissioners why they changed software in the first place, and was told that the Manitrion system and AS 400 computer they had been using was going to be obsolete, so they had to change to something else.

"The first pitch CIC gave to us," said Steele, "was that their program had been looked at by a well-known firm in Oklahoma who said it was a good one, but when we got it, it was soup and nuts."

Harms said she had run a report for Steele, but it wasn't what he needed. She said if the commissioners wanted reports to compare budget to actual revenue and expenses before they prepared a new budget, it's not possible with the programs they have now.

"It's not my job to fix CIC's problems," Harms added.

Kristi Mann, assistant deputy clerk, told commissioners that when she was on the phone with the firm about problems they were having with distributions, they suggested they use the Manitrion reports.

"What are we going to do once we get rid of Mani-



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

County Treasurer Donita Applebury on Monday showed county commissioners evidence of the amounts of paper generated by the county's new software (right) compared to the smaller amount it takes to generate the same report through the old Manitrion software.

tron, when we go to do cash distributions including payroll?" she asked. "If we don't run a report, once the program is closed, it's gone and we can't bring it back up?"

Mann went on to say that Computer Information had suggested they save the old program on the computer, but that the computer fills up fast, and after it was full, it would require more hard-drive space.

County Treasurer Donita Applebury said that when she runs the cash reports for the treasurer's office, the program will allow only one date for the report. She said that the firm suggested she go back and change

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## Bank workers plan charity sale

The employees of Farmers and Merchants Bank of Colby will hold a "back yard sale" from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 17, on the southeast corner behind the bank.

Peg Tole, a cashier for the last 28 years, said the employees will donate 20 percent of their proceeds to the Summer Food for Kids endowment fund with the Thomas County Community Foundation. In addition, the bank will matched that amount, she said.

Tole said the idea for the sale

came one morning when employees were discussing the fact that they all had too much "stuff" but not enough for each to do a sale. They decided to go in together and have a bank "garage sale."

Tole said the staff and the bank also had been talking about giving money to the summer food program, so when the idea came up to give a portion of their profit to the endowment fund, President Brent Wiedeman liked the idea and challenged the staff. However much they raise at the sale, the bank will match 100

percent, he said. "All of our employees are very involved in Colby community events," Tole said, "and enjoy the fact that our management and board of directors are willing to share in that commitment to Colby."

If anyone wants to make a donation without buying an item, there will be a collection jar the day of the sale or they can leave it at the bank beforehand, she said.

Call Tole at 460-3321 for information.

## I-70 on-ramp to close Monday

The eastbound ramp onto Interstate-70 at Country Club Drive (Exit 54) in Colby will close for repairs beginning at 8 a.m. Monday while maintenance crews with the Kansas Department of Transportation work on deteriorated asphalt.

Eastbound travelers may still exit I-70 at Country Club; but drivers should use the Range Avenue ramp to access I-70 while the work is underway.

Weather permitting, the ramp should be opened to

normal traffic by 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 1, said Kristen Brands, northwest Kansas district public affairs manager in Norton. The closure will appear on the state's 511 road information map and phone recording.

For information, contact Brands at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org, or Eric Oelschlager, Area 2 engineer in Atwood, at (785) 626-3258 or erico@ksdot.org.

## U.S. team advances to second round

By Ronald Blum  
AP Sports Writer

PRETORIA, South Africa — Landon Donovan scored a stunning goal in the first minute of injury time, advancing the United States to the second round at the World Cup with a 1-0 win over Algeria.

With the U.S. perhaps three minutes from elimination Wednes-

day, Donovan brought the ball upfield on a counterattack and Jozy Altidore's shot on the breakaway was tipped by Clint Dempsey in to goalkeeper Rais Bolih. The rebound went to Donovan, who kicked it in from about 8 yards for one of the biggest goals in U.S. soccer history.

"I've been through a lot in the last four years," Donovan said half an hour after the end, crying

and his voice cracked. "I'm so glad it culminated this way. When you try to do things the right way, it's good to get rewarded."

While he was speaking underneath the stands in the interview room, American fans were still in the stadium, waving flags and blowing vuvuzelas in celebration.

The win, the first World Cup

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## Briefly

### Church plans Bible School

The Colby Wesleyan Church is holding a "Sonquest Rainforest" vacation Bible school from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each day through Friday at the church, 320 W. Pine St. The school is for kids in preschool through fifth grade. For information, call Kylee Philipp at 460-8215.

### Hospital plans childbirth classes

Citizens Medical Center will offer a four-week series of childbirth education classes from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursdays July 1, 8, 15 and 22. Women who are due to deliver before October should attend with their labor support partner. The next classes will begin Oct. 7. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown at the hospital Education Department at (785) 460-4850.

### Heartland to sell fireworks

Heartland Christian School will be selling fireworks

at the Colby Livestock parking lot on Country Club Drive from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. from Monday through Sunday, July 4. All proceeds will go to the school. For information, call Ronda Myers at 462-7727 or 443-1384.

### Crews fogging for mosquitoes

Colby city crews are fogging for mosquitoes, south of Webster on Mondays or Tuesdays and north of Webster on Thursdays. You can help, officials say: check your yard and empty anything holding stagnant water, such as cans, swimming pools or tires. For information, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.

### Foundation has money to give

The Thomas County Community Foundation is accepting applications for its second quarter cycle. Nonprofit, government or school agencies in Thomas County are eligible for small grants of about \$500.

Applications are due by Wednesday, June 30. For information, call 460-9152.

### 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.

### Garden needs gardeners

Colby's community garden is looking for volunteers. The plot, at the K-State Experiment Station on the west side of town, needs volunteers to help grow fruit and vegetables. Food produced by the farm will go to the Genesis-Thomas County food bank and the Extension Kids A Cookin' program, as well as to the

volunteers. For information, call Orvella Romine at 460-8177 or Extension agent Clint Milliman at 460-4582.

### Head Start taking applications

Thomas County Head Start preschool is accepting applications for 3- and 4-year-old children. The program takes applications all year, but children must be 3 by Sept. 1 to start class in the fall. Tuition is free. To apply, call 460-6067.



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