



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Colby High celebrates homecoming week

Colby High School students had a busy week of Homecoming events. On Thursday, Tom Harrison (above) called for the senior jersey auction at the pep rally. The rally included a bonfire and a chance for the students to smash up a car painted in Ulysses colors. The students had several dress up days throughout the week. Sophomore Victoria Rall (right) donned 80s-style exercise gear for retro day. The first event of the week was the high school volleyball team's Dig Pink night (below) where the students raised money for a local cancer patient. The Homecoming parade and football game against Ulysses are scheduled for today, with the Homecoming dance Saturday night at the school.



DONNA HENRY/Colby High School



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

State official's scheduled stop in Colby repealed

Colby was to be the first stop on the state-wide tour of Kansas Office of the Repealer Secretary Dennis Taylor on Monday, but less than an hour after notice went out, a new notice was sent saying the Colby stop has been canceled.

Taylor announced the tour today. He will

meet with citizens to discuss proposed regulation repeals and collect input from Kansans on rules and regulations they believe should be repealed.

"The top priorities of my administration are to grow the state's economy and get the more than 100,000 unemployed Kansans back to work," Gov. Sam Brownback said. "With the help of Kansans, the Office of the Repealer is working to identify laws and regulations that are out of date, unreasonable, and burdensome. State laws and regulations shouldn't

hinder opportunities for Kansans and Kansas businesses."

Taylor was to kick off the tour with a stop at Colby Community College on Monday. The corrected announcement says the stop will be rescheduled later, but does not give a date. Instead, Taylor will begin his tour in Hays, Great Bend, Pratt and Hutchinson on Tuesday.

In January, Governor Brownback signed Executive Order 11-01 establishing the Office of

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Kansas sees \$1 billion in storm loss

By Kevin Bottrell
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With one quarter of the year left, Kansas has already set a record for storm and crop damage.

In a release Wednesday, the Kansas Insurance Department said there has been an estimated \$1.095 billion in crop and storm damage so far this year. There have been about 197,000 insurance claims, which includes both crops and buildings.

"This is a record amount of storm-caused property damage for the state," said Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger. "Our records go back to 1990, and this year's surpasses the previous record in 1992 by \$300 million. And, we still have the rest of 2011 to go."

Bob Hanson, director of communications, said that any time the National Weather Service records a potentially damaging storm, the department asks insurance providers to send in numbers on claims and damage costs. The department records claims from wind, hail

and tornadoes. The data the department gets is general, Hanson said, and not broken down by region. The numbers do not include damage from the Missouri River flooding that has plagued eastern Kansas this year.

There were 30 such storms in northwest Kansas between April 14 and Aug. 28, including two storms on Aug. 8 and 9 that hit areas between Colby and Levant the first day and east of Colby the next. Colby insurance agent John Tweed said there was a lot of damage south of I-70 as well.

Cindy Cersovsky of Cersovsky Insurance said Thomas County wheat escaped without much storm damage this year, but it will be some time before the damage to corn fields can be tabulated.

Stan Edmundson of F&M Insurance Store estimated his company has paid out more than \$2 million so far this year. The full, exact numbers won't be available until next year, he said, because there will be a lot of deferred losses to corn from hail damage.

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GOP planning caucus in March

By John Hanna
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA — Kansas Republicans have set their presidential caucuses for the Saturday after Super Tuesday in March, unwilling to risk the potential loss of national convention delegates even as the calendar for deciding the GOP nominee remains in flux.

Clay Barker, the Kansas GOP's executive director, said Wednesday that party officials hope the race remains undecided by the March 10 caucuses so that the state has some influence in picking the nominee. Republicans in about 10 states are expected to have Super Tuesday primaries or caucuses on March 6.

"Hopefully, it will bring some candidates here to do some campaigning," Barker said.

Democrats in Kansas are waiting until April 14, also a Saturday, to have their presidential caucuses. They were encouraged to set the later date by a promise from the national party of extra convention delegates, with President Barack Obama's nomination as the Democratic candidate considered certain.

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback last week endorsed Texas Gov. Rick Perry for the GOP presidential nomination. Perry has emerged as the leading GOP candidate, with former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney his main rival in a crowded field that also includes U.S. Reps. Michelle Bachman of Minnesota and Ron Paul of Texas.

The Kansas GOP's executive

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Area feedlot owner in dispute with EPA

By Karen Krien
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A month after the Environmental Protection Agency issued compliance orders against Callicrate Feedyard for failing to maintain adequate wastewater storage capacity for an area where hay bales are kept, a meeting was held at the feedyard. More than 50 people attended the meeting on Sept. 20.

Mike Callicrate, owner of the feed yard, said the Environmental Protection Agency didn't contact him but he found out by notification from the media. He figured that he is being targeted because of a decision taken several years ago when he defied IBP in court. He said, while they won the case, the judge overturned the verdict and it ended up costing him and other plaintiffs big dollars in fees.

Callicrate said that an agency inspector was at the feedyard in February. Inspector Trevor Urban talked with A.J. Jones, Callicrate Cattle manager. The report did not mention anything about retaining

water runoff from the feed area, he said.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment had authorized the design of the operation runoff 25 years ago.

He said that Karl Brooks, Environmental Protection Agency regional administrator, cited the operation for failure to control harmful runoff, maintain adequate manure storage capacity, keep adequate operation records and meet the state and federal requirements of its nutrient management plan. It is confusing, Callicrate said, as Brooks refers to wastewater, not manure.

"Our cattle waste," he said, "is spreadable dry manure and precipitation runoff, not liquid manure requiring storage capacity."

Mr. Brooks had been invited to attend the meeting but Callicrate was told that he was unable to attend. He said he asked about Region 7's offer to meet with Kansas cattle producers. Callicrate was told that the Environmental Pro-

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