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Rain, blizzards strike east; West to cook

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — While forecasters predicted record highs for the High Plains and Colorado, a spring nor'easter packing soaking rain and high winds churned up the Northeast this morning. The storm unleashed a burst of winter and up to a foot of snow in higher elevations inland, closing some schools and sparking concerns of power outages. "It's unusual, but not unheard of," said Kevin Fitzgerald, a National Weather Ser-

vice meteorologist in State College, Pa., where the eastern part of the state saw rain, and the west, northwest and higher elevations dealt with snow. Up to 12 inches of snow was expected in the higher elevations of central and western Pennsylvania, as well as New York state south of Buffalo. A winter storm warning was issued for parts of northeastern Ohio, where 3 to 7 inches of snow was forecast.

In Colby, the high for Tuesday was expected to be 92 degrees. In Denver, the forecast called for a high of 88, which would break the old record for April 24 by three degrees. Some schools in western Pennsylvania were closed this morning ahead of the storm. Districts in the state's Allegheny Mountains began announcing closures Sunday night as the storm was expected to drop 5 to 7 inches of snow by early

Tuesday morning. Much of New Hampshire and western Maine were under a flood watch today with more heavy rain expected. Up to 2 to 3 inches of rain is expected in the area, with the possibility of some creeks and rivers flooding. However, flood watches were canceled early today for the New York City area and in New Jersey. Sustained winds of 20-30 mph were

predicted throughout the Northeast, and gusts of up to 50 mph were expected off Cape Cod, Matthew Belk of the National Weather Service in Taunton, Mass., said late Sunday. One of the biggest concerns with the storm was the potential for power outages due to limbs and branches weighed down by heavy snow falling onto power lines.

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Art Walk attracts a crowd

Art and music were bustin' out all over downtown Colby on Friday at the second annual Art Walk. A crowd estimated at 600 wandered among 19 downtown locations where about 50 artists, amateur and professional, displayed their work. Student art was on display at Colby High School and Colby Community College. Music and refreshments added to the festivities. Phil Shuman (above) directed the Sweet Adelines barbershop singers at Sunflower Bank. Possibly the oddest piece in the show (right) was "Chew-Baru," a 1995 Subaru owned by Rex Rosenberg of Great Bend and covered with 150 pounds of dentures, dental impressions, dental tools, toothpaste tubes and tooth brushes. Rebel Jay, college art instructor, who organized the event, said the crowd was great. "It was a lot more than I was hoping for," she said, adding that the event drew around 300 last year. Final attendance numbers and the winner of a scavenger hunt drawing will be announced after college art students have tallied the results, Jay said.

EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press



Senior group honors volunteers at banquet

"RSVP...Building a Better World" was the theme for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program's annual banquet and dance Wednesday at the City Limits Convention Center. Volunteers were recognized for their service in the community, which program director Laura Withington says adds up to roughly 40,000 hours a year. That's 1,000 work weeks, or nearly the equivalent of 20 years of volunteer service.

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Art Club needs entries for show here on May 25

The High Plains Art Club plans its first juried amateur art show next month and is encouraging artists high school age and up to enter original work for judging and possible sale. The deadline to submit an entry form and fees is Friday, May 25. Forms can be requested from Bev Kern at (785) 460-2300 or 443-1090. The show will run from Friday to Sunday, June 8 to 10, at the Heartland Christian School gymnasium, 1995 W. Fourth Street. The charge is \$15 for every two entries, with

a minimum of \$15. There is no limit on the number of entries per person. Works may be in oil, watercolor, acrylic, pastel and charcoal, graphite and colored pencil, mixed media, sculpture or ceramic and pottery. All two-dimensional pieces must be framed or properly finished with screw eyes and wire, ready for hanging. Saw-tooth hangers will not be accepted. Cash awards will be given for first place, \$50, and second place, \$25, in each of the categories, plus a \$100 cash prize for the overall Best of Show. Ribbons will be given for People's Choice and Judges Merit awards.

Art enthusiasts are encouraged to buy pieces by making checks out to the High Plains Art Club and writing the name of the artist and the work's title in the memo line. The entries will be judged Saturday morning by professional artist John Scott of Hoxie. Awards will be given during a reception that evening. The club said Scott has been painting for 40 years and prefers oils.

City pledges \$97,500 for new play area

By Kayla Cornett

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The Colby City Council heard an update from a representative of the walking trail committee and the Thomas County Healthy Communities Coalition on a playground planned for north of the Colby Aquatic Park on Tuesday and gave the group \$97,500 for the project.

Contractor Mike Woofter spoke to the council about the costs of the playground, which he said will be for children of all ages, and how much the group would need from the city.

He said the base cost of the area is \$99,483, and the committee wants to add climbing ropes and boulders to accent the walking path, which will cost \$22,000.

He said installation of the equipment would cost \$45,000. He said the group hopes to have that donated or done by volunteers but needs to hire a supervisor for four days.

"Then, instead of putting the border that we have down at the (Fike) park here, we'd put a concrete zero-entry deal all the way around it," Woofter said.

He said they want to put rubberized material down to cover the ground instead of bark.

In all, he said, they are looking at between \$140,000 and \$150,000 for the whole project. Woofter said if they get the \$97,500 from the city, they have commitments for about \$20,000 and he thinks they can raise the rest of the money.

He said they would bring a

couple of designs to the council and see how much money they've raised up to that point.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the city has \$97,500 cash in hand in the capital improvement reserve fund, \$37,500 from the parks fund and \$60,000 from the special parks fund, which comes from the liquor tax. She said that this money can be used by the end of this year.

"I have seen some of the proposed layouts and this will surpass Fike Park by far," Armstrong said, "but it will really help cap off that entire area out there with some really nice playground equipment, some different playground equipment ... it will be a major draw for the city of Colby, I think."

Councilman Tim Hutfles asked Woofter if he's spoken to many people who have used both bark and the rubberized material on playgrounds. He said he'd heard the rubber material is "messy."

Woofter said that they really don't want to use bark. Armstrong said the city had originally put bark by the fake palm trees in the pool area and they had to take it out because the wind was blowing it all over the place.

Armstrong said they replaced the bark with the rubber material and it doesn't blow around at all.

Woofter said they can still bring all of those details to the city before they start building to get it approved, but they just need to know how much money they can count on so they can move forward.

The council then unanimously

See "CITY," Page 2

Secretary of state warns of state crisis

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach is warning lawmakers that a potential constitutional crisis is brewing because they haven't yet redrawn political districts.

But Kobach said today that he's also wary of a new proposal to postpone the state's primary election until the last week of August if lawmakers don't set political boundaries soon enough.

Lawmakers will reconvene Wednesday for a wrap-up session that could continue through early

May. Legislators must redraw state House, state Senate and congressional districts to account for changes in the state's population during the past decade.

Kobach said the Kansas Constitution doesn't allow the state Supreme Court to draw lines for lawmakers. He says the court can only review what legislators have done.

But he said delaying the primary would hurt the democratic process.

