



10 pages

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MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Lynn Goosen moved burning hay bales away from his windbreak with a skid steer Tuesday after a fire started at his farm, 1154 County Road 22. Goosen was trying to burn up cornstalks blown

into the yard by the wind when a friend he was talking with noticed smoke coming from the windbreak.

## Fires blaze after storm slams Colby

By Steve Haynes  
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For Colby fire fighters, the weekend was anything but a holiday, starting with a wind-whipped blaze that damaged a hay stack at Timmerman Feeders near Halford, east of Colby on U.S. 83, and ending with a blaze Tuesday as a landowner was cleaning up wind debris.

In between those two blazes, fire fighters were called to several small grass fires and rushed out to Interstate 70, where at least three semitrailer rigs had been blown over by an 82-mph gust of wind.

Fire Chief Bob McLemore said the first call came in as the hot south wind was peaking, about 11:13 p.m. Saturday, reporting the hay fire at Timmerman. He said two rigs from the Colby Fire

Department and one from Gem responded to the blaze. Dispatchers had to make a second page to get more manpower and called out county road crew members to take a tanker.

"We were short of help because a lot of the volunteers probably had left town for the weekend," the chief said.

When they arrived at the feed lot, he added, firemen were first concerned with keeping the blaze from damaging any of the structures as the hurricane-force gusts whipped burning hay through the lot and across the highway. The buildings included an occupied horse barn.

Later, the wind died down and firemen concentrated on the night-long task of digging into the hay stack, spreading out the burning

See "FIRES," Page 2

## Hurricane-force winds damage Colby, county

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A storm with hurricane-force winds hit Colby along with most of western Kansas and eastern Colorado on Saturday, causing extensive damage in many areas, including Colby and Thomas County.

The wind pushed semitrailer rigs over on Interstate 70, damaged roofs and trees in town and whipped flames through a haystack at a feed yard east of town. Damage at Colby's new aquatic park forced the pool to close for two days.

Jeremy Martin, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Goodland, said the peak wind speed measured in Colby was 82 mph at 11 p.m. He said there were lots of 60s and 70s measured that

night in other Kansas towns.

The K-State Northwest Research and Extension Center recorded 266 miles of wind on Saturday, measured by miles per day.

Martin said power outages were reported to the weather service in Thomas, Sherman and Logan counties, and several areas were without power for a few hours.

Colby City Manager Carolyn Armstrong reported that the power outages had been handled and everything was online as of Tuesday, except where power hookups to individual houses were involved. When those issues have been resolved, she said, the city can restore power to those homes.

Armstrong said the hardest hit area of Colby was the city's new pool and its facilities. Several imitation palm trees were broken, silt fouled the water and chairs were thrown into the pool. Swimming

was canceled both Sunday and Monday due to the cleanup, but the pool was reopened on Tuesday.

She said several city vehicles suffered broken windows in the storm.

City crews are working to clean up tree limbs and small trees blown down in the storm, she said. The chipper can only accommodate branches up to a six-inch limb or trunk, and residents are asked to make other arrangements for any trees or limbs over that size.

The weather service received many reports of wind damage, semi rollovers, fires and more in Thomas County, with several of the reports coming from Colby.

Between about 10 and 11 p.m. Saturday, zero visibility and blowing dust were reported in Colby by

See "DAMAGE," Page 2



MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Head lifeguard Nick Larmer (left) and lifeguard John Faber talked about the work left to do just hours before the pool reopened Tuesday afternoon following Saturday's windstorm that left a heavy layer of mud in the water and several of the decorative palm trees snapped off.

## Veterans honored



MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Auxiliary Honor guard members Rosalee Seemann (left), Tammy Goldsworth and Louise Dougherty escorted Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary President Anita Thiel Monday as she

carried a wreath to lay before the veteran's memorial at Beulah Cemetery.

## County decides to bid out metal jobs

The Thomas County commissioners heard from a scrap-metal buyer in response to comments made by the commissioners and Landfill Supervisor Larry Jumper during the May 14 meeting which had been reported in the *Colby Free Press*.

"We have been doing business in the Colby area for 15 years," Pete Bohm said, "and the article published did not make (him or his company) look very flattering. In fact, (it) made us look incompetent."

Pete and Mary Ann Bohm of

Bohm Farm and Ranch, along with Otto Rohla, Pete Stephens and Dalinda Thomasson came to the county meeting May 21. Stephens said he had approached Jumper two years ago about allowing Mr. Bohm to bid for the crushing of metal and stopped in at least twice to visit with Jumper regarding bidding out the crushing at the landfill.

Jumper had said that he didn't want to take bids because B Rose Transportation had done a good

See "COUNTY," Page 2

## Colby man wins cash

While checking his Powerball and Super Kansas Cash tickets at the Colby Dillons store earlier this month, Sherman Van Horn decided to try his luck playing a Kansas Lottery \$20 Tax Free Cash instant scratch game.

Although he didn't win on his Powerball or Super Kansas Cash tickets, the Colby resident did win a "Tax Free Cash" top prize worth \$142,860.

"When I was checking my tickets, I asked the gal behind the counter what number the game

was on," Van Horn said. "She said the game was on ticket number 12 and I thought that sounded like a good number..."

The Colby resident revealed five identical symbols in a row on Game Five, winning the \$142,860 top prize. The \$20 Tax Free Cash instant scratch game offers players a chance to win up to 26 times on 10 games.

