

# FREE PRESS

#### Friday

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## Parade, closings honor vets

Colby residents will mark Vetthrough downtown and a ceremony afterwards at the memo- St. rial in front of the Thomas County

The parade will start at 4 p.m. Monday at Fike Park, head down Franklin Avenue, then turn east on Third Street, going up to the courthouse. A bus will pick up any the parade at 3:30 from the American Legion Hall.

A National Guard unit will lead the parade, and veterans will follow on a float. The parade will conclude with a ceremony at the courthouse. Jody Tubbs, a service representative with the Kansas Veterans Affairs Commission, will speak, and Legion Adjutant Jim Vap will be master of ceremo-

After the event, lunch will be eran Day with a parade Monday served for veterans and guests at the Legion Hall, 1850 W. Fourth

Several businesses and most government offices will be closed Monday. Closings include state, county, city and federal offices, the District Court, the Kansas State University Research and Extension Center, all post offices veterans who would like to ride in and U.S. Department of Agriculture offices. The Thomas County landfill will be closed, as will the county office complex on Range Avenue. The driver's license office is never open on Monday.

All banks will be closed except for the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank branch at Dillon's, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. only. Most other businesses, area schools and Colby Community College will be open.

### Fall harvest below average

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press sdieter@nwkansas.com

fall, yielding lower harvest levels harvest for this time of year. than average.

Kansas Agricultural Statistics reported at the start of this week here are below normal. that 87 percent of the corn in the state had been harvested, and mature sorghum was 67 percent har- See "HARVEST," Page 2

vested. Soybeans were 81 percent harvested, and sunflowers that turned brown were 96 percent harvested. Each of these numbers was Most corn and milo in Thomas behind what had been harvested County has been harvested for the last year, but ahead of the average

Local people in the farming business agreed that the yields

"It's way less than an average

#### Major typhoon hits Philippines

By Oliver Teves

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) record slammed into the central Philippines today, killing at least four people, forcing hundreds of thousands from their homes and knocking out power and communications in several provinces. But the nation appeared to avoid a major disaster because the rapidly moving typhoon blew away before wreaking more damage, officials said.

Typhoon Haiyan raced across a string of islands from east to west Samar, Leyte, Cebu and Panay - and lashed beach communities. Nearly 750,000 people were forced to flee their homes.

Weather officials said Haiyan had sustained winds of 147 mph with gusts of 170 mph when it made landfall. That makes it the world's strongest typhoon this year, said Aldczar Aurelio of the government's weather bureau.

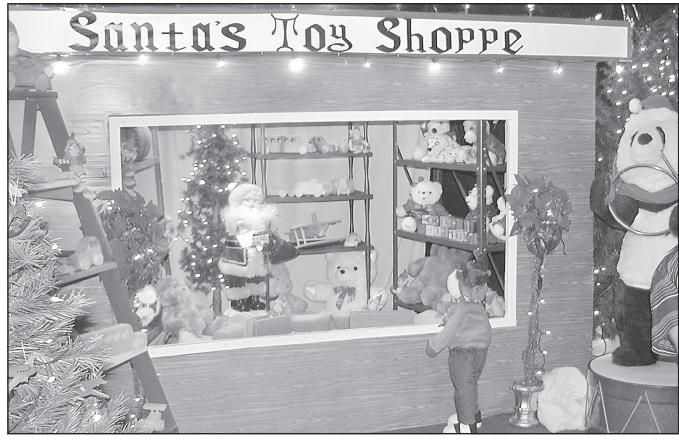
Because of cut-off communications, it was impossible to know the full extent of casualties and damage. At least two people were electrocuted in storm-related accidents, one person was killed by a fallen tree and another was struck by lightning, official reports said.

Southern Leyte Gov. Roger Mercado said the typhoon triggered landslides that blocked roads, uprooted trees and ripped roofs off houses around his resi-

The dense clouds and heavy rains made the day seem almost as dark as night, he said.

"When you're faced with such One of the strongest storms on a scenario, you can only pray, and pray and pray," Mercado told the Associated Press by telephone, adding that mayors in the province had not called in to report any major damage.

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### Get set Christmas

SAM DIETER and HEATHER ALWIN/Colby Free Press It seems early, but preparations are underway in Colby for the Christmas season. Santa's Toy Shoppe (top) will open for business just after Thanksgiving as the featured attraction at Santa City this year. Mayor Gary Adrian and Leilani Thomas (center left) set the table for a tea party Monday as they put the finishing touches on Santa City, and Lottie McLemore (left) fixed up the peppermint hut. City crews did their part Tuesday to get Colby in the holiday spirit (above), putting up banners on street lights.



#### A group of local performers will meier, Jay Stewart and Friends, thank our military veterans with Perry and Terry Baird and Prairie music again this year with a gospel show.

will start at 2 p.m. at the Frahm Theatre of Colby Community College. The money raised from the show goes to benefit the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival.

be the McLemores, Gary Wiggins, the Jeff Wagoner Family, the Bugbee Sisters, Lisa Schroeder and festival, will given away by draw-Family, Leon Woofter, Pat Ziegel- ing at the show.

Rose Harmony.

Susan McLemore, who helps

The Hometown Gospel Show organize the show, said military veterans with either their military identification, a uniform, military hat or medals will get into the show free. Kids under 12 will also be admitted free if they are with The performers at the show will an adult. Tickets for other guests are \$10. A quilt made by Carla McCoy, which she donated to the



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press Last year's Hometown Gospel Show ended with a grand finale when all the show's performers took the stage. Catch this year's show Sunday at Colby Community College