



COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Friday

November 8, 2013
Volume 124, Number 176
Serving Thomas County since 1888

10 pages

Parade, closings honor vets

Colby residents will mark Veteran Day with a parade Monday through downtown and a ceremony afterwards at the memorial in front of the Thomas County Courthouse.

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 veterans who would like to ride in 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 ceremonies.

After the event, lunch will be served for veterans and guests at the Legion Hall, 1850 W. Fourth St.

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 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@nwks.com

Most corn and milo in Thomas County has been harvested for the fall, yielding lower harvest levels than average.

Kansas Agricultural Statistics reported at the start of this week that 87 percent of the corn in the state had been harvested, and mature sorghum was 67 percent har-

vested. Soybeans were 81 percent harvested, and sunflowers that turned brown were 96 percent harvested. Each of these numbers was behind what had been harvested last year, but ahead of the average harvest for this time of year.

Local people in the farming business agreed that the yields here are below normal.

"It's way less than an average

See "HARVEST," Page 2

Major typhoon hits Philippines

By Oliver Teves
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — One of the strongest storms on 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 Aldazar 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 residence.

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

"When you're faced with such 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.

See "TYPHOON," Page 2



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.



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.

Gospel show to honor vets

A group of local performers will thank our military veterans with music again this year with a gospel show.

The Hometown 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.

The performers at the show will be the McLemores, Gary Wiggins, the Jeff Wagener Family, the Bugbee Sisters, Lisa Schroeder and Family, Leon Woofter, Pat Ziegel-

meier, Jay Stewart and Friends, Perry and Terry Baird and Prairie Rose Harmony.

Susan McLemore, who helps 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 an adult. Tickets for other guests are \$10. A quilt made by Carla McCoy, which she donated to the festival, will given away by drawing at the show.

