

**Weather Corner**



**Clearing with highs near 55**

**Tonight** — Partly cloudy then gradually becoming clear with a low around 19. West wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.

**Tuesday** — Sunny with a high around 55. West wind between 5 to 10 mph.

**Tuesday night** — Mostly clear with a low near 29. South wind between 5 to 10 mph.

**Wednesday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 63. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Wednesday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 26.

**Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high around 53.

**Temperatures**

Sunday's high, 60

Low this morning, 26

Records for this date, 78 in 1946, 2 in 1951

Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00

March's precipitation, 0.00

A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

**Briefly**

**School board meets today**

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. tonight in the board room of the Administration Building. Items on the agenda include approval of the agenda and consent agenda; a curriculum presentation; reports from the principals, curriculum director and superintendent; discussion on republishing the 2005-2006 budget; emergency substitute license; student application to attend Northwest Kansas Technical College and personnel issues, if needed. The meeting is open to the public.

**College board meets Thursday**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Colby Community College will be held at 5 p.m., Thursday in the board room of Thomas Hall. Items of business on the agenda include the audit; discussion about Wellness Center and policy change, along with approval of agreements, resignations and employment contracts; consideration of administrative contracts; and employment contracts. The board will also discuss negotiations, interviewing process and the Norton meeting. The president, deans, and trustees will also have reports.

**Youth center meeting today**

The next meeting for the proposed youth center in Colby will be 7 p.m., today, at Pioneer Memorial Library. Todd Stramel, who is organizing the effort, said the meeting will be for people interested in serving on an executive board. Those who would like to serve on the executive board, are asked to contact Stramel as soon as possible. Those who agree to serve on the executive board will need to be actively and intensely involved, as this undertaking will take a lot of work and plan on moving fairly rapidly with weekly meetings and tasks.

**Memory Walk planned April 1**

The Alzheimer's Association in the nine-county area is sponsoring a Memory Walk starting at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 1, at Fike Park in Colby. The counties involved include Thomas, Rawlins, Logan, Cheyenne, Sherman, Sheridan, Decatur, Wallace and Gove. Residents in these counties are encouraged to take part in this fundraising event, said Rhonda Riedel, with the association. The walk, she said, raises not only money, but awareness about the disease and is the largest national fundraising event for support programs. To reg-

ister or with questions, call Riedel at (785) 673-3149 or visit: colbywalk.kintera.org

**Military support group to meet**

The Northwest Kansas Military Family Support Group will meet at 2 p.m., Saturday, at Montana Mike's in Colby. Anyone who has a family member or friend in any branch of the Armed Forces, activated or not, or anyone who would like to be involved in the support group is encouraged to attend. For questions, call Melanie Fortin, 460-2995, or Lisa Varney, 890-6939.

**'Bowl for Kids Sake' needs teams**

The Big Brothers Big Sisters organization in Thomas County is having its annual "Bowl For Kids Sake" on Saturday and Sunday, April 1-2, at Colby Bowl, said Donna Jennings, board member. Many people can be involved in this event by forming teams and recruiting team members, she said. Many of the "littles" also bowl and help raise money for the group. "It is a celebration and fundraiser, and we welcome anyone who wants to form a team or bowl on an established team." To register a team, call (785) 460-9125.

**Goodland's Energy Resources gets air permit**

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Smiles and some cheering could be heard in the offices of Goodland Energy Resources when they heard the air permit for the coal fired power plant has been signed and approved.

"It is nice to know it has been signed," said Ron Pickman, head of Goodland Energy Resources, last week. "We are excited and pleased the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has signed the permit."

Pickman said that as soon as they have the original in hand they can begin moving forward.

"I think there are a lot of smiles around there with this news," he said. "This is good for us, and for the community."

Word that the permit had been signed was received by phone from Sharon Watson, communications director for the state Department of Health and Environment Thursday morning.

"The air permit for the Goodland

**"I think there are a lot of smiles around there with this news. This is good for us, and for the community."**

Ron Pickman,

head of Goodland Energy Resources

Energy Resources power plant has been approved," she said.

"With this the company can begin construction, and the permit sets out the emission specifications the new plant will have to meet."

Dana Morris, professional environment engineer from the air permit division, said he completed review at the end of February of the results of the hearing held in Goodland on Feb. 8, and had forwarded the document to the department head with his recommendation for approval.

Watson said the permit says construction of the power plant must be started within the next 18 months or

Goodland Energy Resources would have to start the permit process again.

Pickman said they have been doing some site work, but with the permit approved they can begin the real work.

He said the first thing to be done will be the foundation for the turbine boiler, and he expects to finalize the plans and approve a contract next week. He said the work on the foundation should begin within the month or the first of next month.

"People won't see much above ground until all the concrete is poured and cured," he said. "But that won't stop us from getting ev-

erything ready to go. Then we can begin the real work of building the plant." The plant will primarily burn coal, but the permit allows them to substitute up to 30 percent with sunflower hulls. Pickman said the sunflower hulls can come from the Archer Daniels Midland plant located at Caruso, or from another source.

Once the plant has been assembled and they are ready to fire up the boiler and turbine generator the state will have to be notified. Once the plant is fired up there are a series of tests and requirements that have to be met within 60-90 days to get the certificate of operation from the state health department.

Pickman said this was good timing, and that the construction of the energy center should be at full speed by the beginning of summer.

Mark Justus, head of ReNewable Energy Resources, said once the construction begins on the power plant it will take about a year to complete.

He said it will take a crew of about

210 to assemble the power plant using three shifts around the clock.

While many of the construction workers will be skilled in specific areas Justus expects about half to come from the surrounding area. He said the boiler workers will be coming from overseas.

"There are a lot of people here who travel for construction," Justus said.

"I was surprised at how many are here and we may have as many as 100 from the local area."

Pickman, as the former city manager, was involved in the early discussions on the joint road improvement project and using a sales tax to pay for the streets and roads. The special sales tax election will be held Tuesday, March 28.

"This is one time I wish I could still vote here," he said. "With all the construction of our plants and the highways there will be lots of people here to help pay the sales tax. I am pleased to see the city and county moving ahead with the sales tax to rebuild the roads."

**Police continue search for armed robber in Sherman County**

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

An unlucky robber attempted to hold up the Comfort Inn on K-27 about 6:40 a.m. Sunday, but left empty handed.

Officer Greg Kroskey said he got to the motel a few minutes after the robber left, and put out an alert for a full-sized blue van with green tags headed west on Interstate 70.

Police Chief Ray Smee said a state trooper west of Goodland did not see the van.

"He came in twice," Kroskey

said. "The first time he asked the clerk, Tammy Randall, for a room and asked where he was. She told him they were full and showed him where he was on a map."

"He left and came back in and asked for a cup of coffee."

She showed him the breakfast area, and when he came back he lifted up his shirt to show her the gun and said "Give me your money."

"She told him 'I don't have any, I made the drop already,' and showed him the empty cash drawer."

"He told her, 'Best not call the cops, I didn't done anything,' and

left. "She watched him drive off and head up the Interstate and called 911."

Smee said the clerk described the man as white, 5 foot, 4 inches tall, weighing 125-150 pounds, with short-cropped black hair and a black goatee.

He has a tattoo behind his left ear and was wearing a gray sweatshirt and jeans.

"She was very nervous when we got there," Kroskey said, "but she calmed down and gave us a perfect description. She did very well."

"She said he showed her a re-

volver-type gun," Smee said, "but he didn't pull it out."

"We put an alert out statewide and in Colorado."

The motel clerk saw the van head west on I-70, but he could have turned around or taken another road."

Smee said it was somewhat unusual for a robber to hit a motel because most of their income is from credit cards. He said a night deposit had been made.

"I don't know what made him think the motel was a good place," Smee said. "It could be the gas sta-

tions were busy and he didn't want to take a chance at robbing those."

"Whatever it was, he shook up the clerk, but didn't get anything."

Kroskey said when he and other officers arrived, the two convenience stores were crowded, and officers checked to see if the clerks at those places had seen anything. They didn't, he said.

"I asked the motel manager, Judy Siruta, about the amount of cash,"

Kroskey said, "and she said nearly 90 to 95 percent of their daily income is credit cards and a few travelers checks."

"Randall gave us a great description, and we think he must have turned off I-70 and headed north or south."

Kroskey said the trooper, who was on a traffic stop four miles from the Colorado line, never saw the van.

**New duck calling club carries on tradition**

RUSSELL (AP) — The junior world champion of duck calling is doing all he was asked to do to help others learn the craft.

Brady Stoppel, who won the championship last year, returns to coach Ken Walizer's home every week and helps others who might one day take his crown from him.

The Russell duck-calling club, which has yet to be named, started about a year ago. After Brady won the junior world championship, everyone started noticing the club, Walizer said.

As many as 22 children, both boys and girls, who want to be duck callers meet in the Walizers' basement on Wednesday.

The basement is full of evidence of Walizer's love of duck-hunting, with duck and goose mounts adorning the walls.

When the calling begins, the exchanges vary, short little staccato bursts tucked in between calls, all designed to someday entice ducks to land near hunters.

Payton Stoppel, a 10-year-old

fifth-grader at Bickerdyke Grade School in Russell, is among the girls in the calling club.

Payton, who been calling now for about two years, said she wants to someday compete in a duck-calling contest, but she's not so sure about going duck hunting.

Some of the 8 or 9 year olds are pretty good, he said but he isn't ready to rush into contests.

"We have probably as high as six that are pretty good for their age," Walizer said.

He said if the kids are good enough, he might enter them in the world championship contest in Stuttgart, Ark., but he doesn't want to rush into anything.

Although Walizer enjoys going to the contests and gladly spends time to coach the callers, he's quick to say he's not a competition caller, although he's been duck-hunting for 38 years.

He said Brady does different calls for ducks and the competitions, which is called calling judges.

"He's getting pretty good at call-

ing ducks," Walizer said.

"He's gotten darn good at calling judges."

Brady said the two types of calls have the same sound, but his feeding call is a little louder.

For Ken Walizer and his wife,

Beth, it's a labor of love to host the calling club. They do not charge the club members.

"We enjoy doing it," Ken Walizer said.

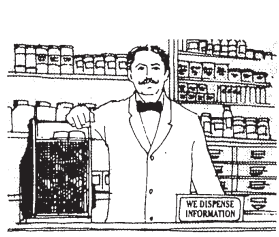
"As long as they keep coming, we'll keep having it."



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**SAT: BBQ Buffet**

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**Surplus Property Sale**

Friday ~ March 17, 2006  
CCC Student Union ~ 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Items to be sold include tables, sofas, chairs, exercise equipment, desks, computer stands, desk stands, tractor used at CCC farm, bale elevator, water purifier, wood cabinets, power rake, projection device, cement picnic form, shop lights, mower, vacuums, chain saws, phonograph records, laser disc players, 15" color monitors, Ricoh laser printers, HP laserjet printers, computer cases, Microline Turbo Printers, Compaq Armada Laptop PI, Premio PII computers (up to 350 Mhz, 64 MB Ram, NIC, 8 MB video, Floppy drive, 8X CD). Computers do not include software. All items sold as is without warranty, expressed or implied.



**FREE Colorectal Screening**

March 9th - March 31

*Must be 50 or older or at a high risk of Colon Cancer.*

For more information contact:  
**Hoxie Medical Clinic**  
at 826 18th St. or call 785-675-3018

Wednesday's at the  
**Selden Community Clinic**  
106 N. Illinois or call 785-386-4380