

Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.

Saturday: Much colder. Partly sunny in the morning...then mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light snow in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 30s. North winds 10 to 20 mph. Gusts up to 30 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Colder. Scattered flurries in the evening. Lows around 10. North winds 15 to 20 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly sunny. Highs in the upper 20s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows around 13.

Monday: Mostly sunny. Not as cold. Highs in the lower 40s.

Monday Night And Tuesday: Mostly cloudy. Lows around 20. Highs in the mid 40s.

Tuesday Night Through Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows around 20. Highs in the lower 50s.

Thursday: Sunny. Highs in the mid 50s.

Fire station, waste water plant add to city growth

From "YEAR," Page 1

lishments in town include El Dos de Oros, a Mexican restaurant at the Quality Inn on Range Avenue; Bamboo Gardens, a Chinese restaurant on west Fourth Street; a new building for Subway on Range Ave.; and coming soon, a new barbecue on Range.

4The City of Colby began construction on a new \$2.5 million fire station on 7.2 acres on County Club Drive between the Hi Plains Co-op self-fuel station and a state office building. At year-end, the station was near completion. It replaced facilities downtown which had to be abandoned when the roof caved in under the weight of a heavy snowfall two years ago. Since then, the fire department has worked out of the National Guard armory on Range.

5A new \$8.1 million wastewater treatment plant east of town replaced one built in the 1930s. Every pump, motor, blower, skimmer, pipe and flow in the new facility can be controlled electronically. When something isn't right, the computer reports what and where to the city and can even track down lead operator Chad Applebury on his cell phone.

6Brewster Schools students and teachers went to a four-day a week schedule in August which changed the district's school hours from 8:20 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The move was designed to cut costs, especially transportation expenses. Brewster joined Cheyenne in Bird City, Tri-Plains in Winona, Weskan and Healy schools in holding classes four days a week.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Jess Randall, a Colby Community College information specialist, walked past an e-waste pile collected on the first day the area electronics recycling center was open at 1190 S. Country Club Drive. Computers, printers and copiers were being packaged for shipping to a final recycler.

7The weather always keeps Kansans guessing, and 2008 was no exception. From heavy snowfalls in February to 55 mph winds in April, Mother Nature kept Thomas County citizens running for cover. In May, tornadoes destroyed 30 homes in nearby Sheridan and Gove counties and hail and high winds damaged roofs all over northwest Kansas. In December, numbing cold, ice and snow caused wrecks across the area, especially on I-70 near Colby.

8In November, the Colby School board fired high school Principal Rocky Robbins for "unprofessional conduct, including engaging in acts of moral turpitude...conduct unbecoming a school administrator including dishonesty with superintendent and board."

Former Principal Donald E. Krebs was hired to take over the job of running the high school. About the same time, the school board decided to leave the venerable North-

west Kansas League and join a new league with larger schools, including several in southwest Kansas.

With enrollment slipping in smaller districts, including Atwood, St. Francis, Oberlin, Hoxie, Oakley

and Quinter, the Colby schools hope to join with Goodland, Scott City, Ulysses, Holcomb and Hugoton to offer students more activities.

9An electronic waste recycling center opened at 1190 S. Country Club Drive in Colby in December and began accepting everything from over-the-hill televisions to outdated computers. The center is part of an eight-county project to keep toxic substances from electronic devices out of landfills. The center, which is run by the northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization, is financed with a grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Households, government offices and schools can use the facility for free, but business must pay by the piece. The project includes Cheyenne Rawlins, Decatur, Thomas, Sheridan, Logan, Gove and Scott counties.

10Truck drivers from Colby, Hoxie, Park, Oakley, Hill City, Leoti, Scott City and Brewster brought their rigs to town for the 2008 World's Largest Truck Convoy to benefit Kansas Special Olympics in mid September. The trucks started at Mitten's Truck Stop east of Oakley and rolled into Colby on I-70, then up K-25 on Range Avenue to County Club Drive then south to College Drive and back around to Country Club across the freeway to Truck Town on Horton Avenue.

Commissioners get an update on wind farm

From "COUNTY," Page 1

plaints. Bell said he was doing the best he could with the size of the building.

- Got an update from Peter Kennon, a project developer with ACCIONA, on the proposed Solomon Parks Wind farm, which is coming to the county.

Kennon gave a presentation showing the progress the company has made. The committee invited Kennon to return with future updates in January.

- Approved the resignation of

Brewster Kellog, district coroner, effective Thursday and the appointment of Dr. Darren Matchell to fulfill the remaining two years of Kellogg's tenure.

- Talked with Fair Board member Clair Schrock about adding a concrete slab to the commercial building at the fair ground. The building has recreational vehicles and other items stored in it during the winter, he said

- Named Jeannie Schroeder to a four-year term as the Rovohl Township treasurer effective Monday, Jan. 12.

- Heard from Commissioner Byron Sowers about the last energy development meeting he attended with Dan Hartman, economic development director for Logan County. The meeting revolved around three wind-energy companies possibly coming to northwest Kansas, said Sowers. He said Logan County wanted letters supporting the idea. The commissioners agreed to attend the next meeting in January before deciding whether or not to support the project, said Harms.

- Approved a family planning contract for 2009 between the Lo-

gan and Thomas county health departments. The contract covers grant money and objectives from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, said Harms.

Rawlins and Logan counties do not have enough people to get their own grant, so they joined with Thomas County, said Kasiah Rothchild, financial administrator for the Thomas County Health Department. The program provides women with yearly pap smears, contraceptives and counseling, she said, with the costs on a sliding fee scale, based on income.

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LOW0408

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