

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 54. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24. East wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 20.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50.
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22.
Friday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 38.
Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 18.
Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 39.
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17.
Sunday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 36.
 Friday: High, 76; Low 28
 Saturday: High, 60; Low 28
 Sunday: High, 51; Low 31
 Precip: Friday 0.00 inches
 Saturday 0.00 inches
 Sunday 0.31 inches
 Month: 0.31 inches
 Year: 0.46 inches
 Normal: 0.97 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)

Rexford News

The City Council will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday. At last month's meeting, the council talked about properties that need to be condemned. There are several vacant properties with overgrown vegetation (a fire hazard) and abandoned houses (rodent infestation) that need attention.

The three open positions on the school board for Golden Plains have drawn a lot of interest. Ten people filed for the positions, so a primary election will be held on Tuesday, March 3, to reduce the field to nine. All registered voters in the school district received a letter and advanced mail ballot application from Shelly Harms, Thomas County Clerk and Election Officer, giving the times and places for voting.

The letter read, "For the 2009 ... Primary Elections, your polling place will be located at the Thomas County Courthouse in the county clerk's office.... Advanced voting will be from Feb. 18 to noon March 2.... Satellite Voting will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, at the Red Barn Senior Center. The advanced mail ballot application needs to reach the County Clerk's Office by Feb. 27."

Sympathy and condolences are extended to the family of Lois (Jim) Jones, whose mother, Frances Turrel, passed away last week; services were last Tuesday at the Rexford Community Church. Also, condolences are extended to the family of Marguerite Black on the passing of her husband, Andy; the funeral was Saturday.

Sondra Barnett and Cleda Moeder had lunch with Hulda Wark in the Sheridan County Long-Term Care Center to help her celebrate her birthday on Feb. 3.

Golden Plains School activities for the week:

Tuesday: High school basketball at Hill City, 5 p.m. No junior varsity girls game.

Wednesday: A high school gifted and talented seminar will be held at Northwest Kansas Educa-

tional Service Center. Linda Garrett is facilitator.

Thursday: The high school Bulldogs play Heartland Christian at Colby. Games start at 6 p.m. with junior varsity girls, varsity girls, and boys.

Friday: Colby Community College Sunflower Singers will be performing at 10 a.m. The public is invited. High school basketball at Weskan, 5 p.m. No junior varsity girls game.

Red Barn happenings:

Monday, blood pressure clinic. If you're interested in pinochle, Barnswallows meet on Mondays and Come on Down meets on Thursdays. Both events are in the afternoons, from 1-5 p.m.

Wednesday mornings at 10, ladies Bible study.

Fridays at 9:30, Koffe Klatch.

Saturday evening, Valentine's Day, the monthly Bingo will be played at 7 p.m.

The Red Barn Gang will be back to practicing on the second and fourth Fridays, which will be Feb. 13 and 27, at 1:30 p.m.

Do you have any Rexford news? Call me at 687-2525.



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

John Dehn talked about the new internet directory and search engine site available at NWKansasOnline.com.

Big program aims to help merchants

From "INTERNET," Page 1

to broaden sales opportunities for area businesses.

He has built a web-based business directory for area businesses and plans to install a new Internet search engine that will be unique to this area. Together, he said, the two will equip every business here to be able to compete for online sales in the world market.

It is the newest and latest technology in marketing, he said, and can be done for a minimal cost. Businesses can have pictures and information in their listings, live links to other pages, even a full website with its own unique name — all for minimal costs.

"History tells us that we lose our market advantage when we don't keep up with change," he said. "Think back to when the competition was just across the street ... then to when it was a few easy and quick miles down the road.

"Now, in the new market, it is only a click away on the computer. For survival in today's market, business must take advantage of available technology to retain current customers and attract new

ones." A huge percentage of consumers shop online, he said, and that percentage is growing. Technology empowers a business to order the products a customer needs, and still give the assurance of shopping through a local business.

The web site www.NWKansasOnline.com already lists all the businesses in northwest Kansas, he said, and he's waiting for the search engine to be completed.

While the list is as complete as research could make it, he added, business owners should visit the site at www.NWKansasOnline.com to make sure their business is listed.

After you visit the site, he said, you can call him at 462-3963 to optimize your listing and add items for sale.

Business owners interested in getting key words in the new search engine should call, too, he said. This is the time to call to secure their key words.

For example, he said, if you have a furniture store and your key word is "furniture," it can be locked in and given a priority spot among other businesses that

may be selling furniture. When the word "furniture" is typed in, that business' name will come up along with other items the store has available. Local key word searches can be purchased for as little as \$100 per search word, Mr. Dehn said. A business' name and products can be listed for as little as \$4 per week.

Businesses can secure a key word spot now and hold it for when the search engine launches in the next few months.

Mr. Dehn said he plans to give classes on how to get set up on the web and operate business listings and how the search engine will be an advantage for area business.

Businesses owners can take part in the sessions to learn how to operate online, he said. The search engine will be promoted before it is launched, he said, just as the business directory is already being promoted in all six Northwest Newspapers every week.

This is brand new to this area, he said. It offers the power of print, the power of the Internet and the power of a search engine for the northwest Kansas community.

The directory is available right

now, he said. The search engine key words should be decided soon and will be available over the next two to three months. Businesses that act now to reserve their key words will have a huge advantage over all their competitors, he said.

For information or questions, call Dehn at (785) 462-3963 or 462-1149.

Ag meeting starts Thursday

MANHATTAN — The early registration deadline for the 2009 Women Managing the Farm Conference is today.

The Thursday-Saturday conference will be in Hutchinson.

The event provides opportunities for women in agribusiness to

come together.

The conference registration fee is \$125, after today.

Those interested in attending can register by visiting the conference Web site at www.women-managingthefarm.info or calling 1-866-FARMKSU (327-6578).

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