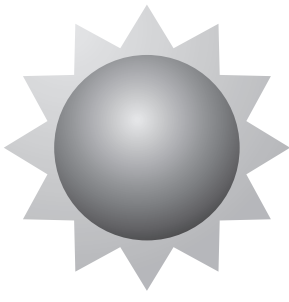


Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 30. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 33. East wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Friday: Rain likely before 1 p.m., then snow likely. Areas of blowing snow after 1 p.m. Cloudy, with a high near 38. Breezy, with a north wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

Friday Night: Snow likely and areas of blowing snow before 1 a.m., then a chance of snow after 1 a.m. Cloudy and blustery, with a low around 20. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of snow before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, high near 31.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 44.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 24.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 30.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.

Monday: High, 50; Low 22
 Tuesday: High, 62; Low 20
 Precip: Monday 0.00 inches
 Tuesday 0.00 inches
 Month: 1.35 inches
 Year: 2.22 inches
 Normal: 1.20 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
 Thursday 7:51 a.m. 7:54 p.m.
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

More companies show interest in green heat for courthouse

From "HEAT," Page 1

firm. No actual figures have been worked up so far. The commissioners noted that old rusted pipes delivering heat to parts of the courthouse could be a problem. County Clerk Shelly Harms showed them a cup with material filtered from the drinking fountain on the second floor. It included flakes from rusted and deteriorating steel pipe. Harms said the water at the fountain has to be filtered three times before it is clear and free of flakes of rust. There seems to be no record of the age of the pipes whether they are original or if they had been replaced since the courthouse was built in 1906.

Commissioners Ken Christiansen, Steele and Sow-

ers met later with Briney of C and B Heating to tour the Oasis Travel Center to see how the geothermal system in use for there the past several years works.

In other business, commissioners:
 • Approved buying a copier for the county Health Department for \$6,800, and approved a grant application for \$51,800 for family planning, maternity and infant care and an immunization action plan.

• Read a letter from the state Department of Health and Environment saying that Jeff Harsh had a March 1 deadline to confirm the clean up of his property north of Oakley, but has not responded.

• Signed a contact between the Fair Board and the college rodeo program to use the fairgrounds this fall.

Governor names secretary of state

From "STATE," Page 1

tion, knowing there is an election coming up. He said his experience makes him a good fit. As a county attorney, he noted, he prosecuted a voter fraud case. Kansas as a whole, he said, doesn't have as much of a problem with voter fraud as it does voter apathy, but

he is most concerned with maintaining fair elections.

"I have no other agenda than to serve the people of the state of Kansas," he said.

The secretary of state oversees all national and state elections in Kansas. The office maintains records of campaign finances, candidates, lobbyists and election sta-

tics. All new corporations have to file with the department, and the secretary appoints notaries public. The department also oversees the Safe at Home program, which provides substitute addresses for victims of sexual or domestic violence.

Whooping crane fights for life as species struggles to recover

By John McFarland

Associated Press Writer

ARANSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Texas (AP) — After the poisonous snake slithered into the whooping crane family's marshy grounds and sank its fangs into the chick's neck, death seemed certain.

The bird's head quickly turned red and swelled to the size of a basketball. He refused to eat for days and was too weak to even stand. Somehow, though, he survived.

And now the bird — dubbed Scarbaby — is a healthy adult whose resilience offers a speck of hope for the endangered species. Just a year after a record number of cranes died in their south Texas wintering grounds, wildlife managers embrace even the smallest successes.

"To me, it symbolizes the fight to survive," said Tom Stehn, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist who's studied the birds for

nearly 30 years. "They're pretty tough."

There are only about 400 wild whooping cranes in the world, and biologists had feared that number would drop further this winter after last year's record 23 deaths. Even though the birds fared better than expected — only one died this winter — the cranes face many obstacles to survive as a species.

They've got a 2,500-mile migration back to Canada later this month, food and water shortages could take their toll, and then there's the usual hazards of deadly power lines and encroaching development. Last year, 34 cranes died after spring.

"We don't really know how strong they are, how much body fat they have and how they'll do on the migration north," said Ron Outen, director of a conservation group, the Aransas Project.

Scarbaby's flock of 264 birds is the world's only group of naturally migrating whooping cranes.

The cranes — the tallest birds

in North America at about 5½ feet — have made a remarkable comeback from just 15 birds in 1941, yet experts fear disaster ahead.

In Texas, one of the biggest concerns is the prospect of more drought. Last season's brutally dry conditions left cranes without enough crabs for food or water.

The Aransas Project sued the state over the 23 crane deaths. The group alleges Texas allows too

much water to be drawn from rivers, which could lead to recurring drought and more bird deaths.

Stehn says if the waterways aren't viable, the flock will die.

A similarly bleak outlook was predicted for Scarbaby in 2005, when the snake bit him.

Tommy Moore, a birding tour boat captain who saw the drama unfold, remembers watching the bird collapse again and again into

the shallow water. Biologists were so worried about Scarbaby, Stehn formed a team to check on him.

Soon, Scarbaby was nibbling on crab chunks and even caught one.

Aside from a small scar on his neck, Scarbaby looked perfectly healthy one recent afternoon. He posed and preened for a packed tour boat before flying overhead to bird lovers' "oohs," "aahs" and clicking cameras.

History project needs your story

From "STORY," Page 1

County Chamber of Commerce, Senior Progress Center, the Red Barn Senior Center in Rexford, the Brewster Senior Center and from John and Margie Flanagan in Gem.

All entries need to be submitted to these locations by Monday, Aug. 9.

Committee member Ann Miner, who is heading the project, wrote an example essay, detailing her move west in the 1980s and her family's failed homestead in Kansas in the 1870s. She also included her husband Rob's history in Thomas County. His

great-grandmother settled on the southern border in the late 1800s.

The essays aren't limited to individuals or families. Businesses and organizations can also submit one. Miner said she provided another example detailing the history of the Thomas County Historical Society from its formation in 1959 to its work on the High Plains Journeys exhibit now on display at the museum.

This isn't the first effort to record the history of Thomas County's citizens. The historical society put out a call for people's stories for the nation's bicentennial, publishing them as a book in 1979.

ATTENTION...

Colby High School, Brewster High School, Golden Plains High School and Heartland Christian School

Senior Parents & HOMESCHOOLERS



Hurry in parents!!

Deadline is April 26, 2010!!!

The Colby Free Press is now planning the Senior Graduation Tab and will be giving parents a chance to put a baby picture in along with a short message from the family for a small fee.

We will automatically feature your student's picture and information, but this will be your chance to put in a baby picture to show how much your senior has really changed over the years!

Call Andrea, Heather or Shaly @ 462-3963 for more information or stop by the office at 155 W. 5th in Colby.

WHITNEY COLETTE ADAMS



I plan to attend Colby Community College and play softball
 PARENTS:
 Richard & Peggy Adams

It's been a real hoot, Whitney get em girl, and Godspeed.
 Love, Mom & Dad

We're Back!

With new carpet, paint and vinyl, we're finally back in our front office and conference room. Thanks to our landlords, Sara and Travis Oliver, for making full repairs to our building after the flooding. We invite all our friends and customers to stop by and see our new look.

Our customers are always our No. 1 priority at *The Colby Free Press*. We appreciate your patience, having to come find us while we've been crammed into the back room. And we're happy to be back in our usual places. Stop and by see us today!



COLBY
FREE PRESS

Office hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday to Friday.

155 W. Fifth St. • (785) 462-3963



COLBY
FREE PRESS