

Weather

Fires blaze after storm slams Colby

Briefly

From "FIRES," Page 1

bales and wetting down the embers. McLemore said fire rigs carry a wetting agent to allow water to soak into the hay, but not nearly enough of it for the size of pile the men faced.

"You really just need to get in there with a front-end loader," he said.

While crews were on their way to Halford, they reported several cars off the road, including one that apparently hit a power pole. No injuries were reported, however.

The last rigs did not clear the fire until about 6 a.m., about seven hours after the alarm.

Just after they had left for the feed lot, the chief said, the first call came in at 11:16 p.m. for the rescue squad to go to Interstate 70, where a semi rig reportedly had blown over near mile post

49. Officers reported that no one was hurt, however, and the rig did not go out.

Then, at 12:05 a.m. Sunday, another call came reporting semis blown over with a car involved at mile post 47, near the Levant exit. The rescue squad responded, leaving the fire station unmanned until a volunteer could come in to cover the radios and phones.

Chief McLemore said he rushed to the scene, where he found at least three empty semis strewn across the eastbound lanes. One was leaning against another rig. He said he drove on to the county line to check for more accidents, but found none.

With the trucks blocking the eastbound roadway, he said, state troopers diverted traffic onto old U.S. 24 at Brewster and back onto the freeway at Levant. Eventually, tow trucks were able

to clear the roadway and normal traffic resumed.

The chief said it appeared the driver of the first rig had been moving when it blew over, but at least two rigs were stopped when the wind caught them. One driver thought his rig was going over, looked out and waved the driver of a car to move out of the way.

Sunday, the wind was not as bad, but the department had three calls on minor grass fires, at 11:30 a.m. at Roads 23 and Q, at 12:06 p.m. and K-25 and Road BB and at 1:21 on I-70 near mile post 46.

Monday, a fire was reported at 11:42 p.m., two miles east of Road 29 on Road CC, in the far northeast corner of the county. Gem fire fighters handled that blaze, which damaged an abandoned farmstead.

About 12:56 p.m. Tuesday,

firemen were called out again, this time to 1154 County Road 22, where the landowner was trying to burn up cornstalks blown in by the wind. Clint Goosen said the fire was on a farm owned by his parents, Lynn and Tami Goosen.

He said they noticed some poles that were too close to the flames and moved them, but apparently not before one had begun to smolder. Later, he said, his dad was talking with a neighbor when the friend noticed smoke coming from a windbreak.

Fire crews were glad to see the wind and the calls die down, the chief said, but with harvest nearing, wheat fields are drying up, posing another fire threat. He said he was thankful that Timmerman has a good water supply crews could hook up to.

Hurricane-force winds damage Colby

From "DAMAGE," Page 1

a weather spotter, a semi was blown over six miles west of Colby and several outbuildings were damaged and/or destroyed south of the I-70 rest area west of Colby, according to the service's local storm report log.

At 11 p.m., Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan reported to the service that an apartment building in Colby lost its roof and had possible wall or ceiling collapse. She said there was no report of injuries.

McMahan also said several fires were reported around Colby due to transformer ex-

plosions. All available firefighters and law enforcement officers were out, she said, and strong winds and reduced visibility were hampering recovery efforts.

Other reports in Thomas County included the cave in of a grain silo, two miles of electrical distribution line down, two irrigation pivots flipped, a barn destroyed near Gem and at 11:20 p.m., the eastbound lane of I-70 at the Levant exit, mile marker 45, was closed due to several semi rollovers.

And the severe weather isn't over just yet for northwest Kansas, with more wind and thunderstorms expected here and in the surrounding area over the next two days.

The weather service has issued a hazardous weather outlook for extreme southwest Nebraska, northwest Kansas and east central Colorado. Isolated thunderstorms were expected Tuesday afternoon and evening, with more storms to develop late Tuesday night across the area.

The warning says widespread severe weather is not anticipated, but the strongest storms could produce small hail and gusty winds of up to 50 mph.

Strong to severe thunderstorms will be possible this afternoon and evening across much of northwest Kansas and southwest Nebraska.

County decides to bid out metal crushing jobs

From "COUNTY," Page 1

job. Stephens said he has asked for the last five years of records as to what the county has received from B Rose crushing metal and Jumper has not produced any records.

He asked if B Rose was licensed, and the commissioners said they were not sure. Mr. Bohm said he is not aware of one licensed crusher in the state of Nebraska.

Mrs. Bohm presented phone records over the last eight years showing that she has made several attempts to talk with Jumper in regards to wanting to bid on the crushing of metal at the landfill. Mr. Bohm said that he has been hired to go in and clean up landfills and salvage yards after B Rose Trucking had left the site.

Mr. Bohm said he has hired an investigator to look into B Rose. He said his company does remove refrigerant from appliances and disposes of all material properly and is asking to be allowed to bid on future stockpiles of metal at the Thomas County Landfill.

The commissioners told the guests that all future crushing of metal would go out to bid by publication in the county newspaper (the Colby Free Press) and that the landfill supervisor would also submit notice of the bidding to Bohm Farm and Ranch and other crushing companies via e-mail, phone or fax.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Discussed the current status of the Acciona Wind Energy project with Lars Dorr, senior project development manager with Acciona, over the phone. Dorr said he has been in contact with Colby City Manager Carolyn Armstrong and she has provided him with contact information with an engineering company to gather information on a height restriction study the city will be doing. Dorr said he will need to visit with County Attorney Kevin Berens to determine who owns the roads, the county or its townships.

When the project gets underway, he said, the roads will be left in better condition than they currently are. Dorr said he will be coming to Colby from

Wednesday to Friday, June 6 to 8, and will travel the roads with Road and Bridge Supervisor Clair Schrock. The Spanish firm now expects that groundbreaking for the wind project will be in 2015, he said.

• Chairman Ken Christiansen signed representation letters for Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball as prepared by the firm, covering services the accounting firm is to provide Thomas County for the year ended Dec. 31 during the audit process.

• Approved a natural gas sales agreement for Seminole Retail Energy Services from Aug. 1 through July 31, 2014. Commissioner Byron Sowers moved to approve the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Paul Steele. The vote passed unanimously.

• Received the 2012 K-State Fiscal Conditions and Trends report from Office of Local Government K-State Research and Extension. Each commissioner and County Clerk Shelly Harms received the information.

• Approved plats for the Wiedeman Subdivision No. 2 Blocks 1 and 2, Kersenbrock Subdivi-

sion Block 1 and Denny Subdivision Block 1; Sowers moved to approve, seconded by Steele. The vote passed unanimously.

• Authorized Berens to execute deeds on 2.79 acres for an acquisition payment of \$1 to Mason Crumrine. Thomas County will buy a tract in the east half of Section 7, Range 8 South, Township 36 West. The motion was made by Steele and seconded by Sowers. The vote passed unanimously.

• Reviewed the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas Summary of Charges as provided by Charles Krull, manger of the Hays office, and authorized him to direct the company to prepare a contract for approval by the commissioners on Thursday. • Took a trip to inspect county roads after a recess with Schrock and Harms to County and Township Roads K, 28, 23, L, M, O and 27 to look at rights of way that are being farmed, swathed or bailed and sand pits being dug in the right of way. The commissioners instructed Schrock to provide adequate information so that he can pursue legal action against adjacent landowners.

Weather forecast table with columns for Day, High, Low, Precip, Sunrise and Sunset, Colby Water Use.

TV Listings header with 'LOCAL TV Listings' logo and 'Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS' text.

Thursday Evening TV listings for May 31, 2012, showing channels, times, and program titles.



Friday Evening TV listings for June 1, 2012, showing channels, times, and program titles.

American Profile advertisement with the slogan 'We Celebrate Hometown Life' and a grid of program listings.

Girl Scouts conducting flag disposal drive
The Colby Girl Scouts are conducting their annual U.S. flag disposal drive.

Junior Golf practice begins Thursday
Practice for Colby Junior Golf, for kids 7 to 17, will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Thursdays from this week to July 26 at the Meadow Lake Golf Course.

Group plans dance at Meadow Lake
A singles and couples dance is planned for 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday at the Meadow Lake Golf Clubhouse.

Center celebrates grand opening with run
The Logan County Rehabilitation and Wellness Center is celebrating its grand opening with an "Evil Twin Fun Run and Walk" of 10K, 5K and 1 mile at Saturday.

Church changes worship service time
Trinity Lutheran Church in Colby will have Sunday worship service at 9:30 a.m. beginning this Sunday, June 3.

Selden Antique Show will feature cars, more
The 19th Annual Selden Antique Tractor and Classic Car show is coming up on Sunday with events ranging from a 10 a.m. horseshoe pitching competition to a 3 p.m. parade.