



12 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

Friday

March 14, 2003

50¢

Volume 114, Number 52
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Enter: Sky watchers

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

People interested in helping watch the skies for hazardous weather listened to David Floyd, of the National Weather Service office in Goodland, discuss how to look for severe weather at a Tuesday night meeting in Colby.

In the two-hour session held at the Colby Community Building, Floyd talked about the role of a storm spotter and what types of weather should be reported.

He told about the structures of storms and explained how to tell where the up-drafts and the down-drafts of the storm are located. He showed actual photos and videos of storms and cloud formations and provided information on the best location to be in a storm.

"Many types of weather information are needed from storm spotters," he said. He urged spotters to immediately report tornadoes, funnel clouds, rotating wall clouds and flash flooding.

High priority weather that should also be reported is hail 0.75 inches in diameter or larger, wind speeds greater than 58 miles per hour, persistent non-rotating wall clouds and rainfall of an inch or more per hour.

Spotters can report weather information by radio or cell phone to a central collection point which is then relayed to the National Weather Service.

For information on upcoming storm spotter meetings in the area or on becoming a storm spotter, contact Floyd at the weather service at (785) 899-7119.

College, Brewster boards set meetings

College

A number of items will confront the board of trustees of Colby Community College when they meet in regular session at 5 p.m. Monday in the board room at Thomas Hall.

Among those are approval of contracts and agreements, main-frame computer, website design, wellness center and negotiations. They will also approve minutes of the March 3 meeting, payment of claims and take up other items. The meeting is open to the public.

Brewster

The school board at Brewster will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. New business includes insurance committee report, 2003-04 calendar and Easter break. Old business items are student Council open lunch proposal and proposed senior trip. Executive sessions are planned for personnel, student concerns and negotiations. The meeting is open to the public and the board president may, at his discretion, ask those attending to present concerns to the board.

Bush, Blair and Aznar fly to the Azores for summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush will confer this weekend in the Azores Islands with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, his two closest allies on Iraq.

Topping the agenda at the hastily arranged summit among Bush, Blair and Aznar will be strategies for salvaging the trio's troubled war resolution at the United Nations, said senior U.S. officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The leaders also are likely to discuss plans for Iraq in any scenario in which President Saddam Hussein is deposed.

Billing it as a diplomatic summit, officials said the leaders will not

discuss battlefield tactics and detailed military strategies, even as they acknowledged that Bush was prepared to drop his bid for a U.N. resolution and fight Iraq without U.N. consent.

Presidential press secretary Ari Fleischer told reporters that Bush will leave Sunday.

Bush has said that without the United Nations, he would form a "coalition of the willing," which U.S. officials say would include Britain and Spain.

As U.N. diplomats predicted failure for Bush's resolution, the president gave aides the go-ahead for the U.S.-Britain-Spain summit this weekend.

State board need change?

TOPEKA (AP) — A Senate committee will decide next week whether to recommend that the State Board of Education be reorganized to help remove it from partisan politics.

But members of the Senate Education Committee appeared divided Thursday over what the 10-member board should look like — or whether it should be changed at all.

Bulldog boosters in action



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Golden Plains fans were out in force on Thursday night as the Bulldogs played the Hanston Elks in the Class 1A State Basketball Tournament at Gross Memorial Coliseum on the campus of Fort Hays State University. For game details, see page. 12.

First phase is underway

Water is discharged from Ace Services site

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Public Works Department in Colby said the first phase of flushing and discharging contaminated water at the former Ace Services Site has started.

"The water plant is going through the sanitizing phase," said Gerry Bieker, public works director,

"which involves hyperchlorinating water and flushing it through the entire plant."

After the water is flushed through the plant as part of the Superfund clean-up, he said, it is de-chlorinated and discharged into the Prairie Dog Creek.

To date, more than 750,000 gallons of water has been flushed and

discharged, he said.

During the 45 days, the water will be treated, tested and released. The plant, he said, will go through 30 days of performance testing at full operations that will consist of 700 to 800 gallons per minute of treated water being released into the creek.

"No water can be accepted into the City of Colby's water system

until these performance tests have been complete and the drinking water standards are met," Bieker said.

This plant water discharge process is part of the clean-up operations site and Bieker wanted residents to be aware of why the water is being released into the creek.

For questions, call 462-4420.

Area in a real pickle following semi wreck

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Free Press Editor

They didn't can these pickles, they ditched them.

A Pueblo, Colo. man was sent to Sheridan County Hospital in Hoxie on Thursday after a collision between two semis in the early morning hours left the highway and roadside peppered with pickles approximately 4 miles east of Selden.

John J. Lowe, 49, of El Paso, Texas, was driving northbound on Kansas Highway 23 at 5 a.m. when he failed to yield to Joseph

Garcia of Pueblo, who was driving a tractor-trailer rig westbound on US 383, according to the Kansas Highway Patrol report.

The accident clean-up went into the late afternoon and early evening since Garcia's truck was carrying a load of pickles and Lowe was carrying fertilizer, which both were covering the roadway.

Lowe was ticketed for failure to yield, said the report, and both drivers were wearing seatbelts.

Garcia was taken to the hospital while Lowe was not injured. No condition report was available.



STEVE HAYNES/Colby Free Press

Crews worked into the evening to clean up pickles and fertilizer which covered the roadway and ditches after a collision of two trucks east of Selden.

Briefly

Commissioners meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet Monday at 9 a.m. in the courthouse. As of today, there are no appointments scheduled. For questions, call Tracey Perkins at 462-4500.

Area Citizens plan April meeting

The Area Citizens for Health Care won't be meeting in March, but have set a meeting date of April 8. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Colby Community Building's Little Theater. Everyone is invited.

VFW to hold bingo night

The Colby VFW at 220 N. Lake, is sponsoring a bingo night, Sunday, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The event is open to everyone and, according to Dale Hawk, if more than 80 people attend, the jackpot would be at least \$600. Hawk encourages people to make plans to participate in this ongoing activity.

Walk Kansas starts Saturday

Those registered for the Walk Kansas program need to begin recording their miles walked on Saturday. Any aerobic activity may be used in place of walking using the formula of 15 minutes of activity equals one mile. If you planned on participating and missed the registration deadline, call the Thomas County Extension office at 462-4582 to enroll.

Bluegrass pancake feed planned

The Colby Bluegrass Committee is sponsoring a pancake and sausage feed on Saturday, March 29 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Colby Community Building. Free-will donations will be accepted and all proceeds will go to defray costs of the annual Bluegrass Festival, said Leilani Thomas, one of the coordinators of the event.

Amusement meeting next week

The Thomas County Amusement Association will hold its regular meeting on Monday, March 17, at 7 p.m. in the Tho-

mas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range, Colby. Anyone interested in helping on various committees is urged to attend. For questions, call Kerry Wark, president, 462-6403.

Enrollment is still open

Enrollment for next year's Colby public school kindergartners has been held, but for those who missed this pre-enrollment, Terrel Harrison, principal, is asking parents and/or guaradians to stop by the school office, 210 N. Grant, as soon as possible to enroll your child. Harrison said to bring the child's immunization records, birth certificate and social security number for the enrollment. Any children residing in the Colby School District and who will be five years old on or before Aug. 31, 2003 is eligible to enroll. It is not necessary to bring children for the pre-enrollment, she said.

Landfill hours noted

The Thomas County landfill's winter hours are: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.



Rain, maybe

Tonight...Mostly clear and mild. Lows near 40. Southwest wind around 10 mph. Saturday...Partly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s. North wind 5 to 15 mph. Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. Sunday night...Cloudy with a chance of rain or showers and possibly a thunderstorm...Mainly in the evening. Lows in the mid 40s. Chance of rain 50 percent. Monday...Cloudy. A chance of rain during the day. Windy. Highs in the 60-degree range.

The numbers

Monday's high, 73
Low this morning, 38
Soil temperature, 45
Year ago, 542 and 26
Month's snowfall, trace
Month's precipitation, 0.03
Records, 82 in 1935 and -11 in 1895

