



COLBY
FREE PRESS

Council
to discuss
gas pact

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council will discuss a natural gas contract with Post Rock Gas with offices in Holdridge, Neb., for July 1 through June 30, 2004, when it meets at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday in council chambers.

Also on the agenda is possible approval of a resolution establishing no parking on the south side of W. 3rd St. from Copeland to the intersection with U.S. Highway 24 during the construction project, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager.

The council will consider authorization of a service agreement with a laboratory for the Environment Protection Agency project, executing a quality assurance program, and purchasing used shoring equipment for safety purposes.

Additionally, council members could approve an energy cost adjustment on electric rates in accordance with their ordinance. According to the ordinance, Armstrong said, with the fluctuations in gas prices and purchased energy costs, this is the only way to address the cost incurred by the city. If approved, monthly adjustments to rates for additional costs related to generation and purchased power would be on businesses and residential bills.

Following a discussion at an earlier council meeting, the city is expected to decide on an investment policy.

There will also be reports from the utility committee, insurance proceeds on electric department van and meeting of the vehicle committee.

Rollover reported

A Brighton, Colo. man was transported to Citizens Medical Center Friday after a one-vehicle rollover on I-70 east of Colby.

According to the Kansas Highway Patrol, Anthony L. McColl, 18, of Brighton, was heading east in his 1992 Plymouth minivan when the vehicle blew a tire. He lost control and the van rolled through the west bound lanes.

The extent of his injuries is unknown.

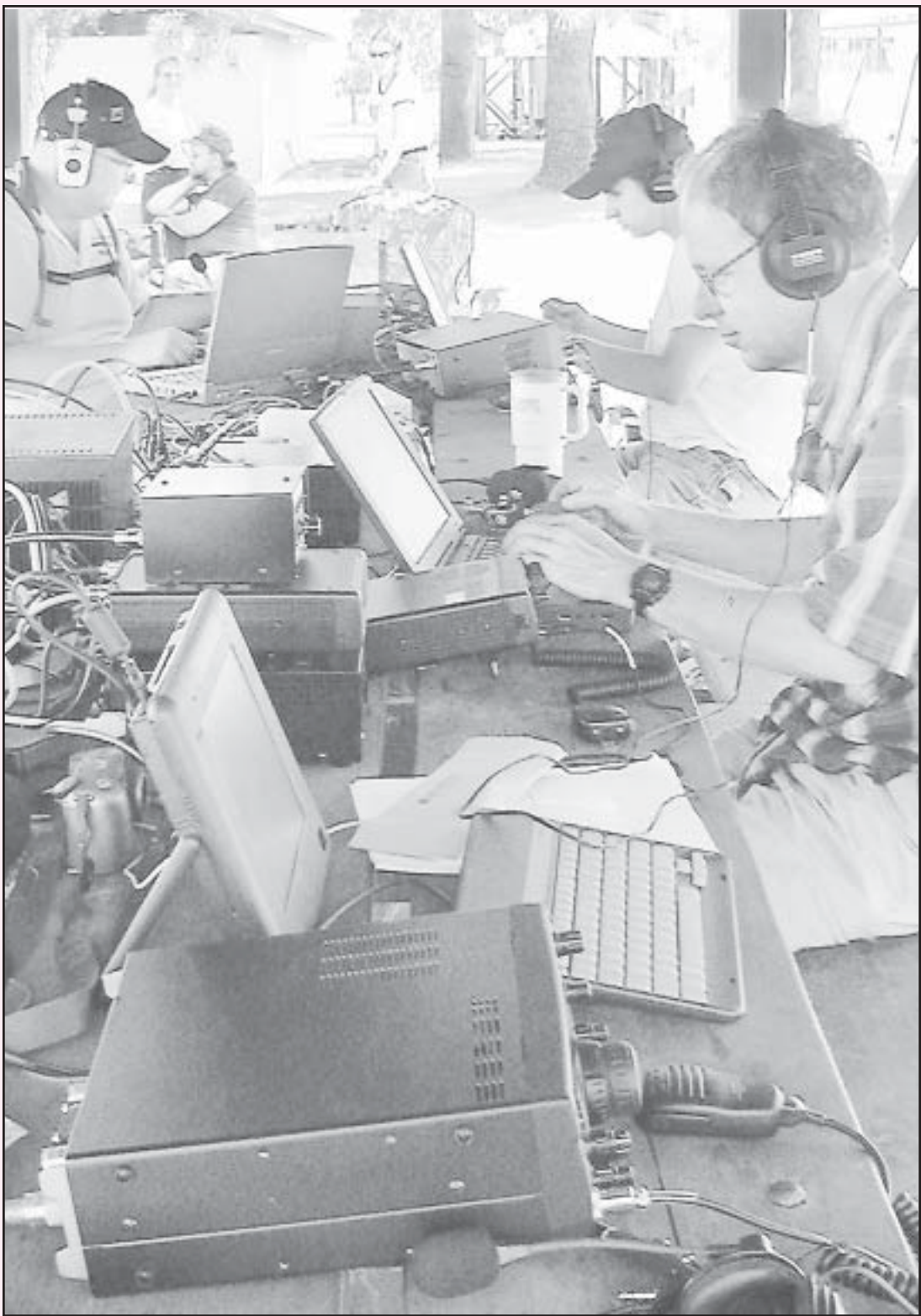


Just plain hot!

Thomas, Logan Counties
Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 60s. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph. Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s. South wind 10 to 20 mph. Tuesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 60s. Wednesday...Very hot. Mostly sunny. Highs 100 to 105. Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 60s. Thursday...Mostly clear. A slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon and evening. Continued very hot. Highs near 100.

By the numbers
Sunday's high, 78
Low this morning, 57
Year ago today, 101 and 69
Records for the date, 107 in 1933, 41 in 1918
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, trace
June 28 precipitation, 0.34
June 29 precipitation, 1.53
Year's precipitation, 4.52
Year's precipitation to date, 10.87
2002's precipitation to date, 4.18

Water Usage/Colby
June 27-28-29 = 1.968 million gallons daily average



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Chet Morris, left and Bruce Frahm and Mike Spotswood operated their amateur radio stations at Phillips Park in Colby on Saturday afternoon. The members of the Amateur Radio Relay League participated in their annual Field Day to simulate emergency conditions.

Radio League swings into action

By **TISHA COX**
Colby Free Press

Phillips Park in Colby was home this weekend to the American Radio Relay League's Field Day.

For 24 hours, from 1 p.m. Saturday to 1 p.m. Sunday, the group was set up in the park.

"The purpose is to go out and set up under emergency-like conditions," said Mike Albers, the chapter's emergency coordinator for the district.

"The bottom line is to work as many stations in the Americas as you can."

The club was set up under a picnic shelter at the park with a

lot of listening stations. Each was equipped with Morse code and voice communications equipment and hooked up to a computer.

He said each operator had to contact as many listening stations as they could and log the information.

Two radio towers, a generator and the county's Mobile Command Post completed the arrangement.

Albers said in past years the club has contacted more than 1,000 posts during the designated 24-hour period.

However, he said the number would probably be down this year because the 11-year sunspot cycle is in decline.

He said amateur radio operators

provide communications in times of need, like situations when regular communications goes down or is overtaxed.

Tornadoes, earthquakes, hurricanes or man-made disasters are just some of the examples he provided.

Albers said members from the National Weather Service in Goodland, local members and others were included in the activity.

In addition to the Field Day and providing communications assistance when needed, he said the club also helps with SkyWatch, the weather service's amateur radio weather spotting network.

Some wheat
suffers damage
in Friday storm

By **TISHA COX**
Colby Free Press

Hail is the latest woe to plague farmers trying to get their wheat harvested before anything else can happen to it.

Storms Friday night unleashed hail and damaging winds on fields west of Colby.

Roger Hale of the Colby wheat office said a four-mile wide swath west of town extending from south of Atwood to Scott City received damage of varying degrees.

"It was not a very wide band," he said. "It (the hail) was pretty good sized and then there was some pea-sized. It looked like it snowed."

Storm damage was limited to the western part of Thomas County where the wheat harvest had hardly began. He said several farms lost their wheat while others had only minimal damage.

Claude Herren, who farms west of Colby, was one farmer whose fields suffered damage from the hail.

"We lost about half of our wheat crop," he said, declining to say how many acres he had planted. "It was pea size up to marble size. We had

some wind with it."

Herren suspects he had some "cyclonic wind" because he found a barrel in the middle of one of his fallow fields.

"That wind blew like a son of a gun from the north," he said. "It hailed from about every direction."

Northwest Research Extension Center Soil and Crop Specialist Roger Stockton said he saw damage from wind and hail during a tour of the county on Sunday.

He estimated damage from 20 to 30 percent in some fields up to 100 percent in others.

"It depends on which field you looked at," Stockton said. "The insurance adjusters are going to be busy the next couple of weeks out in that part of the world."

Meanwhile, Hale said, harvest is about half-way completed in the eastern part of the county.

Despite the storm, he said yields are holding up, anywhere from 20 to 80 bushels an acre.

Hale said 40 to 45 bushels an acre is the average.

"You always hear the good and the bad," he said. "You never hear the in between."

Free calculators may
help figure new tax

By **TISHA COX**
Colby Free Press

New state legislation kicks in on Tuesday affecting how businesses collect sales tax.

Small business owners may be wondering just how they're going to do what they need to do.

But a new sales tax calculator on the state treasury office's Web site will make their jobs easier. And it's free.

Kansas Treasurer Lynn Jenkins said the new legislation requires small businesses and retailers to collect sales tax based upon where goods will be delivered.

She said her office has nothing to do with the legislation but is offering the free calculator as a way to

help businesses.

"It's a public service on our Web site," Jenkins said, to help business owners comply with the new law.

Before the new legislation, she said businesses would collect sales tax based on their location.

Now they may not know what the sales tax rate is where they are sending goods and the new calculator will help them find that out.

"I believe the philosophy behind it (the new law) was to pick up numbers from online sales and catalog sales," she said.

"In doing so they've created a huge burden on small businesses."

The free sales tax calculators are available on the Internet at <http://kansassstatetreasurer.com/salestax>.

Storm pounds Liberal area

LIBERAL AP) — Heavy rains and golf-ball size hail pounded this southwest Kansas community Saturday night, flooding streets, knocking down tree limbs and power lines, breaking windows and damaging some roofs.

The storm, which packed 50 mph winds and dumped 3 inches of rain in Liberal, destroyed at least four mobile homes in rural areas of Seward County, along with several outbuildings and garages. Inside the city, authorities said, damage to buildings appeared to be limited to roofs, some of which were torn off by high winds, and many broken windows.

As of Sunday afternoon, the county had not received any reports of injuries, said Kara Veverka, a spokeswoman for Seward County Emergency Management.

Only a small portion of Liberal remained without power, she said.

Flood waters that came up to car windows Saturday night had yet to totally recede, Veverka said.

Reports said some hail was as big as 2 1/2-inches in diameter.

After an initial assessment Sunday, authorities estimated damage at more than \$6 million in Liberal alone. That figure includes more than \$1 million in hail-damage to vehicles.

Briefly

Library's 'Family Night' date changed

"Family Night" at Pioneer Memorial Library, which was previously scheduled for Thursday, July 3, has been changed to Thursday, July 10, said JoAnne Sunderman, librarian. The time of the "Family Night" is still 7 p.m. For questions, call the library at 462-4470.

Donations needed for fireworks

Thomas County Kiwanis Club is still seeking donations from businesses and individuals to offset the cost of this year's fireworks display. For those wanting to contribute, donations may be sent to: Colby Kiwanis, P.O. Box 501, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Free fans available at health office

If you or someone you know is suffering from heat and do not have the resources to pay for air conditioning or purchasing a fan, the Thomas County Health Department may be able

to help. The health department has a limited supply of fans available through the Salvation Army for those with limited incomes, said Kathy Ryan, administrator of county health. For information, call (785) 462-4596 or stop by the health department at 350 S. Range Ave., north door.

Mosquito spraying to begin

City of Colby crews are preparing to spray for mosquitoes for the remainder of the summer. For those wanting to be notified before crews enter their area, call Jo Strage, executive secretary to the city manager, 462-4410. City officials ask that residents check yards and empty anything that is holding stagnant water, such as cans, swimming pools, tires, etc., to help keep the mosquito population to a minimum.

Landfill closed Fourth of July

The Thomas County landfill will be closed Friday, July 4th, in observance of the holiday, said Larry Jumper, supervisor. The landfill will, however, be open regular hours, Saturday

and Sunday, July 5 and 6. For questions call, (785) 462-8139.

Childbirth classes offered

Colby Childbirth Education will host a series of childbirth education classes in July. Classes will be held at the Colby Community College Health Sciences building on Thursdays (July 10, July 17, July 24, and July 31) from 7 to 10 p.m. The focus of the classes is to help prepare the expectant mother and her coach for birth. To pre-register, call (785) 462-4850.

Senior Center closed July 4

The Senior Progress Center will be closed for the Fourth of July holiday. No meals will be served or delivered and the van will not run.

Swim lessons continue

The Colby Recreation Department is offering swim lessons. The third and final session begins on Monday, June 30 and ends Thursday, July 10. Call (785) 462-4440.

