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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press



Rainy days soak area parks

Two days of steady rain across northwest Kansas made things a little soggy in many Colby parks, including Buffalo Park (above), where the creek was running higher than usual. Rain spouts were busy over the past two days, as rain gauges showed the city got more than two thirds of an inch of rain on Tuesday and another half inch on Wednesday. Some areas Sherman, Decatur and Rawlins Counties got more than one inch Tuesday. The National Weather Service in Goodland is predicting thunderstorms this evening and Friday, storms which may produce lightning and hail.

Wheat stockpiles may conflict with corn

WICHITA (AP) — Amid a global glut of wheat stockpiles, grain elevators across parts of the Great Plains are still crammed with unsold winter wheat as facilities brace for expected bumper fall harvests of corn, sorghum and soybeans.

"This is going to be putting a lot of pressure on storage facilities and the transportation system. Overseas buyers are sitting on their hands seeing these prices continue to fall," said Mike Woolverton, a grain marketing economist at

Kansas State University. The lackluster demand for wheat has clogged the nation's grain-handling pipeline, particularly in major wheat-producing states like Kansas where a good winter wheat crop this summer will be followed by anticipated

record harvests of other crops this fall. "From a physical handling perspective, we are fully expecting grain to be placed on the ground in some areas," said Tom Tunnell, executive director of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association, the industry group for the state's elevators.

Most of that grain will likely be sorghum, age) problem. I wish we did, but we don't." which has the lowest value and is easiest to store on the ground, he said.

Elevator operators will have to decide whether they want to handle the excess crops because spoilage losses are higher for crops stored on the ground — typically a 3 percent loss as compared to 0.5 percent for crops stored inside, Tunnel said.

"While it is a challenge, we would rather have too many bushels than not enough bushels," Tunnell said.

Poor crops in neighboring Oklahoma benefited Kansas because by freeing up storage space in terminals down there, Tunnell said.

In Enid, Okla., grain elevators are nearly full with winter wheat that has come down from Kansas and Nebraska, said Joe Hampton, executive director of the Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association. Elevators in the rest of the country have plenty of available space.

"We had a terrible wheat crop and our corn crop was burned up in June — what corn we had," Hampton said. "We don't have a (stor-

That sentiment was echoed in Texas where Ben Boerner, of the Texas Grain and Feed Association, said his state has encountered significant drought that has decimated yields.

Other wheat-growing states north of Kansas are also bracing for the fall bounty.

"I don't know if it is going to be as tight as it is going to be in Kansas," said Pat Ptacek, executive director of the Nebraska Grain and Feed Association.

Nebraska, which has 24 ethanol plants, expanded its storage facilities more than two years ago in anticipation of the ethanol industry gearing up.

Even so, Nebraska facilities expect to see a substantial amount of corn dumped on the ground. And South Dakota elevators are also gearing up for bountiful fall crops by trying to move as much wheat out as possible.

"Everybody will manage it as best as they can," said Kathy Zander, executive director of the South Dakota Grain and Feed Association. "It is a good problem to have."

City to hire Louisburg pool designers

By Andy Heintz

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The aquatics committee that has been pushing for building a new pool in Colby recommended the council hire Aquatics Design Consultants to design a new pool

The recommendation was unanimously approved by the city council and signed by Mayor Ken Bieber. City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said city attorney John Gatz had seen and approved the documents.

Jennifer Burr, a member of the aquatics committee, said the group voted for Aquatic Design Consultants, based in Louisburg, over Burbach Aquatics, based in Platteville, Wis., by a vote of 8-3 at a meeting. She said the pool design done by Aquatics Design Consultants swayed many committee members to vote for their company. Burr said the design offered newer features and different kinds of slides.

The members of the aquatic committee include Melinda Olson, Shane Franz, Kami Booi, Colby swim club coach Sandra Finley, Kris Lemman, Mandy Lanny, Holly Lynn, Sherrie Wiedeman and councilmen Jim Brown, Patrick Mallory and Tim Hutfles.

A contract between the city council and Aquatic Design Consultants states that Kevin McElyea, engineer for Aquatics Design Consultants, will be paid a lump sum of \$5,000 to prepare drawings, a website and miscellaneous documents in support of planning See "POOL," Page 3

and presenting a pool layout to the public before the increased sales tax vote on Tuesday, Nov. 3. On that day, citizens will be asked whether they are willing to support an additional .75 of 1 percent retail sales tax in the city beginning April 1 for 10 years to pay for the new fire station and pool.

The contract requires McElyea to work with the city council or pool committee to determine where a new pool could be located, develop final recommended conceptual layout of pool, provide print quality final layouts for the city to utilize in print and media informational campaigns, develop project website to keep the public informed and to help educate about the project, assist in the presentation of new pool during a public funding initiative, provide informational digital movie of final recommended layout for public education in anticipation of increased sales tax vote and provide cost opinions for construction and ongoing operation of the new pool. He will also work with city council or pool committee to develop list of amenities for a new facility and work with committee or city council to determine aquatic programming needs of the community

If the sales tax increase is approved, the city will pay McElyea \$1,900 for each trip he and his personnel make to Colby with the city's authorization. Armstrong said McElyea will probably be making five trips during the planning period if the ballot passes.

Beer distributor plans move to Colby

By Erica Bradley

Norton Telegram ebradley@nwkansas.com

The old Colby Implement building - which has stood empty since the John Deere dealer moved to their new building south of I-70 in May - will soon be filled with beer. ployees. Pestinger Beverage Company, a Budweiser distributor and formerly Western Distributing, will soon relocate to Colby, a move that combines the Goodland and

Norton warehouses. Mike Pestinger, president, said the move is necessary due to low volume. He said one truck is going out of each loca-

He also said it is difficult to keep things organized at both locations since the main office is in Norton.

"There is no way to do it out

of two locations. We really need to have one location in the middle of Goodland and Norton,"

he said. There are three employees in Norton and two in Goodland. Pestinger said all but one have agreed to work in Colby. He will hire two or three more em-

Pestinger Beverage is moving into the former site of Colby Implement on U.S. 24 east of town. The move was not planned until Pestinger saw the open building.

"We just couldn't afford to pass it up," he said.

The move will not happen un-

til the first of the year "We have a lot of work to

do," he said. Pestinger purchased Western Distributing from Don Ryan in November 2008.

Sale offers nearly new dresses

A formal dress sale continues from 6 to 8 p.m. tonight in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church. Shop for homecoming, Christmas and New Years dresses, as well as some accessories. Proceeds will go to Genesis and the Salvation Army. For information, call Sue Draper at 460-6332.

Parade set for Recovery Month

The Central Kansas Foundation and the Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center plan a Recovery Month event, starting with a parade downtown at 1 p.m. Saturday, followed by a barbecue at Fike Park. There will be cash prizes for parade entries. For information or to enter the parade, call the center at 460-8177 or the foundation at 460-5885.

Coaches offer coffee, talk

fee with the Coaches" at 9 a.m. Saturday and every Saturday after home and away football games at the Sports Shoppe, Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue. For information, call Eagles' Coach Chris Gardener at 460-1390.

Methodists plan dinner, auction

The Colby United Methodist Church will have its 2009 Mission Dinner and Auction at noon on Sunday in the fellowship hall. The event will feature dinner and a silent auction, with a live auction following the meal. For information, call the church office at 460-2761 or Ronda Bachman at 460-3859.

County van off on Tuesday

The Thomas County Transportation Van will not be running on Tuesday. The van will also be running Join the Colby High School football staff for "Cof-from 12:30 to 4 p.m. instead of regular hours on Fri-

day, Oct. 9. For information, call Shelly Harms at

Foundation to meet Oct. 5

The Thomas County Community Foundation will hold their annual meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 5 at the City Limits Convention Center. The speaker will be Michelle Cummings. For information, call Melinda Olson at 460-9152.

EMT meeting Oct. 7

An information meeting for Emergency Medical Technician B classes will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at the Thomas County Ambulance Building. Classes begin Tuesday, Oct. 13. For information or to sign up, call Dawnelle Umberger at 460-4585 or

Crew needs Eagles' T-shirts

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services is

looking for new and old Colby Eagles T-shirts for a fund raiser. Shirts can be dropped off at the ambulance building on South Franklin, near the hospital, or someone will come get them. For information or a pickup, call Dawnelle Umberger at 443-0176.

Sheriff can check vehicles

The Thomas County Sheriff's Office is now checking vehicle identification numbers for cars, light trucks and motorcycles. The office is open 8 a.m., to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call Sheriff Rod Taylor for information or to set up an appointment at 460-4570. Taylor said trailer inspections still have to go through the Kansas Highway Patrol office in Hays. The fee is \$10.



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