## Area/State

Colby Free Press Thursday, October 22, 2009 Page 3



National Weather Service Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

Weather

Corner

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 33. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 34.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Partly cloudy, with a high near 56.

Tuesday Night: A slight chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Wednesday: A slight chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 50. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Wednesday: High, 54; Low 32 Precip: Wed. 0.92 inches Month: 2.35 inches Year: 24.43 inches Normal: 19.19 inches (K-State Experiment Station) Sunrise and Sunset Friday 8:03 a.m. 6:54 p.m. (U.S. Naval Observatory)

## for airport

bie Schwanke, public information director for the college, said the school had decided to hire extra people to handle a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The college is using the grant to develop online coursework, said Schwanke. She said the college has no more office space, so they want to use the trailer until they no longer need the temporary employees.

• Heard that Fire Chief Bob Mc-Lemore had been elected president of the state Association of Fire Chiefs.

• Approved an ordinance levving special assessments to pay the cost of improvements on Sewell after a public hearing. No one objected.

• Approved the route for the annual Christmas Parade at 5:45 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6. The parade will start at Second Street and Franklin Avenue and go north to Fike Park and Santa City.

• OK'd County Commissioner Paul Steele's lease on a small, privately owned hangar on block 1, space 8, at the municipal airport.

· Approved the route for the annual Veterans Day parade at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 11. The parade will start at Fike Park, then head south on Franklin to Third before going east to the Veterans Memorial at the Thomas County Courthouse.

• Heard from Janelle Hills, chairman of the Economic Development Alliance, that she will be resigning at the end of the year. Hills recently accepted an offer to be the supervisor for Embark Healthcare, a Florida-based firm that establishes online records of peoples' end-of-life decisions, when the company opens for business in January. Beringer said it might be a good idea for her to resign now to avoid suspicion of a conflict of interests.

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that anyone who stops here to eat, shop, or spend the night off of I-70 is no shade, no place for spectawill be helping to pay for these tors to watch swim meets since two projects. For more informa- even the roof of the bath house has

old pool when it was finished. Other complaints are that there

tion about the taxes, go to www. been closed to spectators and the cityofcolby.com and click on New dressing rooms are outdated. Swimming Pool FAQ.

From "ELECTION," Page 1

Clerkto be able to vote in the election on Tuesday, Nov. 3, at the Community Building. Advanced or absentee voting will began Wednesday and will end at noon on Monday, Nov. 2. To receive an advance ballot in the mail, call the county clerk's office at 460-4500 or go to the courthouse and pick one up. You can just mark the ballot at the courthouse, too.

Parents and city officials have said for several years that Colby needs a new swimming pool, but up the old pool.

Opponents say that this isn't the and use it for other purposes. time to spend money on something we can get along without, and that there are things Colby needs more than a new pool. However, a committee of Colby citizens feels that it is time to stop just getting by with what we have and come up with plans for a new facility. Members of the aquatic committee working on plans for a pool are Jennifer Burr, Melinda Olson, Shane Franz, Kami Booi, Colby Swim Club coach Sandra Finley, Kriss Lemman, Mandy Lanny, Holly Lynn, Sherrie Wiedeman and Councilmen Jim Brown, Patrick Mallory and Tim Hutfles.

One of the biggest complaints about Colby's 68-year-old pool is the water temperature. Armstrong said that when the city decided to update the pool several years ago and start heating the water, a twoinch pipe was run from the boiler in the Community Building. The evaporates, they have to add new, cold water each morning.

In 1991, the pool was updated and some changes were made to help handicapped swimmers. However, to bring the pool up standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the city says, there simply wouldn't be room to

However, the major complaint Voters needed to register by is the cold water. Committee Tuesday with the Thomas County members say swim clubs from other towns don't like to come her for meets because of this. The committee says it would like to see a pool that would draw people to Colby instead of keeping them away.

Another problem is that in 2002, the bath house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places as a Depression-era Works Progress Administration structure built in the Modernistic Movement - Art Deco style. Not many changes can be made to it because of the desire not to raise now. Armstrong said if the pool taxes, the city has kept patching is no longer in use, the city could tear it out, but keep the bath house

> Some of the things the committee would like to see in a new pool include water slides, splash areas, "zero-depth" entry (no steps or edge), water sprays, toddler slides, diving boards, a 25-meter lap swimming, grassy and shaded areas, and maybe a "lazy river" feature for floating - a shallow channel that has a current like a slow-moving river. It usually has different paths to follow that allow a rider to get wet or to stay mostly

The firm chosen by the City Council to design the new pool is Aquatic Design Consultants of Louisburg. Several locations have been looked at, but no site has been chosen. If the vote is for a new pool, the final decision about a site will be made after an engineer conducts a feasibility study, said Armstrong.

"We are not insensitive to those problem, she said, is that it takes who feel that the sales tax in Col-30 days to run all of the water by is already high," said committhrough the boiler. Since the water tee member Lynn. "We all realize how expensive everything is nowadays, but what a lot of people don't know is that Colby is losing a lot of revenue because many Colby parents are taking their children to other towns, such as Hays and Oakley, to swim in the more modern pools with nice slides and other play equipment. That money do what is needed. It would cost a might as well be spent in Colby."



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