

## Weather Corner



National Weather Service

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy in the evening, becoming mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s. South winds 15 to 20 mph shifting to the west 10 to 15 mph after midnight.

**Thursday:** Cooler. Sunny in the morning, then partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs around 70. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the southwest 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly cloudy. A slight chance of thunderstorms in the evening, then a slight chance of light rain showers after midnight. Lows in the upper 30s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

**Friday:** Cooler. Partly sunny, 20 percent chance of light showers. Highs in upper 50s. Northwest winds around 15 mph.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

**Saturday through Sunday:** Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light rain showers. Highs in the lower 60s. Lows in the mid 30s.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly cloudy in the evening, becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of light rain. Lows in the lower 40s.

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, 20 percent chance of light showers. Highs in the upper 60s.

Monday: High, 60; Low 30  
Tuesday: High, 64; Low 35  
Precip: Monday 0.00 inches  
Tuesday 0.00 inches  
Month: 2.66 inches  
Year: 5.27 inches  
Normal: 3.89 inches  
(K-State Experiment Station)

### Sunrise and Sunset

Thursday 6:48 a.m. 8:36 p.m.  
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

# Board officially closes charter academy

From "SCHOOL," Page 1

said. "I appreciate the board and administration support's for its purpose and endeavors. Thank you for making a choice to open and support the Thomas County Academy."

Academy teacher Teresa Morgan said she felt the school had helped a lot of kids. Wieland said the district will also see a lot of benefit from the technology and staff training the academy got from grants over the years, as well as the experience she and other teachers gained.

"We're glad that we had this opportunity in our district," said board President Janice Frahm.

In other business, the board:

- Accepted the resignations of teachers Barry Lucas, high school computer science; Mary Schmidt, middle school science; Vanessa Eicher, high school Spanish; and Aaron Lamble, high school social studies; and Roni Dietz, junior class sponsor; and Megan Pope, curriculum secretary.

- Reduced the hours of Marla Duncan, high school accounting secretary, from 40 to 24 a week and hired Kathy Elliot as assistant high school softball coach.

- Approved a field trip for the high school physics class to Elitch Gardens in Denver on May 13. The class is responsible for gas, tickets and meals.

- Approved four fund raisers. The forensics team will have a "Celebrity Server" event at Montana Mikes on May 22. Mem-

bers will sell tickets for \$10 and then work at the restaurant that night. The team also plans an open house at the Pioneer Memorial Library after the semester ends. Members will perform some of their forensics acts and take donations.

The strength training program will sell T-shirts to help pay for equipment and rewards, such as a plaque for students who put in extra time in the weight room.

The Young Humanitarians will help with a national Red Cross-sponsored dodge ball tournament. The students will have to get sponsorships from at least 10 local businesses. All proceeds would go to area disaster relief funds.

- Heard Activities Director Larry Gabel report that the solo and ensemble music stu-

dents who went to the state Music Festival last weekend had done well. Gray Henry and Brock Wagoner both earned I ratings, the highest, and the other students all received IIs. There were no IIIs, IVs or Vs, he said, and no one was disqualified.

- Heard Wieland say four Thomas County Academy students attended a robotics competition in Hays and won second place.

- Cancelled the meeting next Monday due to a lack of agenda items.

- Heard a report from board member Kevin Taylor, who heads the contract negotiation team, that he had set up a tentative meeting with the faculty team. Since the district is waiting to hear how much money the Legislature allocates to schools, he said they will not be able to decide much.

# Colby electric plant marks 100-year anniversary

From "PLANT," Page 1

west Energy, the city can fire up its engines for extra power when needed.

"It is actually cheaper to buy it rather than produce it," said power plant Superintendent Greg Ellis, "but the fact that we have the capability to produce it makes it easier for us to negotiate for a better price."

"Power actually comes from many different sources. It can come from hydro power on the North Platte River, and even as far away as the Wolf Creek nuclear plant in Burlington, Kan.

"It comes in big (in voltage) and goes out small. We reduce it down through transformers."

Transformers take the 115,000 volts coming into the plant and reduce it down to 34,500 volts and then again to 2,400 or 7,200 volts, Ellis noted, depending where it is being distributed. Industrial, residential, and the older parts of town are supplied with different systems.

Normal usage is at around 8,500 kilowatts, Ellis said, but that nearly doubles to 17,500 at peak hours during the summer months.

Although the early days of producing electricity are gone, parts of the original brick structure still house the plant equipment. One original structure is used to store small machining equipment, though it is fondly referred to as the "coal shed."

Ellis says he's been working at the plant for 18 years.

"I began here as an operator," he said, "and came up the ranks to be superintendent. There is someone here at the plant 24/7, 365 days a year, to make sure things are running smoothly and there are no interruptions in power service."

Ellis said the oldest engine, a 1952 model, is the first one they start when the city has lost power and have to generate. He said it takes less air pressure to get it started, and they start up the others off it. It's a model used to power submarines in the 1950s. The big engines got their beginnings in ships and railroad locomotives, he said.

He said the city might lose power from something as weird as a "fried snake" that has crawled up a pole to check out a bird nest, got caught in the wires, and shorted them out, to high winds and ice. He said the majority of the problems the city encounters are weather related, with ice on the lines being the biggest culprit.

The plant houses six engines in all, two Cooper 16-cylinder models, three 12-cylinder and one eight-cylinder engine, all normally on standby. To replace one of the big ones at this point would run over a million dollars, he said.

Six full- and part-time people, plus a maintenance mechanic, keep the plant running. High on the list of important things to do is to keep the fuel injection systems

clean, and make sure the oil is clean. Workers send an oil sample off once a year to see if there is any contamination in the oil.

Ellis said that if an engine is low on oil, it generally takes a 55-gallon barrel to replenish it. The big engines actually hold 1,100-gallon. With a good filtering system,

they don't have to change oil often because oil doesn't wear out, he said, it just gets dirty.

The plant on Colby's west side takes up about a city block. The current metal building, built in the late 1960s, is connected to the original building, made of Colby brick.

The continued growth and success since that Thanksgiving day shows the foresight of city leaders who dared to venture out to be one of the first small towns to bring electricity to serve not just their own needs, but to plan for the future.

# National prayer day gathering May 6

From "PRAYER," Page 1

last 30 minutes."

Meet Me at the Flagpole began with a group of high-school students in Burleson, Texas, in April 1990. After meeting for prayer one day, they decided to go to three public schools and pray around the campus flag poles for their friends and fellow students. This avoided rules about prayer in public schools.

By July, 20,000 other students had been challenged

to organize prayer in their school. Over 445,000 students in 1,200 schools participated in prayer around the flag pole that year. The event went national in 1998, with over 3 million students in all 50 states and 20 other countries holding prayer around their school's flagpole.

The U.S. Constitution protects our right to public prayer, just as it protects its citizens from state-imposed prayer, according to the National Day of Prayer website at [www.religioustolerance.org](http://www.religioustolerance.org).

## LOCAL TV LISTINGS

sponsored by the

Thursday Evening											April 29, 2010
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	FlashForward		Grey's Anatomy		Private Practice		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live		
KBSL/CBS	Survivor: Hero		CSI: Crime Scene		The Mentalist		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late		
KSNK/NBC	Community	Parks	Office	30 Rock	The Marriage Ref		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late		
KSAS/FOX	Bones		Fringe		Local						
Cable Channels											
A & E	The First 48		The First 48		Fugitive Chronicles		Fugitive Chronicles		The First 48		
AMC	First Blood				Rambo Part II				Shallow Hal		
ANIM	Weird	Weird	Weird	Weird	Lost Tape	Lost Tape	Weird	Weird	Weird	Weird	
BRAVO	Real Housewives		Real Housewives		Real Housewives		Happens	Real Housewives	Real		
CMT	Smarter	Smarter	Driving Miss Daisy					Driving Miss Daisy			
CNN	Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360				Larry King Live		
COMEDY	Mr. Deeds				Ugly	South Pk	Daily	Colbert	Futurama	Futurama	
DISC	Life		Life		Life		Life		Life		
DISN	Agent Cody Banks				Phineas	Montana	Wizards	Deck	Suite	So Raven	
E!	Evan Almighty				Pretty	Pretty	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Kendra	
ESPN	College Softball				Baseball Tonight		SportsCenter		Baseball	NFL Live	
ESPN2	30 for 30	30 for 30		World Series		World Series		World Series		Nation	
FAM	Magorium				Funniest Home Videos		The 700 Club		Whose?	Whose?	
FOOD	Good Eats	Good Eats	Iron Chef America		Cakes		Cakes	Good Eats	Unwrapped	Iron Chef America	
FX	Ghost Rider				Ghost Rider						
HGTV	First	My First	Selling N	Selling N	House		House	House	Selling N	Selling N	
HIST	Sliced	Sliced	Modern Marvels		Sliced		Sliced	Modern Marvels	Sliced	Sliced	
LIFE	Grey's Anatomy		Glass House				Will	Will	Frasier	Medium	
MTV	S. Park	S. Park	Parkour Chall.		Jackass	Jackass	Jackass	Jackass	True Life		
NICK	SpongeBob	Malcolm	Chris	Chris	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	
SCI	The Skeleton Key		Stephen-Desper						The Bone Eater		
SPIKE	Soldier		TNA Wrestling				UFC 113 Coun.		MANswers	MANswers	
TBS	A Guy Thing				Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Lopez Tonight		Name Earl	Name Earl	
TCM	PT 109					The Desert	Fox		Hitler		
TLC	LA Ink		LA Ink		LA Ink		LA Ink		LA Ink		
TNT	NBA Basketball					NBA Basketball					
TOON	Johnny T	Flapjack	Adventure	6TEEN	King-Hill	King-Hill	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen	
TRAV	Ten Wonders		Natrl Wonders		Natrl Wonders		Wonders West		Ten Wonders		
TV LAND	Cosby	Cosby	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Get Rich	Get Rich	Roseanne	Roseanne	
USA	NCIS		NCIS		NCIS		Burn Notice		In Plain Sight		
VH1	Sober House		Sober House		Sober House		Sober House		Tough Love Couples		
WGN	WWE Superstars		Funniest Home Videos		WGN News at Nine		Scrubs	Scrubs	WWE Superstars		
Premium Channels											
HBO	Treme		Treme		Treme			Morgan	24/7	Funny or	
MAX	Highlander				Jumper			Lust at First Bite			
SHOW	Transporter 3				The Tudors		Nurse	Tara	My Best Friend		

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Friday Evening											April 30, 2010
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	Wife Swap		Wife Swap		20/20		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live		
KBSL/CBS	Ghost Whisperer		Medium		Miami Medical		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late		
KSNK/NBC	Who Do You		Dateline NBC				Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late		
KSAS/FOX	House				Local						
Cable Channels											
A & E	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		
AMC	First Blood				Rambo Part II				They Live		
ANIM	I Shouldn't Be Alive		I Shouldn't Be Alive		I Shouldn't Be Alive		I Shouldn't Be Alive		I Shouldn't Be Alive		
BRAVO	Pirates-Dead						Pirates-Dead				
CMT	Smarter	Smarter	Gator 911	Coast	Urban Cowboy						
CNN	Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360				Larry King Live		
COMEDY	Presents	Presents	Iglesias: Fluffy		Anjelah Johnson		Comedy	Comedy	Presents	Presents	
DISC	Deadliest Catch		Swamp Loggers		American Loggers		Deadliest Catch		Swamp Loggers		
DISN	Wizards	Wizards	Phineas	Phineas	Wizards	Montana	Phineas	Deck	Suite	So Raven	
E!	Sexiest		Kardas	Kardas	The Soup	The Soup	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	The Soup	
ESPN	NBA Basketball					NBA Basketball					
ESPN2	NASCAR Racing				NBA Basketball				Baseball		
FAM	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		The 700 Club		Whose?	Whose?	
FOOD	Chopped		Diners	Diners	Private Chefs		Good Eats	Rachael	Diners	Diners	
FX	X2: X-Men United						Justified		First Daughter		
HGTV	Sell It Yourself		House	Buck	House	House	Battle on the Block		House	Buck	
We Celebrate Hometown Life											
American Profile				Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.							
HIST	America-Story			Modern Marvels		Decoding the Past		America-Story			
LIFE	Grey's Anatomy		Hush Little Baby		Will	Will	Frasier	Medium			
MTV	S. Park	S. Park	The Challenge		House of Devil			Jeepers Creepers			
NICK	Big Time	The Troop	Chris	Chris	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	
SCI	Stargate Universe		Stargate Universe		Merlin		Stargate Universe		Merlin		
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene		Ways Die	Ways Die	Entourage	Entourage	Entourage	Entourage	Ways Die	Trailers	
TBS	The Longest Yard					The Longest Yard					
TCM	Background to Danger			House Across			Nocturne				
TLC	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes	Four Weddings		Say Yes	Four Weddings			
TNT	Bones		We Are Marshall				The Legend of Bagger Vance				
TOON	Ben 10	Generator	Star Wars	Star Wars	King-Hill	King-Hill	Venture	Amer. Dad	Aqua Teen	Clerks	
TRAV	Man/Food	Man, Food			Ghost Adventures		Most Haunted		Man/Food	Man, Food	
TV LAND	Cosby	Cosby	Raymond	Raymond	The Fugitive						
USA	NCIS		NCIS		NCIS		NCIS		NCIS		
VH1	Brandy & Ray J		Boyz n the Hood				Awards	Chilli	Chilli	BoyzHood	
WGN	Thelma & Louise				America's	Scrubs	Scrubs	S. Park	S. Park		
Premium Channels											
HBO	24/7	24/7	Ricky	Life	Real Time/Bill Maher		Real Time/Bill Maher		Funny or	Ricky	
MAX	Disting.	Journey-Center of Earth			X-Men Origins				Zane	Cougar	
SHOW	The Tudors		Nurse	Tara	Green Collar		Boxing				

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