

Weather

Council OKs barbecue

From "CITY," Page 1

Electric for \$171,500. Armstrong said she had Gordon Gilbert, assistant director of public utilities, check the references on the company and he received good reviews from other cities.

Councilman Tim Hutfles asked if the firm missed pricing something, because their offer was at least \$100,000 below all of the other bids. Councilman Fred Taylor said he didn't think so, adding that he didn't know anything about the firm because Mid-West Energy has never used them. He said a lot of contractors are hungry right now, though.

- Awarded a bid for light-emitting diode Christmas lighting materials to Holidynamics from Omaha for \$8,789. Armstrong said the bid from Christmas Lights Etc. from Alpharetta, Ga., was lower, but it was based on dimmable lights, which she doesn't think the city needs, and did not have a three-year warranty. She also said the bid from Holidynamics has been approved by the Kansas Corporation Commission. A councilman asked where these lights will go and Armstrong said they will go on the water tower, swimming pool buildings and buildings and light poles downtown.
- Approved an application to the Kansas De-

partment of Transportation for a geometric improvement grant to put concrete paving on U.S. 24 (Fourth Street) from School Avenue to Lincoln Avenue.

- Authorized Adrian to sign a deed to the Catholic Diocese of Salina on land west of the Catholic cemetery in trade for land east of the ball fields.

- Awarded bids for materials for the distribution power line improvement project for \$91,289. Armstrong said they selected the lowest price out of bids for northern red pine poles rather than for southern yellow pine poles, at the request of the city crew. Gilbert said they are a lighter weight and they're easier to climb.

- Approved an agreement for engineering services with Kirkham Michael for the joint and crack fill project at Colby Shalz Field. Armstrong said the city has a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation for \$72,000 and the city's share will be \$18,000 plus design engineering for \$12,000 for a total of \$30,000.

- Approved an upgrade of city workstations and laptop computers for \$18,500, which includes purchasing 10 used systems and 10 new systems based on the amount and type of use.

County questions ferret plan

From "COUNTY," Page 1

since 1903 giving townships the power to eradicate prairie dogs. Several Kansas counties have invoked "Home Rule" powers and have been able to use those powers to deal with prairie-dog problems.

The black-footed ferrets, a natural enemy of the prairie dog, were introduced into Logan County by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The introduction of the ferrets can stop prairie dog eradication and control measures in their tracks. The service no longer allows the chemical Rozol to be used within a 90-foot boundary around most of one release site. Now that area is limited to the use of zinc phosphide.

Zinc is on average, only 60 to 65 percent effective, and applicators say that equates to no control at all.

Prior notification to the public must be given if the endangered species is going to be released into an area. Landowners who are fighting to control the prairie dogs say the ferrets were introduced without proper notification and under the cover of darkness in December 2007.

Landowners say the service introduced the ferret without regard to Kansas law and without regard to ongoing litigation over prairie dogs on private land in Logan County.

Trustees or commissioners are to perform their duties under the prairie dog law within 15 days after the date specified in a written notice given to the owner of infested property if the landowner does not make an effort to control the critters.

One hundred thirteen black footed ferrets have been released

into prairie-dog infested acreage in Logan County since December 2007, the Wildlife Service said. They were supposed to reproduce their numbers while eating prairie dogs. An adult ferret can consume about half of one prairie dog a day. The original 113 ferrets, which were reared in captivity, have produced a minimum of 42 offspring born in the wild in Logan County.

Of the 155 ferrets, the number surviving now stands at 22, according to the official count by the federal agency this spring. The numbers have been decreasing since the fall of 2010. Officials said the service considers Logan County to be one of its most successful sites.

Proponents of prairie dog control are saying there are too many natural predators in the area for ferrets to survive here. Wildlife experts say the numbers will increase after breeding season because the fall numbers are nearly always higher than the spring count. That was not the case last year, however.

In the spring of 2011, wildlife officials counted 43 ferrets. By August, they counted only 32, and in a recount in September of the same year, the service located only 29.

Normally, state money is available to help with pest control, but right now landowners are footing the bill for all Rozol applications. A commissioner asked how much the state planned to spend in the county this year, but the state representative said he didn't have the answer.

Carl Uhrich, chairman of the Logan County commissioners, told the visiting officials that the cost to farmers to treat prairie dogs on surrounding property is

increasing dramatically.

"Since the ferrets were introduced," Uhrich said, "the county has sold \$275,000 worth of Rozol. That's money taken out of our local economy. You guys need to do a better job, because the ferrets keep us from controlling the prairie dogs, and we're limited to what we can do."

"In your report, there were 45 ferrets in the fall of 2010; 32 in 2011 and only 22 in this spring's count report. Do you expect to have only 11 next year?"

"If you want to save the black-footed ferret, why don't you trap the 22 that's left and take them out of here?"

Mr. Grant, the property-rights lawyer, reminded the federal representatives that there was no report of any economic analysis on the impacts of their project on adjoining property, though economic valuations are required. The service did not respond.

"In the last two weeks of the Rozol application season," Commissioner Ulrich said, "one landowner spent \$5,000 for Rozol. Did you get that report?" One official replied, "no."

"I think you're getting the reports," Ulrich said, "but maybe you should be reading them."

The commissioners then asked if the federal agency will be renewing their application for the ferret experiment. Representatives responded that they probably would. There could be natural population crashes, they said, but they saw nothing to indicate a failure of the program.

Uhrich then asked if they would be available for another meeting after the fall ferret count, and before the experiment is supposed to end. The representatives said that would be possible, but no date was set.

Briefly

Library offers authors for lunch this week

To celebrate National Library Week, each lunch hour this week, the Pioneer Memorial Library will feature an author or special speaker. The doors open for a free lunch at 11:45 a.m. Thursday, retired librarian Joanne Sunderman will discuss the book "Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President," by Candice Millard. For information, call librarian Melanie Wilks at (785) 460-4470.

Prairie Museum features art club's work

The Prairie Museum of Art and History will have a free exhibit by members of the High Plains Art Club through May. The works include oils, acrylics, watercolors, mixed media and ceramics and range in subject from landscapes to portraits to flowers. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call Ann Miner at the museum, 460-4590, for information.

City to start separate pickup for clippings

The City of Colby will start separating grass from household trash on Monday, April 23. Leave your grass clippings unbagged in a tipper can marked "Grass," and have cans to the curb by 8 a.m. on your trash day. For information, call Anita Powell at Public Works, (785) 460-4420.

Senior center offers potato bar, bake sale

The Senior Progress Center will have a potato bar, bake sale and coin raffle fund raiser from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the center in Fike Park. Come for dinner and check out the goodies. For information, contact Kaila DeBoer at 460-2901.

Kindergartners to put on show for town

Colby Grade School kindergartners invite everyone to a free show, "A Day in the Country," at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Grade School Auditorium. For information, call music teacher Jennifer Koel at 460-5100.

Master Gardeners will give tips at classes

Thomas County Extension Master Gardeners will hold a four-week gardening and lawn care series at 7 p.m. Thursdays beginning this week at the Thomas County Office Complex meeting room. Dates and topics are: this week, weed control in lawns; April 19, selecting vegetables - what and when to plant (at the 4-H building); April 26, selecting annuals and perennials; May 3, insect control. For information, call county Agent Clint Milliman at 460-4582.

Heartland students to put on play for Easter

Three performances of an Easter production, "Three Days," will be given at the Heartland Christian School gym, 1995 W. Fourth St. The play will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday. Donations will be accepted to help cover production costs. For information, Deena Bandy at 460-6419.

Blood drive coming to Community Building

A Colby community blood drive will be from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday and 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday at the Community Building. Go to redcrossblood.org or call (800) 733-2767 to schedule an appointment. Homemade muffins will be served. For information, call Bev Vaughn at 462-3861.

Economic Development to meet on Friday

The Thomas County Economic Development Alliance board will meet at 8 a.m. Friday in the meeting room at the county Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave. For information, call Christy Rocca at 460-4511.

Bar to sponsor fund-raising poker tourney

Twisters Bar and Grill, 735 E. College Dr., will hold the annual Assault Poker Tournament on Saturday to raise money for Options, a nonprofit domestic and sexual assault services organization serving northwest Kansas. Registration will begin at 1 p.m. and play at 2 p.m. The suggested donation is \$30 at the door or \$25 during pre-registration. Cash and other prizes to be given away. Call Aimy Blake at (785) 462-0427 to register.

Free "field day" Saturday at Prairie Museum

The High Plains chapter of the Kansas Anthropological Association will co-sponsor a free afternoon of activities and displays at the Prairie Museum of Art and History from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday. Exhibits will include a mock paleolithic excavation, a chance to try your hand at throwing a spear with an atlatl and a stone-and-bone tool display; a Plains Indian hunting camp with tipi, hide tanning and stone tools; and an 1880s land claim office where you can register and locate your claim. Donations are always appreciated. For information, call Rob Aiken at 443-4388 or Ann Miner at 462-6399.

Monday:	High, 68; Low 35
Tuesday:	High, 64; Low 37
Precip:	Monday None Tuesday None
Month:	1.84 inches
Year:	3.51 inches
Normal:	3.98 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)	
Sunrise and Sunset	
Thursday	7:11 a.m. 8:20 p.m.
	Moon: waning, 58 percent

TV Listings

Sponsored by the
COLBY FREE PRESS

Thursday Evening											April 12, 2012											
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	Missing		Grey's Anatomy		Scandal		Local	Nightline		Jimmy Kimmel Live												
KBSL/CBS	Big Bang	Rules	Big Bang	2 Broke G	Person of Interest		Local	Late Show Letterman		Late												
KSNK/NBC	Community	30 Rock	Office	All Night	Awake		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno		Late												
KSAS/FOX	American Idol		Touch		Local																	
Cable Channels																						
A & E	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48													
AMC	Overboard		Overboard		Overboard		Overboard		Overboard													
ANIM	Blue Planet: Seas		Blue Planet: Seas		Blue Planet: Seas		Blue Planet: Seas		Blue Planet: Seas													
BRAVO	Housewives/OC		Housewives/OC		Shahs of Sunset		Happens		Kathy Griffin Specia		Atlanta											
CMT	Ace Ventura		Ace Ventura		Ace Ventura		The Singing Bee		The Singing Bee													
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360		E. B. OutFront		Piers Morgan Tonight													
COMEDY	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	South Pk	Tosh.0	Daily	Colbert	Tosh.0	Tosh.0												
DISC	American Chopper		American Chopper		Resurrection Tomb		American Chopper		Resurrection Tomb													
DISN	Shake It	16 Wishes			Jessie	Jessie	ANT Farm	Good Luck	Fish Hook	Wizards												
EI	The Soup	Knocked Up			Chelse	Chelse	Chelse	EI News	Chelse	Chelse												
ESPN	NFL Live	SportsCenter Special: On the C		Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter													
ESPN2	SportsNation	QB Camp	QB Camp	NFL Live	QB Camp	MMA Live	Baseball Tonight		Baseball Tonight													
FAM	Prince	A Walk to Remember			The 700 Club	Prince	Prince		Prince													
FOOD	Chopped		Chopped		Sweet Genius		Sweet Genius		Chopped													
FX	Pineapple Express		Pineapple Express		Pineapple Express		Pineapple Express		Pineapple Express													
HGTV	Selling	Selling	Sell LA	Selling	House	Hunters	House	Hunters	Sell LA	Selling												
HIST	Swamp People		Swamp People		Sold!	Sold!	Modern Marvels		Swamp People													
LIFE	Reba	Reba	Selena				Reba		Reba													
MTV	Hip-Hop	Pauly D	Pauly D	Punk'd	Punk'd	Pauly D	Punk'd	Pauly D	America's Best Dance													
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	George	George	70s Show	70s Show	Friends		Friends		Friends											
SCI	Aliens		X-Men		Alien Resurrection		Alien Resurrection		Alien Resurrection													
SPIKE	Big Easy	Big Easy	IMPACT Wrestling		MMA	Ways Die	BlueMount	BlueMount	BlueMount													
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan		Conan		Office	Office												
TCM	Arthur		Private Screenings		New York, New York		New York, New York															
TLC	Dateline: Real Life		Dateline: Real Life		Dateline: Real Life		Dateline: Real Life		Dateline: Real Life													
TNT	NBA Basketball		NBA Basketball		NBA Basketball		NBA Basketball		NBA Basketball													
TOON	MAD	Regular	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Eaglehear	Delocated												
TRAV	Truck Stp	Truck Stp	Sand M.	Sand M.	Hotel Impossible		No Reservation		Sand M.	Sand M.												
TV LAND	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	King	King												
USA	NCIS		NCIS		NCIS		In Plain Sight		CSI: Crime Scene													
VH1	Basketball Wives		Behind the Music		Menace II Society		Behind the Music		Behind the Music													
WGN	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	WGN News at Nine		30 Rock	Scrubs	Scrubs	Death												
Premium Channels																						
HBO	Green Lantern		Too Short		True Blood		K. Morgan	Real Sex Xtra: Going Down														
MAX	Life	Death Becomes Her			Adjustment Bureau																	
SHOW	Beastly		The Borgias		Nurse		The Big C	Gigolos	Sunset	Blue Valentine												

We Celebrate Hometown Life

Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Shark Tank		Primetime: What		20/20		Local	Nightline		Jimmy Kimmel Live
KBSL/CBS	Undercover Boss		Lionel Richie				Local	Late Show Letterman		Late
KSNK/NBC	Who Do You		Grimm		Dateline NBC		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno		Late
KSAS/FOX	The Finder		Fringe		Local					
Cable Channels										
A & E	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
AMC	O Brother, Where Art						O Brother, Where Art			
ANIM	North Woods		North Woods Law		Rattlesnake Republic		North Woods Law		Rattlesnake Republic	
BRAVO	Silence-Lambs									