

Weather

City Council puts bidding on hold

Briefly

From "CITY," Page 1

Electric helped to prepare the specifications for both projects.

In the agenda notes for the meeting, McGreer wrote that the city had \$114,000 set aside for the generator and power upgrade.

Several council members objected to Jim's Electric getting to decide the specifications for the bid.

"You should at least have a neutral party involved, and this is not doing that at all," said Councilman Tim Huffles.

McGreer said having an engineer set the design for the project would cost \$8,000 to \$10,000.

"Essentially, we kind of did the engineering without the cost," he said.

But when the council members insisted others be let in on the project, McGreer agreed to seek bids for the engineering work before bidding the project itself.

Technology Director Mike Albers said the city needed the backup generator four times last year alone and pointed out that it might need it again for the snowstorm last week. The current generator is small enough to fit on a cart, he said, and he has to get to City Hall and pull it out of a garage in 20 minutes when the power fails. It can power

the computer gear, including a switch rack, fiber rack and server rack, but nothing else in the building, he said.

The next project was for a new generator at a communications tower that serves the city public works, fire and police departments, Thomas County sheriff's office, state personnel and the National Weather Service's SkyWarn storm-spotting service.

Unger specified a project that included a new generator and transfer switch for the tower, along with installation, the quote for which was \$21,660. McGreer said the project would be paid for out of the 911 fund, collected on phone bills, which has \$140,154.

The council members made the same request regarding the engineering for this project as they did for the one at City Hall. Councilman Mark Beringer asked why the city as a whole should have to pay for the tower and not the organizations using it.

"Sure an awful cheap, free tower we're putting in there," he said.

In other business, the council:

- Approved trade-in bids from Colby Dodge for three police and fire vehicles. The bid for a new pickup for the fire department was \$16,261 after trade-in and the police department trad-

ed in for two new police vehicles for \$42,522. McGreer said after the meeting that the bid for the Crown Victorias was higher than some other bidders, but by less than \$1,000. He said the vehicles had a longer life that he felt made the extra cost worth it.

- Approved an origination agreement with Farmers and Merchants Bank to help wire money to vendors and the state.

- Approved boundaries for the city as they had been set at the end of 2012.

- Had a brief discussion about insurance renewals that ended without a decision. McGreer said he'd been pressured by the Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust to switch the city's workman's compensation over to the trust, but Mayor Gary Adrian pointed out that the city had never had problems with the carrier it has.

"If it isn't broken, why fix it?" Beringer asked.

- Approved a new lease for G.H.K. Farm for 329 acres near the airport for \$75 per acre per year. McGreer said later that he thinks one other farm leases land from the city. He was not sure how long G.H.K. has been farming the land at the airport, but said that it was been "for a long time."

- Talked about rebuilding the bridge where Range Avenue (K-25) passes over the creek

just west of Villa High Park with a sidewalk. Council members were given a sketch of the bridge prepared by Public Works Director Omar Weber.

"Omar went out and dodged traffic and kind of got a rough distance" that the bridge would have to be 100 feet wide, McGreer said.

He said the Kansas Department of Transportation, which controls the right of way on the bridge since Range is part of the state route, said that the city could improve the bridge if it submits a form and drawings for the department's approval. The department could knock the new bridge down during work on the highway, he said, but the city would have to rebuild it at its own cost.

Council members reported seeing people try to walk across the bridge often, and liked the idea.

"We talk about walking trails and this gets pushed to the side," Huffles said. "Someday somebody's going to get killed, and then price is not going to be an issue."

Councilman Pat Mallory at first suggested using Penco Engineering to design the project, but he and other council members later agreed when McGreer suggested the city bid the engineering work for the sake of consistency.

World Day of Prayer luncheon planned

"I was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me" is the theme of the World Day of Prayer luncheon and worship service at noon Friday at the Colby United Methodist church. Several Colby churches will present the program. There will be offerings for the luncheon and for grants addressing the issues identified in the program. World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical movement of Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer and action. For information, call Millie Horlacher, chair of Colby Church Women United at 462-3104.

Seminar offers help on starting own business

Thinking of starting your own business? Come to a free Business Startup Workshop, facilitated by the Kansas Small Business Development Center and sponsored by Thomas County Economic Development, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby. Make your dreams come true; call Christy Rocca at 460-4511 to register.

S&T to hold Business After 5 this month

Join a Mexican fiesta at Business After 5 on Wednesday at S&T Communications in Colby, 755 Davis Ave. For information, call Alicia Moore at 460-7300.

First graders will perform 'Lemonade'

The Colby Grade School first graders will be presenting the musical "Lemonade" at 2 and 7 p.m. Thursday in the school auditorium. The show is free and open to the public. For information, call Jennifer Koel at 460-5100.

Genesis-Thomas County meeting set

The annual meeting of Genesis-Thomas County Inc. will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the meeting room of the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range in Colby. The public is invited. For information, call Wynn Duffey at 462-6342.

Head Start here looking for kids to fill classes

Head Start, a tuition-free preschool, is looking for a few good kids. Services include education, nutrition, health, disability services and family support. The school accepts applications all year long for children 3 and 4, but they must be 3 by Aug. 31. For information or to get an application, call Janell Griffin at 460-6067.

Gem Lions Club plans annual winter soup day

The Gem Lions Club will have its annual winter soup day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday. Your donations and recycled eyeglasses and hearing aids go to help people in need. Serving homemade veggie, chili or potato soup and good conversation. For information, call Ken Poland at 462-7809.

Colby wrestlers second at state tourney

From "STATE," Page 1

won his next match over Trey Thompson, Coffeyville-Field Kindley, winning 7-4.

He then fell to Aaron Puckett, Bonner Springs, 9-3 and was sent to wrestle in the fifth-place match. He lost again to Andrew

Rieschick, Holton, after an injury default to finish sixth.

Troy Quenzer, 195, Austin Hart, 220, and Macen Shull, 138, wrestled but did not place at the state tournament.

Other team finishes were Andale in third place with 90.5 points; Bonner Springs

fourth with 90; LaCygne-Prairie View fifth with 84; El Dorado sixth with 78; Pratt seventh with 62; Fort Scott eighth with 59.5; Chanute ninth with 59; and Tonganoxie 10th with 54.5.

Forty-six other teams participated.

Second blizzard slams Plains region

By Betsy Blaney

The Associated Press
National Weather Service officials in Kansas and Oklahoma issued blizzard warnings and watches through late today as the storm packing snow and high winds tracked eastward across West Texas toward Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri. Forecasters warned of possible tornadoes in the South.

Snow covered Amarillo, where forecasters said up to 18 inches could fall, accompanied

by wind gusts up to 65 mph. Paul Braun, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Transport, said whiteout conditions and drifting snow had made all roads in the Texas Panhandle impassable. Authorities closed Interstate 40 from Amarillo to the Oklahoma line and Interstate 27 from Lubbock to 60 miles beyond Amarillo.

The weather service issued a blizzard warning for the Oklahoma Panhandle and counties along the Kansas border, warn-

ing that travel in the area would be "very dangerous" until Tuesday morning with near zero visibility and drifting snow.

Texas officials called in the National Guard to respond to emergency calls and help stranded motorists after Department of Public Safety troopers found roads impassable.

Billy Brown, a farmer in the town of Panhandle about 30 miles northeast of Amarillo, said the snow was coming down so hard that he could only see

for about 100 feet and that it was forming drifts up to 3 feet deep. The whiteout forced all vehicles from the roads - even the snow plows, he said.

But he said the snow would bring some relief to the drought-stricken region. Wheat stubble still in the ground after the last harvest will act as a conduit for the snow, which will seep into the soil and provide much-needed moisture when he plants cotton and milo in the coming months.

Another snow storm keeps roads slick, conditions nasty

From "SNOW," Page 1

week's storm. "It was kind of a lighter storm there," said Dave Floyd, a meteorologist at the Goodland office of the National Weather Service.

Snow began falling by Sunday morning, although Floyd said most of it fell from about 5 p.m. to midnight.

One and half inches total was reported in Colby, an inch each in Brewster and Oakley, six-tenths in Goodland, three-tenths in Russell Springs, and a trace in

Gove. Oberlin had about 4 inches, added to 13 already on the ground from the storm last week.

"There's another weather system coming in for tomorrow night, kind of a similar deal," Floyd said.

The service predicted a 20 percent chance of snow Tuesday afternoon and during the night. Floyd said the snow could also start falling in the late afternoon and continue until Tuesday morning, with half an inch expected.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Tuesday Evening February 26, 2013										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Celebrity Wife Swap	The Taste	Body of Proof	Local	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Nightline				
KBSL/CBS	NCIS	NCIS: Los Angeles	Golden Boy	Local	Late Show Letterman	Ferguson				
KSNK/NBC	Betty	Betty	Go On	Normal	Smash	Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	J. Fallon		
KSAS/FOX	Raising Hope	New Girl	Mindy	Local						
Cable Channels										
A & E	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
AMC	League-Gentle				Constantine					
ANIM	Viking Wilderness	Viking Wilderness	Viking Wilderness	Viking Wilderness	Viking Wilderness	Viking Wilderness				
BRAVO	Real Housewives	Real Housewives	Matchmaker	Happens	Matchmaker	Atlanta				
CMT	Reba	Reba	The Dukes of Hazzard		Stripes					
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360	Piers Morgan Tonight	Anderson Cooper 360	E. B. OutFront	Piers Morgan Tonight					
COMEDY	The Jesel	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	The Jesel	Daily	Colbert	Tosh.0	The Jesel	
DISC	Dual Survival	Dual Survival	Dual Survival	Dual Survival	Dual Survival	Dual Survival				
DISN	Dog	Austin	Shake It	Gravity	Austin	Good Luck	Jessie	Shake It	Wizards	Wizards
E!	E! News	Kourtney-Kim	Fashion Police		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea			
ESPN	College Basketball	College Basketball		SportsCenter	SportsCenter					
ESPN2	College Basketball	NBA Coast to Coast		NFL Live	College B	NBA				
FAM	Pretty Little Liars	The Lying Game	Pretty Little Liars		The 700 Club	Prince				
FOOD	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped					
FX	Machete	The Ultimate Fighter	Justified		The Americans	Justified				
HGTV	Property	Property	Income Property	Hunters	Hunt Intl	Income Property				
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	Top Gear	Soldier Chall.	Top Gear	Pawn				
LIFE	Dance Moms	Dance Moms	Double	Double	Double	Double	Dance Moms			
MTV	Catfish: The TV Show	Snooki & JWOWW	Snooki & JWOWW	Sara	Snooki & JWOWW	Teen Mom				
NICK	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	The Nanny	The Nanny	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SCI	Face Off	Face Off	Face Off	Robot Combat League	Face Off	Robot Combat League				
SPIKE	Tenants	Tenants	Tenants	The Joe Schmo Show	Tenants	Tenants	Tenants	Tenants		
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Cougar	Big Bang	Conan				
TCM	Dodsworth		Best Yrs-Lives							
TLC	World's Heaviest Man	600 Pound Mom: Extended Episod	600 Pound Mom: Race	World's Heaviest Man	600 Pound					
TNT	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	CSI: NY					
TOON	Looney	Adventure	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen
TRAV	Bizarre Foods	Extreme RVs	Armed	Armed	Extreme Yachts	Extreme RVs				
TV LAND	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Cleveland	Cleveland	King	King	The King of Queens	
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	White Collar		Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU				
VH1	La La	La La	Love & Hip Hop	Mob Wives	Black Ink Crew	The Temptations				
WGN	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	WGN News at Nine	Funniest Home Videos	Rules	Rules		
Premium Channels										
HBO	New Year's Eve	Parade's End	Parade's End	Girls	Horrible Bosses					
MAX	The Bone Collector	Anchorman								
SHOW	Red	Lies	Californ.	Shameless	Comedy	Mike Epps				

Wednesday Evening February 27, 2013

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Middle	Neighbors	Mod Fam	Suburg.	Nashville	Local	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Nightline		
KBSL/CBS	Survivor: Caramoan	Criminal Minds	CSI: Crime Scene	Local	Late Show Letterman	Ferguson				
KSNK/NBC	Whitney	Guys-Kids	Law & Order: SVU	Chicago Fire	Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	J. Fallon			
KSAS/FOX	American Idol			Local						
Cable Channels										
A & E	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.
AMC	Hulk						Mad Max			
ANIM	River Monsters	Gator Boys	Gator Boys	Gator Boys	River Monsters	Gator Boys				
BRAVO	Top Chef: Seattle	Top Chef: Seattle	Top Chef: Seattle	Happens	Top Chef: Seattle	Top Chef				
CMT	Reba	Reba	Overboard			Blue Collar Comedy Tour				
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360	Piers Morgan Tonight	Anderson Cooper 360	E. B. OutFront	Piers Morgan Tonight					
COMEDY	Work.	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	Work.	Kroll	Daily	Colbert	Work.	Tosh.0
DISC	Weed Country	Argo: Inside Story	Weed Country	Argo: Inside Story	Weed Country		Argo: Inside Story	Weed Country		
DISN	ANT Farm	Let It Shine			Good Luck	Jessie	Shake It	Wizards	Wizards	
E!	Kourtney-Kim	Kourtney-Kim	The Soup	Burning L	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea			
ESPN	NBA Basketball		NBA Basketball							
ESPN2	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball							
FAM	Journey	Prince-Persia	The 700 Club	Prince	Prince					
FOOD	Restaurant: Im.	Restaurant: Im.	Restaurant: Im.	Restaurant: Im.	Restaurant: Im.					
FX	Wall Street: Money	The Americans	The Americans	Justified						
HGTV	Cousins	Cousins	Property Brothers	Hunters	Hunt Intl	Property Brothers	Property Brothers			

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	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers
HIST	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers
LIFE	Wife Swap	Wife Swap	America's Supernanny	Dance Moms	Wife Swap
MTV	Snooki & JWOWW	Snooki & JWOWW	Washington Heights	Ridic.	Ridic.
NICK	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	The Nanny
SCI	Ghost Hunters	Ghost Hunters	Stranded	Stranded	Stranded
SPIKE	The Expendables		The Punisher		
TBS	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang
TCM	The Four Feathers		The Third Man		
TLC	Hoard-Buried	Hoard-Buried	Addiction	Addiction	Addiction
TNT	Shooter	Boston's Finest	Southland	Southland	Southland
TOON	Dragons	Incredib	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad
TRAV	Baggage B	Baggage B	Baggage B	Baggage B	Deep Fried 3
TV LAND	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Cleveland
USA	NCIS	NCIS	Psych		White Collar
VH1	The Temptations		The Cookout		
WGN	Rules	Rules	Rules	Rules	WGN News at Nine
Premium Channels					
HBO	This Means War	Parade's End	Parade's End	Real Time/Bill Maher	Enlighten
MAX	Banshee	Alien vs. Predator		I, Robot	Emmanuel
SHOW	My Left	Faster		Shameless	Californ.