

Weather Corner



Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. **Tuesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the south 10 to 20 mph with gusts to 35 mph in the afternoon. **Tuesday night...**Breezy. Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s. South winds 15 to 25 mph shifting to the southwest 10 to 15 mph after midnight. **Wednesday...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 70s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph with gusts to 30 mph. **Wednesday night...**Partly cloudy. A 40 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the mid 40s. **The numbers**
Sunday's high, 73
Low this morning, 41
Records for this date, 98 in 1911 and 30 in 1909
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
Precipitation for month to date: 0.22
Soil temperature, 61
The sources:
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

State Items

Resident agrees to clean up mess

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

SELDEN — A Selden man has agreed to clean up his property or have the city do it for him and be charged.

During a bench trial in front of District Judge Glenn Schiffner on Friday, Richard Carpenter conceded that his property was a "public and private nuisance."

Selden City Attorney Ken Eland in February told Schiffner the city, for over a year without success, had been contacting Carpenter to clean up his property. The city, late last year, ended up taking Carpenter to court.

City council woman Jacque Boultinghouse said Friday afternoon that Carpenter's property is filled with "almost knee high grass," and an assortment of iron.

"Anything having to do with iron, it's there," she said.

Among the items on the property, Boultinghouse said, is an abandoned mobile home, three or four tractors, a dozen or more motors, disc brakes, and an assortment of lawnmowers.

After Schiffner traveled to Selden to inspect the involved property, Carpenter, acting as his own attorney, agreed to clean up his property.

Eland said Carpenter will have 30 days to remove debris and mow or the city of Selden will do it for him. Should the city become further involved in the process, Carpenter will be charged for the city's effort in the clean up work.

Cox Farms of Sublette top subsidy recipient

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six Kansas farms received more than \$400,000 each in federal farm subsidies last year, U.S. Department of Agriculture documents show.

Cox Farms of Sublette in southwest Kansas received \$508,000 in payments, the most of any farm in the state, records show.

Other top subsidy recipients were Morning Star Farms of Greensburg, with \$489,000; Spring Creek Family Farms of Manhattan, with \$458,000; Clawson Farm Partnership of Satanta, with \$457,000; Whit-Crop of Leoti, with \$449,000; and Winger Farms of Johnson, with \$414,000. Current law limits farmers to \$360,000 in subsidies a year, but that cap has loopholes that allow many farms to exceed it.

Briefly

Reception planned at college

A public reception honoring seven long-time Colby Community College employees who will be retiring at the end of the spring semester will be held on Friday beginning at 3 p.m. in the Student Union, room 108. The honorees include Gracemary Melvin, Dr. Harlan Thyfault, Vernon Wranosky, Doris Anderson, Wanda Davis, Fred Miller and Tommy Dean.

Second half of 2004 taxes due

The second half of the 2004 personal property taxes are due by Tuesday, May 10, said Donita Applebury, Thomas County treasurer. Those needing to pay their second half taxes are also reminded to be sure when paying their taxes to use the "corrected tax statement," Applebury said. To know for sure if it is the corrected tax statement, she said to make sure there is either a dollar symbol (\$) in front of the amount due or a smiley face in that same location. She did want to also clarify that those receiving the 1620 form have no errors in the amount owing. For questions, call 460-4520. Payments can be dropped off at the treasurer's office, or postmarked on or before May 10 by mailing to: Thomas County Treasurer, 300 N. Court Ave., Colby, Kan. 67701.

Who is the oldest living 4-H member?

The Thomas County Fair Board is looking for the oldest living 4-H member in Thomas County to serve as the grand marshal at this year's parade, said Audrey Hines, board secretary. The search for the oldest 4-H member is in conjunction with a recent contest held in Thomas County schools to

choose a theme for the parade. The winning entry, "Celebrating 100 years of 4-H" came from the Brewster fifth grade class, she said. Hines is encouraging people to call her at 462-2388 or Stan Strange at 462-8331 with names of possibly the oldest living 4-H members.

Hydrant flushing begins today

The Colby Fire Department will begin their annual fire hydrant maintenance and flow testing on Monday, said Bob McLemore, fire chief. This process is expected to take three to four weeks, he said. For questions on hydrants or general information about the department, call 460-4454.

Final vocal concert Tuesday

The final Colby High School vocal concert for this year will be a pops concert, Tuesday, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the school's auditorium. The concert will feature a broad variety of more modern pieces being sang in small ensembles, solos, and by the full concert choir and women's choir. There will be background band accompaniments by Blake and Brandon McLemore, both seniors; along with piano accompaniments by Valarie Higerd, senior; Amanda Kidder, vocal director; and Nanette Kraus. The theme for the night is "Open Mic Night at the Moonlight Espresso coffeehouse." Vocal members and the director said they hope many will be able to attend as it has been a lot of hard work and dedication from all of the students in the program.

Fair board to meet Thursday

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thurs-

Scientists under fire for boycotting hearings

By JOHN HANNA

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — While State Board of Education members spent three days soaking up from critics of evolution about how the theory should be taught in public schools, many scientists refused to participate in the board's public hearings.

But evolution's defenders were hardly silent last week, nor are they likely to be Thursday, when the hearings are set to conclude. They have offered public rebuttals after each day's testimony.

Their tactics led the intelligent design advocates — hoping to expose Kansas students to more criticism of evolution — to accuse them of ducking the debate over the theory.

But Kansas scientists who defend evolution said the hearings were rigged against the theory. They also said they don't see the need to cram their arguments into a few days of testimony, like out-of-state witnesses called by intelligent design advocates.

"They're in, they do their schtick, and they're out," said Keith Miller, a Kansas State University geologist. "I'm going to be here, and I'm not going to be quiet. We'll have the rest of our lives to make our points."

The scientists' boycott, led by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Kansas Citizens for Science, frustrated board members who viewed their hearings as an educational forum.

"I am profoundly disappointed that they've chosen to present their case in the shadows," said board member Connie Morris, of St. Francis. "I would have enjoyed hearing what they have to say in a professional, ethical manner."

Intelligent design advocates challenge evolutionary theory that natural chemical processes can create life, that all life on Earth had a common origin and that man and apes had a common ancestor. Intelligent design says some features of the

natural world are best explained by an intelligent cause because they are well ordered and complex.

Science groups' leaders said Morris and the other two members of the board subcommittee presiding at the hearings already have decided to support language backed by intelligent design advocates.

All three are part of a conservative board majority receptive to criticism of evolution. The entire board plans to consider changes this summer in standards that determine how students will be tested statewide in science.

Alan Leshner, AAAS chief executive officer, dismissed the hearings as "political theater."

"There is no cause for debate so why are they having them?" he said. "They're trying to imply that evolution is a controversial concept in science, and that's absolutely not true."

Intelligent design advocates argue they're trying to give students a balanced view of evolution.

Some Kansas scientists who support the evolutionary model contend that the real goal is trying to sneak intelligent design — which they criticize as repackaged creationism — into the classroom.

During the recent round of hearings, witnesses said repeatedly that the study of molecules, embryos and fossils challenges evolution. But other scientists said their arguments have been discredited repeatedly.

"These people are willfully ignorant, and they choose to ignore the facts," said Timothy Parker, a Kansas State University biologist.

Intelligent design advocates said questions about evolution aren't going to stop.

Edward Peltzer, a Monterey Bay, Calif., ocean chemist, said scientists and philosophers have debated for several thousand years whether life or features of the natural world were designed. He was a witness at the hearing.

Doggone good job!



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Jodi Robinson, Potwin, signals her dog, Jack, in front of judges as the dog herds sheep toward a small pen. Robinson was one of 25 participants in the Cottonwood Ranch Sheep Dog Trials at the ranch near Studley over the weekend. Cottonwood Ranch is listed on the state's historic registry and hosts the annual contest which is sanctioned by the American Border Collie Association.

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How to contact our reporters:

Editor Patty Decker — pdecker@nwkansas.com
(785)462-3963

Tisha Cox — tcox@nwkansas.com
(785) 462-3963

Jan Katz Ackerman — ackermanjk@ruraltel.net
(785) 675-2155