

Weather Corner



Warm, breezy

Tonight...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday...Windy. Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 80s. South winds 20 to 30 mph. **Thursday night...**Breezy. Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. South winds 15 to 25 mph. Gusts up to 40 mph early in the evening. **Friday...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 80s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

The numbers
 Tuesday's high, 70
 Low this morning, 44
 Records for this date, 96 in 1899 and 36 in 1917
 Soil temperature, 61
 Water use Tuesday - 1,242,700 gallons

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

Wheat harvest just days away in south Kansas

WICHITA (AP) — The start of the Kansas wheat harvest may be just days away in southern Kansas, with 22 percent of the crop statewide now turning color, the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service said Tuesday.

The first place combines will likely roll in in south-central Kansas, where already at least one farmer has brought in a wheat sample for testing to the Kiowa grain elevator.

Had it not rained Tuesday, that field would have been ready to cut Wednesday, said Alan Meyers, manager of the OK Co-op Grain in Kiowa.

Harvest around the Kiowa area could now start as soon as Friday or Saturday, assuming the rest of the week is dry, Meyers said.

About 71 percent of the wheat in south-central Kansas has turned color, KASS reported in its weekly crop weather update.

Meyers is anticipating an average or slightly better harvest.

"It could be better, but it could be a whole lot worse," he said.

It is a sentiment shared by elevator operators and farmers across the state — many of whom had prepared for what had looked like a bumper harvest just a month ago.

But unfortunately late spring freezes, little rain and an infestation of stripe rust have all since taken a toll.

"Most thought we would have a bin-buster harvest this year early on, but as we get closer to the actual harvesting of the wheat there are those that think it is going to be a much smaller harvest," said Tom Tunnell, executive director of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association. Warm, windy conditions will move the harvest north and westward across the state.

Briefly

Rod Run schedule announced

Residents are encouraged to make plans for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 10, 11 and 12 and attend the 2005 Rod Run in Colby for a nostalgic look at the past, said Jo Strange, publicity chair. The event begins with a Cruise-In at Sonic Drive-In and Montana Mike's from 5 to 9 p.m., Friday. "Everyone is invited to stop by and view the cars," she said. On Saturday (June 11) registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and the Show and Shine at 9 a.m. Throughout the day, vehicles will be parked around the perimeter of Fike Park for viewing and at 4 p.m., rodders will parade their cars through the two nursing home properties so that residents can enjoy the cars. In addition to the many cars displayed Saturday, food vendors will be set up in the park. More details will appear in future editions of the *Colby Free Press*.

Information systems course to begin

Colby College is offering a Geographic Information Systems course starting next Tuesday on campus. This course is an information management system which combines layers of information about a particular location or place. The course is a tool for storing, retrieving, analyzing and mod-

eling solutions. "Used extensively in all levels of governmental planning, economic development and emergency services, GIS use is growing exponentially," said Barry Kaaz, instructor. The course will meet two nights per week from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Bedker Memorial Complex, room 704. For information call Kaaz at 462-3984, ext. 224 or 462-0411.

County participates in campaign

Thomas County is taking part in the Memorial Day "Click It or Ticket" campaign which continues through Sunday, said Sheriff Mike Baughn. The campaign will place additional officers on streets and highways to aggressively enforce all Kansas traffic laws. For questions about these laws or how motorists can help, call the sheriff's office at 460-4570.

After 5 Club plans dinner party

The High Plains Kansas After 5 Club has scheduled a dinner party on Tuesday, June 14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Colonial Steakhouse in Oakley. A buffet-style dinner will be served with the party entitled, "Extreme Makeover," said Teri Adams, one of the coordinators. The After 5 Club is open to everyone and reservations or cancellations are due by Sun-

day, June 12. To make a reservation, call Adams at (785) 460-6801 or e-mail her at: biohw@st-tel.net Nursery services are provided by reservation only and those interested can contact Adams as well.

Genesis food drive to continue

Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3882 Auxiliary will continue the Genesis food collection at LeRoy's Printing, 560 N. Franklin in Colby.

Annual tractor show Sunday

The Selden American Legion is hosting its 12th annual tractor show in Selden on Sunday. This year's event is dedicated to the memory of Gerald "Rex" Shaw, who was one of the major organizers of the show since its inception in 1993. Everyone is invited to bring antique and classic tractors, cars and small engines to display throughout the day. This year's show will begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. at the north end of Main Street. No registration or attendance fee is required and plaques will be awarded for top exhibitors. For details or general information, call (785) 386-4331 or (785) 386-4481.

Area officials get the word on new public health law

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

OAKLEY — Thirty-three officials from northwest Kansas met Tuesday to learn about the state's newest public health law.

Judy Moler, a representative of the Kansas Association of Counties, acted as facilitator for the interactive teleconference which took place at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley.

Moler spoke from Topeka about House Bill 2264, a new law outlining how officials are to handle situations where individuals or groups need to be quarantined or isolated while suffering from a communicable disease.

"This deals with when the greater good of the larger body of a community has to be looked at over the good of an individual," Moler said.

She said the new law provides a way to proceed when someone, or a group of people, need to "remain in a place of quarantine or isolation until they no longer represent a threat of contamination to the larger community."

While much of the new law addresses current law about communicable diseases, HB 2264 expands the duties of local health officers. Once a public health officer is aware of a disease which might require quarantine or isolation, he or she is required to report it to county and state authorities. The officer is also required to investigate the case, take measures to control the disease and enforce a quarantine or isolation. He or she also has the power to close public gatherings, in instances of severe outbreaks of the flu or other communicable diseases.

Public health officers in the tri-county region include Juanita Dewey, R. N., Thomas County; Georgetta Schoenfeld, R.N., Logan County; and Dr. Doug Gruenbacher, a Quinter physician serving Sheridan County.

The new law gives local health officers the authority to issue orders when a person or persons has been exposed to a contagious or infectious disease and may require appropriate and necessary evaluation and treatment.

Moler said the United States in

the past 50 years has seen very little instances when quarantine or isolation of the public has been necessary. Citing chicken pox and the flu virus, Moler said public health need to always be on guard to watch for the public's health safety.

"The local health officer may order the sheriff, deputy sheriff, or other law enforcement officer of the state to assist in the execution or enforcement of any issued order," Moler said about orders to place someone in quarantine or isolation.

The new law does not make the public health officer the chief law enforcement officer of a county during communicable disease situations, rather it provides a tool for agencies to work together as a "common person" to protect the community, Moler said.

New to the law is a due process hearing portion. If someone ordered to quarantine or isolation, that person has the right to appeal the order through a district court. While the individual can not leave quarantine or isolation to attend the hearing, a judge can appoint two competent physicians as a board to examine the person and report their findings to the court.

Also new to the law is the protection of employment of anyone placed in quarantine or isolation. The law now protects someone from being fired from his or her job when they, or their immediate family, is isolated or quarantined by order of the county public health official.

Moler encouraged everyone attending the meetings in Oakley, Garden City, Emporia, Liberal, Great Bend, Hutchinson, Wichita and Manhattan to take the information home and discuss it.

For more information about the list of communicable diseases covered by current laws, as well as the newest law, visit the state website at www.accesskansas.org. Under the link I Want To Find, click on Kansas Administrative Regulations and key in 28-1-2 for the complete list of diseases.

"The key topic is quality communication now, during a non-emergency time, to determine what is needed during a crisis," Moler said.

Sebelius signs benefit bill

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Kathleen Sebelius on Tuesday fulfilled a promise to sign legislation giving \$250,000 to family members of all Kansas National Guard members killed in combat.

"When they make the ultimate sacrifice, we have a duty to care for their families," Sebelius said in a statement. "This benefit can never replace the loved one who is lost, but hopefully it can help prevent financial hardship and serve as a

token of our state's gratitude." The benefits will be paid from the state emergency fund and are exempt from state taxes. The new law takes effect July 1 and covers deaths between Nov. 1, 2004 and July 1, 2007, when the law expires. Three Kansas guardsmen have been killed in Iraq.

Legislators approved the bill on May 20, the final day of the legislative session, which is normally reserved only for a brief adjournment.

Sun spells f-u-n



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Madison and Kaylin Wiens watched Collin Carroll, middle, play Tuesday at Fike Park in Colby. The children were taking advantage of a turn to warmer, dry weather.

Summer Special Offer

for people living 75 miles or more from Hays

10 Visit Pass

to the Center for Health Improvement in Hays

\$50

Here's how it works...

- Purchase the 10 visit pass during June
- In the next 6 months when you're in Hays for shopping, doctors appointments, ball games or summer school, enjoy the use of the Center to help keep in shape

We've got...

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