

Weather Corner



Mostly clear on Labor Day

The forecast
Tonight... Mostly clear. Low in the high 50s. South wind between 10 and 20 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph. **Saturday...** Mostly sunny with highs in the low 90s. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Saturday night...** Mostly clear with lows in the low 60s. South wind between 10 and 20 mph. **Sunday...** Mostly sunny and breezy with highs in the low 90s. **Sunday night...** Partly cloudy with lows in the low 60s. **Monday ...** Isolated showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy with highs in the mid 90s. **Monday night...** Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 7 p.m. Partly cloudy with lows in the high 50s. **Tuesday ...** Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly in the morning. Partly cloudy with highs in the low 80s.

Temperatures
 Thursday's high, 82
 Low this morning, 60
 Records for this date, 10 in 1939 and 39 in 1962
 Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
 September's precipitation, 0.00
 Soil temperature, 65

Water Terms
 •WaterWatch — Demand for 3 consecutive days exceeds 3.5 million gallons per day.
 •WaterWarning — Demand for 3 consecutive days exceeds 4.0 million gallons per day. City will begin conservation efforts.
 •WaterEmergency — Demand for 3 consecutive days exceeds 4.5 million gallons per day. No outdoor watering allowed along with other conservation efforts.

Water Use
 Aug. 31 = 2,048,100 gallons
 Sept. 1 = 2,383,500 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.

Kansas sends 150 troops to Louisiana

TOPEKA (AP) — About 150 Kansas National Guard troops will go to Louisiana to help with recovery work in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and hundreds more could be summoned.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius also announced steps Thursday to speed hurricane relief to victims and prepare Kansas for a potential influx of refugees from Gulf Coast states. Her actions included issuing a disaster emergency proclamation, which reduces state regulatory hurdles to move relief items to stricken areas and allows for reimbursements from the federal government.

Sebelius also urged Kansans to conserve fuel in response to rising gasoline prices caused by Katrina shutting down refineries. And she said consumers should be vigilant about potential price gouging at the pump.

"It breaks my heart," Sebelius told reporters. "People are in desperate situations, and the loss of life and the loss of property and worldly goods is just heartbreaking."

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 U.S. Department of Transportation

Briefly

No newspaper Monday

The Colby Free Press will not publish a Monday newspaper in observance of Labor Day, said Pat Schiefen, interim publisher. However, a newspaper will be delivered on Tuesday. The office will also be closed Monday, and reopen Tuesday at its regular time of 8 a.m.

Commissioners meeting on Tuesday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include Bruce Bandy of Commercial Sign at 9:30 a.m. to discuss painting some panels at the courthouse. The commissioners meetings for this month will be on Sept. 6, 12, 19 and 30. The public is welcome to attend and anyone wanting to meet with the commissioners can call in advance to schedule.

Fair board to meet Thursday

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include a report from county extension agents; financial report and bills; committee reports on the buildings and grounds, carnival, rodeo, parade, demolition derby,

races, fair book and advertising. Old business will include a discussion on the fair barbecue.

School board to meet Tuesday

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the board room at the Administration Building. Items on the agenda include approval of the consent agenda; reports from the principals, curriculum director and superintendent; 2005-2006 out-of-district student requests; Kansas Association of School Boards regional meeting and convention; approval of HeadStart agreements; 2005-2006 fund-raising activities and personnel matters if necessary. The meeting is open to the public.

Page City reunion continues Saturday

The Page City Alumni School Reunion will be held on Friday and Saturday at the Colby Community Building. Activities begin tonight at 7 p.m. with a time for visiting and snacks. On Saturday, events start at 11:30 a.m. with a potluck at noon and a program following the meal. Most activities will conclude by 5 p.m. Drinks and table service will be provided at the potluck. All Page City graduates, attendees, and any one in the community is encouraged to attend. All

are welcome. For questions, call Sharon Stramel, 460-3706.

Share signup next week

Heartland Share signup for September will begin on Monday and continue through Friday, at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. 4th, Colby. The order will go in Monday, Sept. 12, and delivery is Saturday, Sept. 24. For questions, call 460-3579.

County offices closed Monday

The Thomas County courts, all county offices to include the health department will be closed on Monday for the Labor Day weekend, said Shelly Harms, clerk. The county landfill will be closed Sunday and Monday.

EMT classes planned in September

Thomas County Emergency Medical Service is sponsoring an EMT Class starting at 6 p.m., Monday, Sept 12, at the Thomas County EMS building, 1275 S. Franklin, Colby. Interested individuals can call 460-4585 for an information packet concerning class dates and times, meeting places, college credit and fees, textbooks and labe equipment needed, and of course the requirements.

Oakley schools seek status quo

By Jan Katz Ackerman
 Colby Free Press

OAKLEY — The school district in Oakley is going to try and retain the status quo from last year as it opened its doors this year.

"There will be no major changes this year," said Superintendent Bill Steiner.

Working with a slightly higher budget this year compared to last, Steiner said the including the At-Risk and special education funds will bring the budget up from \$3,153,367 to \$3,283,850.

"Our At-Risk money will double and our special education money will increase. Much of the increase in special education is flow through money; it stoops here and then

moves to the service center. That does help out our local option budget," Steiner said.

What Steiner calls "At-Risk" students are those who receive free or reduced lunches; for example, those living in low income or single parent households qualifying for the assistance.

"The money can be spent for programs that will enhance children's achievement who are not performing at the proficient level on state assessments," Steiner said, "those below grade level in reading and those who are at-risk to fail. Basically our actual general fund monies will show no gain. Any new monies will probably be eaten up with the rising fuel prices."

Oakley's school district has about 130 students more than does Hoxie's. Oakley's enrollment is 432, compared to its neighbor to the northwest with about 305 right now.

Steiner said the three upper-level high school classes have the most in the district. The sophomore and senior classes have 42 students, and the junior has 40 students.

The junior high school runs counter to the high school with 40 seventh graders and 42 eighth graders.

Grades three, four, five, six and nine all have between 22 and 27 students, with the second grade having only 18 students. This year's first grade has 34 students, 10 more students than in the kindergarten class.

Hoxie enrollment looks higher

By Jan Katz Ackerman
 Colby Free Press

HOXIE — In a time of continued declining enrollment, things might be looking up for the school district in Hoxie.

Superintendent Scott Hoyt said on Wednesday the project enrollment of 305 students might be higher.

"I think we'll be ahead of the 305. The plus side is we'll stay about even with last year," Hoyt said.

Last year being 331 full-time equivalent students, and a budget of about \$100,000 higher than this year's which comes in at \$3,455,921.

"We may have to republish our budget," Hoyt said about looking at the district's financial picture after the official headcount date of Sept. 20.

Hoyt said the state-wide school financial crisis is making Hoxie's district "strive to increase resources with At-Risk students."

At-Risk students are those receiving free or reduced lunches; for example, those living in low income or single parent households qualifying for the assistance.

Enrollment runs the gamut as far as number of students.

All four grades at the high school currently have 36 students, and the

kindergarten follows close behind with 28 students.

The lowest number of students is in the first grade with 15, followed by the seventh grade with 19 students.

Second through sixth grades are in the high teens and low 20s.

Hoyt said in spite of the state's doom and gloom financial outlook for schools, particularly rural schools, Hoxie's making "no major changes" because of the state's school finance budget increase.

"You can't make plans for the school year starting in the middle of July," he said.

Music booster fun



JENNIFER KOEL/Colby Free Press

The Colby Music Boosters held a barbecue at Fike Park recently, which was the first activity of the new school year, said Jennifer Koel, Colby Grade School's primary music teacher. All students and their parents involved in vocal and band were invited to the a meal of hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks. **ABOVE:** Joey Nickols, accompanist, was the barbecue chef.

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 Viking • Pfaff • Singer • White • Brother (Commercial)
 Vacuums
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****Offering Sewing & Quilting Classes****
 Hours: 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
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Hoxie Medical Clinic
Announces Clinic Hours for Dr. Brewster Kellogg
 Dr. Kellogg from the Family Center for Health Care in Colby will be seeing patients in the Hoxie Medical Clinic on **Tuesday, Sept. 6 from 9 a.m.-Noon**
 Dr. Kellogg is Board Certified in Family Practice, his special interests include:
 •Obstetrics •Sports Medicine
 •Family Medicine • No-Scalpel Vasectomies
For an appointment call: 785-675-3018
Hoxie Medical Clinic
 826 18th Street
 Hoxie, KS 67740

4TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION on the High Plains
Sept. 10 - Noon
Prairie Museum of Art & History
1905 S. Franklin, Colby, KS

Featuring Western Kansas Very Own Heather Shelley
 Colgate Country Showdown National Champion
 Voted "Best New Act in Country Music"

12:30 -2 p.m. Paul B. Heskett (DJ)
2:00-3:00 p.m. "Calamity Jane"
3:15-5:15 p.m. Aces & Eights
5:30-6:30 p.m. Lipriddle
6:45-8:00 p.m. No Parking
National Anthem by Teighlor Light
8:15-9:30 p.m. Heather Shelley

Children's Activities & Prizes • Concessions • Chili Cook-Off
 Beer Garden (21 yrs. & older) • Watermelon Feed
 Motorcycle Displays • Antique Engine & Tractor Display

FOR TICKETS CALL: 460-3401 OR 800-611-8835

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