

Weather Corner



Forecast calls for showers

The forecast
Tonight — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy with a low in the low 60s. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Thursday** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy with a high in the low 90s. **Thursday night** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy with lows in the low 60s. South wind around 9 mph. **Friday night** — Mostly clear and breezy with a low around 63 .
Temperatures
 Tuesday's high, 67
 Low this morning, 59
 Records for this date, 103 in 1971 and 34 in 1909
 Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
 September's precipitation, 0.00
 Soil temperature, 80
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
 Sept. 6 = 2,554,800 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.

Briefly

Library donates fines for relief efforts

The Pioneer Memorial Library will be donating all fines this week to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts through the American Red Cross, said Jeff Friesen, librarian.

Hurricane training starts Thursday

The Thomas County American Red Cross is sponsoring a training program open to anyone interested in helping relief efforts in Louisiana. This fast track program, said Molly Oliver, disaster chair, will train volunteers in two days with classes on Thursday and Friday, both starting at 6:30 p.m., in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby. Oliver will also hold a day-long class beginning at 8:30 a.m. for those unable to attend the Thursday-Friday training. Oliver encourages those planning to attend the fast track courses to call her either at 460-7653 (daytime) or 462-6133 (evenings). In the event someone wants the training, but cannot schedule it this week is also asked to call Oliver in making other arrangements. "My schedule is the volunteer's schedule," she said.

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.

'Kids For Safety' event planned

The Thomas County Health Department is again offering its "Kids for Safety," from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the Colby Community Building. Highlights of the event include water safety demonstrations, music and other learning experiences. Everyone, young and old, is encouraged to attend, said Juanita Dewey, administrator. More details will appear in a later edition of the *Free Press*.

Enrollment begins for new program

The Thomas County Interagency Coalition in conjunction with area businesses and organizations is conducting an after school program for students in third, fourth and fifth grades, said Kim Chain, regional prevention center. The purpose of the after school program is to provide a safe place for children to go after school where trained adults provide healthy snacks and constructive activities. The program will run Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, starting Monday, Sept. 12 and continuing through Thursday, Nov. 17, at the Colby Community Building. Transportation from Colby Grade School to the community building will be provided by the Colby School District; however, parents must pick their child up from the community building at 5:15 p.m. For questions or to enroll, call Chain at 460-8177.

Hospital auxiliary to hold recycle sale

The Citizens Medical Center Auxiliary is sponsoring a recycle sale, 7:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 17, at 545 Woolfer Ave. All holiday decorations and miscellaneous

items in good condition are being accepted for the sale, but no clothing is needed. Donations may be left at 545 Woolfer on Thursday, Sept. 15, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday, Sept. 16, from 10 a.m. to noon and again from 5 to 8 p.m. For questions, call Carolyn Miller, 462-6896.

Orchestra to begin rehearsals soon

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra begins its 25th season with rehearsals planned from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Monday, Sept. 12, in the Colby High School band room. All musicians are invited to join the orchestra, said Sharon Kriss, one of the members. Musicians span a wide range of vocations and ages (middle school to retirees) from communities throughout northwest Kansas and northeast Colorado, she said. "No auditions are required," she said, "only a love of music and commitment to this community service." For questions, call Kriss at 460-2800 or Mary Shoaff, 462-2391.

Chorus rehearses every Tuesday

The Hi-Plains Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines holds rehearsals every Tuesday at 7:30 pm. at the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave. All female singers are encouraged to attend anytime. Larry Patterson of Norton is the director.

Square dance Saturday in Colby

The Golden Buckle Square Dancers are planning a dancing event Saturday, starting at 8 p.m. at the Colby Community Building. Steve Bailey, Holdrege, Neb., will call for the square dance. Visitors are welcome.

Driving course offered at hospital

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

Driving an automobile without periodically refreshing your driving skills may be hazardous to your health. A drivers safety course could help reduce your risks, as well as lower your automobile insurance. Citizens Medical Center Inc. will host a Driver Safety Course from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Sept. 13 and 20 at the hospital board room. "One of the most important steps that we can take to improve our driving ability is to be aware of the changes we face and then learn to adapt to them," said Tama Unger, director of fund development and community relations. "That is where driver refresher classes like the one being offered at Citizens Medical Center can help." Unger said the AARP Driver Safety Program is an excellent nationwide program that highlights the most important information to help maintain a driver's safety behind the wheel.

“The classroom refresher is open to everyone... Tama Unger, fund development

"The classroom refresher is open to anyone with a valid driver's license," Unger said. "Course graduates are eligible for a discount on their automobile insurance under Kansas law."

The eight hour course, which includes an excellent workbook, video presentation, and active group discussions led by certified volunteers, costs only \$10 and no driving exam or other tests are involved.

For more information or to register for the course, contact Jeanene Brown in the hospital's education department at (785) 460-4850.

School screenings



JAN KATZACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Mothers Elizabeth Zerr, left, and Michelle Foote, right, hold their daughters, Norie Zerr and Molly Foote, as they wait for an early childhood development screening which took place in Hoxie at the grade school on Tuesday. Staff members from the Northwest Developmental Service Center, Oakley, provided the testing.

Judge releases copy of order

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

After receiving a written request, a Thomas County judge has released a signed copy of a gag order he issued in a juvenile case. Magistrate Richard Ress offered no reason Tuesday afternoon for not providing a copy of an order when requested last week. Questions arose about the nature of a case and why Ress had closed it. On Aug. 31, Ress said if he were to close a case it "would be because of a juvenile's age and to protect the victim."

At that time, Ron Keefover, spokesman for the Office of Judicial Administration in Topeka, said a gag order doesn't keep the public from looking at the case unless it is part of a grand jury, an inquisition or closed by state statute. Kansas law allows judges to close case documents under certain instances. One instance is if the defendant or victim is under the age of 14. Ress has yet to disclose the nature of the case. The case number and title were blacked out on the order, which reads:

"It is hereby ordered, adjudged and decreed that the above captioned case is sealed and confidential, information to be released only to attorneys of record, Juvenile Justice
 "Authority and any relevant agencies that are court ordered to provide services, etc., within the parameters of the case itself."
 The order says that no information, including documents that are normally considered "public record," is to be released to the public in the case.
 The order was filed at 4:52 p.m. on Aug. 30 in Thomas County District Court by Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick. Besides Wyrick's signature, it was approved by Charles Stewart, an attorney from Oakley, and signed by Judge Ress.

Kansas getting evacuees

TOPEKA (AP)—State officials are preparing for an estimated 4,000 evacuees from Hurricane Katrina to arrive in the coming days, far fewer than originally rumored. Joy Moser, spokeswoman for the Kansas Adjutant General's Department, which includes the National Guard and emergency management, said Tuesday that fewer than 1,000 people were already here.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius was asked by Texas officials to take in people whom they couldn't handle, said Nicole Corcoran, the governor's spokeswoman. Sebelius signed a letter Tuesday asking for federal funds to assist Kansas in caring for evacuees. Communities across Kansas were beginning to see people trickle, with the bulk of evacuees still to come.

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Monday & Thursday 6-10 p.m.
 Located in the lower level of the **H.F. Davis Library, Room #251**

Todos los autos son muy parecidos. HASTA QUE TIENEN UN DUEÑO.
 Es por eso que yo te puedo ayudar a encontrar un SEGURO DE AUTO con tarifas competitivas que se ajusten a tus necesidades.
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