

Weather Corner



Clear, windy highs near 75

The forecast
Tonight — Mostly clear with a low around 40. South wind between 11 and 15 mph. **Friday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 75. Breezy, with a south wind 14 to 17 mph increasing to between 22 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 37 mph. **Friday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 42. Breezy with a south wind 18 to 21 mph. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy with a high around 73. North northwest wind between 3 and 10 mph. **Saturday night** — A chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 a.m. Partly cloudy with a low around 40. **Sunday** — A chance of showers and thunderstorms in the morning. Partly cloudy with a high around 64. **Sunday night** — A slight chance of showers before 7 p.m. Partly cloudy with a low around 35. **Monday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 61. **Monday night** — Partly cloudy with a low near 30.
Temperatures
 Wednesday's high, 68
 Low this morning, 28
 Records for this date, 86 in 1933, 10 in 1925
 Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
 October's precipitation, 2.35
 A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Security tight for Gorbachev

LINDSBORG, Kan. (AP) — Lindsborg authorities have been gearing up for this weekend's visit of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.
 "Like any good police work, you prepare for the worst and hope for the best," said Lindsborg Police Chief Tim Berggren.
 "We've had weekly meetings for well over a month. We'll be ready by this weekend."
 Berggren heads security for the Chess for Peace events, which begin at 10 a.m. Saturday.
 But he's getting help from the McPherson County Sheriff's Office, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Kansas Highway Patrol and Bethany College security.
 Gorbachev will spend Friday and Saturday nights in Lindsborg at the Rosberg House Bed & Breakfast. Earlier Friday, he will speak at Kansas State University in Manhattan, delivering a lecture in the series named for former Kansas Gov. Alf Landon.

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Briefly

Fall festival Sunday

Heartland Christian School will hold their annual Fall Festival on Sunday. Included in the festival is a soup luncheon starting at 11 a.m.: Adults \$4, Children \$2. Carnival games will run from 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Hoedown planned next week

A "Harvest Hoedown" featuring lots of bluegrass and western entertainment is planned Friday from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at City Limits Convention Center. For questions, call the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, (785) 460-7643 or toll-free, (800) 611-8835. All proceeds from the admission charge will go toward funding next summer's Pickin' On the Plains Bluegrass Festival.

Bingo party planned in Rexford

The Rexford Royal Neighbors are planning a bingo party at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, at the Rexford Community Building. The cost is free-will donation with proceeds going to the Rexford Museum. For questions, call Gene Hawkins, (785) 687-4451.

Jazz band to perform Sunday

Queen City Jazz Band will be performing at the Cheyenne Theatre in St. Francis, Sunday, at 3 p.m. (2 p.m. MST), sponsored by Western Plains Arts Association. The band plays authentic New Orleans-style traditional jazz from the 1920s and 30s. With a spirit of fun and exuberance, they recreate the memorable Dixieland sounds, said association officials. Admission is by association season pass or at the door: adults, \$10, and children, \$5. This show is presented by the Kansas Arts Commission and National Endowment of the Arts.

After 5 Club plans November event

Honoring Our Grandmothers, is the November theme for the High Plains After 5 Club event. The dinner/program begins at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 14, at The Colonial Steakhouse in Oakley with the featured speaker, Cynthia Leibrock, whose mission is to improve the lives of older and disabled people through interior design, a spokesperson for the After 5 Club said. The dinner and presentation will conclude by 8:30 p.m. All reservations and cancellations for the dinner event must be made by Sunday, Nov. 12, club officials said. To make a

reservation, general information about the After 5 Club or nursery services, call Gloria Mattix, (785) 460-2705.

New EMS director plans talk

A program on automatic external defibrillator equipment, sponsored by the Gem Lions Club, is planned for 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Gem Community Building. Ken Gatlin, director of the Thomas County Emergency Medical Services, will be the speaker. The public is invited to come.

Transit van for Colby residents only

The Thomas County transit van is available to all people in Colby, said Shelly Harms, county clerk. Operating from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, Colby residents needing to use this service can call 460-2901. Harms said the transit van is not available to make emergency runs to the hospital. "If you are in need of an ambulance," she said, "you need to call 911." The transit van driver, Ed Dean, is not qualified to transport patients to Citizens Medical Center or any other hospital facility. For questions about the transit van, either call the service number or the county clerk's office, 460-4500.

Sheridan County replaces faulty truck

By Jan Katz Ackerman
 Colby Free Press

Talk about a truck turned sour was on the agenda again at Monday's county commission meeting in Hoxie.

Sheridan County Commissioners Ron Schamberger, chairman, Keith Kennedy and David Zimmerman voted on Oct. 13 to replace a gravel truck which turned out to be faulty. The replacement for that truck didn't take place and the commissioners had to vote again on another truck.

Road and bridge supervisor Bob Schwarz on Monday told the commissioners Dick Goss, Hays Mack Sales and Service, Hays, was not able to negotiate delivery of the truck expected to replace the 1998 Mack truck purchased in August.

"Dick has found another truck, with a shorter frame, no wet cab but it has a slide-in fifth wheel.

"It's a 2004, has no miles and is in Hays," Schwarz said.

When the 1998 gravel truck having 290,000 miles on it was found to have a faulty camshaft, Schwarz advised the board Goss would refund the \$34,250 paid for it.

List price of the latest truck is \$133,746, and carries a five-year/300,000 mile warranty.

"He'll still refund the money and we'll pay \$30,750 more," Schwarz said.

At the time the faulty truck was purchased, a second gravel truck, a 2005 Mack, was purchased through Goss at the cost \$76,694.

Purchased sight unseen and without a bid process, the commissioners were asked why they didn't comply with their own purchasing policy.

That policy states that all supplies and services over \$25,000 are to go through a competitive sealed bid process and the award will go to the "lowest in price."

Kennedy said the commissioners didn't use the bid process because they decided they wanted Mack gravel trucks and the closest dealer was in Hays.

"Basically we've been buying used trucks and haven't had good luck with them," Kennedy said.

"We wanted quality trucks to haul these heavy loads. If we wanted a Mack truck we had to go to a Mack dealer."

In other business on Monday, the

commissioners and Schwarz talked about two violations the county received during an inspection at the landfill.

Schwarz showed the commissioners a report filed by Rick Robinson, an inspector with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

That report dated Oct. 11, says the county did not comply with storm water management and pit coverage at the landfill located about four miles south of Hoxie.

"We need to put a terrace on the east side of one pit to keep water from running off the hill into the cell," Schwarz said.

"That terrace will be built with sand from the next cell."

Schwarz also said Robinson reported a violation about soil coverage of one of the trash cell pits which needs to be done "every 120 days."

Schwarz said that had not been done in a timely fashion to avoid a violation.

Robinson gave the county 30 days to comply with his findings. Schwarz said once compliance takes place he can notify the state by letter.

In addition, Robinson recommended some recordkeeping improvements for David Bingham, manger of the landfill.

Health fair highlights



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Hoxie Medical Clinic staff members assisted area residents with various tests at the health fair at the 4-H building in Hoxie on Saturday. The clinic used a Halloween theme for the fair. Rhonda Farber, second from right, prepared to administer a blood sugar check on Shannon Morgan, both of Hoxie.

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