

Weather Corner



Mostly clear but breezy

The forecast
Tonight — Mostly clear with a low around 22. North wind around 10 mph becoming south-west. **Tuesday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 54. North wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Tuesday night** — Scattered flurries after 1 a.m. Partly cloudy with a low near 20. East wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. **Wednesday** — Mostly cloudy with a high near 35. East wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Wednesday night** — A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy with a low around 16. **Thursday** — Scattered flurries before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a low around 14.
Temperatures
 Sunday's high, 45
 Low this morning, 17
 Records for this date, 79 in 1962, -20 in 1905
 Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
 February's precipitation, 0.03
 A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Parents ban Barney for safer refuge

WICHITA (AP) — The nursery in Rachel Schober's home comes from another age.

Her 9-month-old son looks out from his wooden crib at a barrel of Tinkertoys, tasseled curtains and the sort of Mother Goose illustrations his grandmother might have spied as a young girl. At night, he's tucked into sheets imprinted with sailing ships and toy soldiers.

"We love the way people lived back then," said Schober, who lives with her husband and son in a gabled Victorian home in Wichita, Kan. "Being together with families and sitting out on the front porch and enjoying life rather than trying to get a thousand things done in a day."

The Schobers are not alone in surrounding their child with vintage-style toys and decor. Businesses that sell toys and nursery furnishings modeled after '50s styles and earlier report brisk sales. Parents say they find comfort in the timeless looks. Psychologists suggest parents also might be trying to create cocoons that conjure more kid-friendly times before 24-hour news, terrorism and technological overload.

"Parents are looking to make their homes the safe refuge," said Leah Klungness, a private practice psychologist in Long Island. "While the world doesn't necessarily spin on the latest wallpaper trend, it definitely suggests that on a basic level parents are trying to return to a simpler time with more basic family centered values."

Vintage styles for young kids remain a niche. Toy store shelves remain loaded with electronic devices and Elmo stands sentry over countless cribs.

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Briefly

Genesis annual meeting Thursday

Genesis-Thomas County, Inc. will hold its annual meeting and election of officers starting at 7 p.m., Thursday. The meeting will be held in the conference room at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range. ColbyThe public is invited to attend.

Treasurer's office opens late Feb. 17

The Thomas County Treasurer's office will not open until 9 a.m., Friday, Feb. 17, said Donita Applebury, treasurer. For questions, call 460-4520. Applebury said she and her staff apologize for any inconvenience.

Singing Valentines available

Singing Valentine's will be delivered by the Colby Community College Singers on Tuesday, Feb. 14, said Dr. Phil Shuman, director. The cost is \$15 for a rose and a song. If interested, call Shuman at 462-3984 to sign up.

School board meets tonight

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the Administration Building. Items on the agenda include approval of the consent agenda; reports from the curricu-

lum director, principals, curriculum director and superintendent; emergency substitute license; and if necessary, personnel issues. The meeting is open to the public.

Chorus celebrating 25 years

The Tumbleweed Chorus is celebrating 24 years of barbership harmony with "Riverboat Cruise" at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 4 at the Frahm Theater at Colby Community College. Two guest quartets will accompany the chorus, 12th Street Rag and U.S. Male. For information or tickets, call 462-3004, 462-2474 or 460-6552. Or, outside Colby, call 1-800-279-8208.

Power outage planned Friday

As part of the city's upgrade with the electrical distribution system, a brief power outage is scheduled for 6 a.m., Friday, in Colby. The outage should be a maximum of 30 minutes (6 to 6:30 a.m.) and will affect residences and businesses south of Hill Street, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager. A second planned outage to re-energize the system is also scheduled at 6 a.m., Wednesday or Thursday, Feb. 22-23. Confirmation of the time and date will be published at a later date. For questions, call 460-4410.

State reviews plan after finding diseased deer

By Karen Krien

St Francis Herald

Between 90 and 100 people met at the fairgrounds last week in St. Francis to hear more about what Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks officials' plans were for the taking, testing and disposing of diseased deer. The meeting came after discovering that a whitetail doe, shot northeast of St. Francis during the hunting season, was tested positive for chronic wasting disease.

Cheyenne County, set along the Republican River bottom, is noted for its great deer hunting. Three of the state's top 20 trophy mule deer were taken in the county. Deer hunting also pumps thousands of dollars into the area.

People left the Thursday meeting with the knowledge that, while nothing can be done about the disease, the officials will be killing about 50 whitetail and mule deer from an area along the river.

There was concern from several landowners including Jared Douthett, who owns Corner Post, a hunting lodge, that the sampling of the deer

"We will have the information for hunters next year."

Lloyd Fox, KDHE
Big game project leader

could affect the community's economy. He wanted to make sure that the sampling would be spread out throughout the county, not just concentrated in certain areas.

There was also a concern that the disease could spread to cattle and, that when the officials were hunting, they might tear up crops.

Steve Price, Regional Fisheries and Wildlife supervisor, said that the sampling of deer will be taken in a 15-mile radius of the location where the deer was shot. The area makes up most of Cheyenne County and will include taking samplings from 1,500 tracks of land.

The officials will be hunting for deer both day and night from Feb. 13 to Feb. 17. They will be targeting both species (whitetail/mules), both sexes and deer that are 18-months-old or older.

School finance talks continuing

AP Analysis

gether." Sebelius and the leaders generally agree they will pursue a plan that phases in a large increase to Kansas' 300 school districts. Also, they plan to avoid raising taxes, and they seem to agree that no matter how the new dollars are parceled out, rural schools at least won't lose money.

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what's got to be in this bill," said Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka.

The relative lack of tension likely starts with the Legislative Division of Post-Audit's 347-page report, not because of what it says but because of who wrote it.

In its ruling last year, the court relied on a study commissioned by legislators in 2001, making recommendations that would cost \$853 million to put into effect. The \$290 million in additional aid for schools that legislators approved last year under court decree was a little more than a third of that figure.

Democrats thought the study valid, as did many legislators. It became key evidence for attorneys who sued the state in 1999 on be-

half of parents and administrators in Dodge City and Salina.

Democrats, educators, attorneys and the courts may have put stock in the 2001 study, but Republicans didn't. They quickly distanced themselves from its conclusions, saying it was done by outsiders who didn't understand Kansas.

Instead, GOP leaders put their faith in the audit division. While the division regularly wins praise for its independence and objectivity, it works for the Legislature with a committee determining what issues are tackled by the division.

House Speaker Doug Mays said that having entrusted a study to the division, lawmakers can't back away from it.

"Before it ever arrived, I started telling people, 'We're going to have to live with this, whatever it is,'" said Mays, R-Topeka.

Mays said no one wants to repeat the experience, especially in an election year. That's so, but the special session was roughest on Mays and his conservative GOP allies.

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Sorority to hold soup supper Friday

Kappa Upsilon, a local sorority, is sponsoring a soup supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, at the Colby Community Building when Colby takes on Atwood in basketball action. The menu will include chili, chicken noodle, and vegetable soups, along with cinnamon rolls, cookies and drinks. The cost is free-will donation.

Farm Bureau offers scholarships

The Thomas County Farm Bureau Association is offering scholarships to three students who are seniors in the three Thomas County schools. Students or their parents must be members of the Thomas County Farm Bureau Association. For applications, visit the specific school counselor or stop by the Farm Bureau office, 350 N. Franklin Ave., Colby.

Diplomats plan luncheon

The Colby Diplomats are hosting a "Financial Fitness for Women" event from noon to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Prairie Rose Restaurant in Quality Inn. Sylvia Kinderknecht of Ellis will present facts and figures focusing on your financial future. To make a reservation, call Jo DeYoung, 460-5003 or the Chamber, 460-3401.

lar to "mad cow" disease in cattle; and scrapie in sheep. Chronic wasting disease does not spread to other types of animals or humans but is found only in whitetail and mule deer, elk and moose.

In an experiment, the infectious agent was directly injected into the brain of cattle. This experiment is still being studied.

Chronic wasting is a fatal disease and, as it progresses, there are tell-tale signs as the animal weakens and finally dies.

The day following the meeting, there was a report of two deer which appeared to have signs of the disease. Mike Hopper, the Natural Resource Conservation officer, whose district includes Cheyenne County, has been working on trying to locate them but, as of Monday, there were no further sightings reported.

Glenn Isernhagen, rural St. Francis resident, asked what happened after the sampling and testing is complete?

Fox said that in the contingency plan, the officials will decide if there is a "hot spot" or if it is just an isolated deer in an area. The county was expected to have a low prevalence disease.

The department will be getting public input but, at this time, the officials really didn't have anything that would support what they would do next year.

Within the next 20 days, officials will meet with biologists and decide where to go from the testings.

Terry Rieger, St. Francis, asked if the chronic wasting disease was shrinking or expanding? Mr. Fox said that it is expanding in Wyoming and to the north and west. The disease is slower moving to the east.

Dr. Melvin Dunn, St. Francis, asked why do a sampling now? Why not wait until next year?

Fox said that option had been discussed but the contingency plan was in place and it would be followed.

"We will have the information for hunters next year," he said.

Mathews said the cooperation from Cheyenne County landowners has been outstanding. Matt Bain, district wildlife biologist, is in the process of compiling the call list.

Already, around 440 people have been contacted and approximately 83 percent have said yes to allowing the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks employees to go onto their land to collect deer for further testing.

As soon as there is additional information, Mathews said there will be announcements made. For more facts about the chronic wasting disease, check the web at www.cwd-info.org.

<p>CITY LIMITS</p> <p>Reservations are recommended.</p>	<p>Couple's Specials</p> <p>Feb. 10-18 \$30 or \$50 includes 2 entrees, sides, salads, dessert and beverages</p> <hr/> <p>Valentine's Day \$19.95 Buffet includes Prime Rib, Crab Legs, Sides, Soup/Salad, and Champagne 6-9 p.m. 462-6565</p>
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- Valentine's Day -
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