

Weather Corner



Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 29. North wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 58. North wind around 10 mph becoming south. **Thursday night** — Partly cloudy with a high near 55. Breezy with a high south wind between 15 and 20 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph. **Friday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 55. Breezy with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. **Friday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 30. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 56.

Temperatures
 Tuesday's high, 84
 Low this morning, 40
 Records for this date, 81 in 1972, -14 in 1960
 Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
 February's precipitation, 0.04
 A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Briefly

Benefit soup supper Saturday

A benefit soup supper for Lana Anderson, to help defray substantial medical bills, is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday at the Colby VFW, 220 Lake. Chili and chicken noodle soup, cake or pie and coffee and tea will be served. Admission is free-will donation with all proceeds going to help pay the medical bills.

Orchestra to perform Sunday

Western Plains Arts Association will host the Pride of the Prairie Orchestra in a performance at 3 p.m. (2 p.m. MST), Sunday, at the Goodland High School auditorium. The orchestra rehearses on Mondays and anyone interested in participating is encouraged to call board president Bruce Frahm at (785) 462-7388 or braham@st-tel.net. This show is presented in part by Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Grant funding consortium March 15

The Northwest Kansas Grant Funding Consortium is sponsoring a Speaker's Forum in Colby from 8:45 a.m. to 4

p.m., Wednesday, March 15, at the Colby Community Building. For costs, registration or questions, call Western Prairie RC&D at (785) 462-2602.

Dance planned Friday

A Colby single and couple's dance is planned from 8 to midnight, Friday, at the American Legion, 1850 W. 4th. Entertainment will be provided by Swing N' Country. The event is open to the public.

Youth center meeting scheduled

The next meeting for the proposed youth center in Colby will be 7 p.m., March 13 at Pioneer Memorial Library. Todd Stramel, who is organizing the effort, said the meeting will be for people interested in serving on an executive board. Those who would like to serve on the executive board, are asked to contact Stramel as soon as possible. Those who agree to serve on the executive board will need to be actively and intensely involved, as this undertaking will take a lot of work and plan on moving fairly rapidly with weekly meetings and tasks. The executive board should not have more than 12

people. Stramel said he prefers a wide range of churches, groups, businesses represented. For those who don't want to serve on the executive board, there are other ways to help the project. Stramel can be reached at 460-3222.

Barbershoppers to perform

The Tumbleweed Chorus is celebrating 24 years of barbershop harmony with "Riverboat Cruise" at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 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.

Sacred Heart pre-enrollment set

Sacred Heart School will hold pre-enrollment for the 2006-07 preschool and kindergarten classes from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, March 8, in the school lobby, said Dave Evert, principal. Parents or guardians will need to bring immunization records, birth certificate, social security card and physicals. For questions, call 460-2813.

Colby woman charged with prescription fraud

By Jan Katz Ackerman
 Colby Free Press

A Colby woman has been charged with trying to fraudulently

obtain narcotics from a local drug store. Julia D. Lefmann, 46, was charged in Thomas County District Court Friday with attempting to alter a prescription form and then fill

it. Colby Police Detective Sergeant Gary Shull said today pharmacists at Dillon's contacted the police department Feb. 4 about the incident which is alleged to have taken place

Feb. 3. According to court documents, Lefmann used a computer to make changes to a prescription form in an attempt to fill it.

Shull said while Lefmann was not arrested at the time of the incident, she has been charged with one

count of attempting to obtain medicine by fraud.

Charged with a level 10 non-person felony, if convicted and depending on a presentence investigation, Lefmann faces five to 13 months in prison.

Dog trainer charged in escape attempt

ATHENS (AP) — A dog trainer said she had always been a law-abiding citizen and still couldn't explain why she helped a convicted murderer escape a Kansas prison in a pet crate. "I haven't even figured it all out yet," a teary-eyed Toby

Young said Monday in a jailhouse interview with The Daily Post-Athenian newspaper.

"My whole life, I've always done good things. I've never even had a speeding ticket — well, no, I had one speeding ticket," said Young,

who was in an 8-by-12-foot cell in McMinn County. "I don't know anything about court stuff."

Young, 47, waived extradition Monday, but a dispatcher at the McMinn County jail said Young was still in custody Tuesday.

House plan could help some small districts

TOPEKA (AP) — A half-billion dollars in new funds for 300 school districts over three years may sound like a lot of money.

And superintendents generally agreed Monday that a school finance plan drafted by House leaders is a good start, though some said it's still far short of what their schools actually need.

All school districts would see more money under the plan. Urban districts with high concentrations of poor students are among those faring the best, but some rural districts also do relatively well.

"I'm less stressed with every new dollar our rural district receives," said Dave Roberts, superintendent in the Clifton-Clyde district. "The mood could easily have been to sacrifice the small, quality schools for the sake of large ones. That situation still looms out there, I think."

The House Select Committee on School Finance planned to open hearings Wednesday on the plan. Legislators remain under pressure to increase funding because of Kansas Supreme Court rulings last year in a 7-year-old lawsuit.

The House plan emerged last week after legislative leaders and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius agreed to a framework for what the 2006 school finance plan would entail. Senators are working on their own plan.

Sebelius and legislative leaders also agreed it served no purpose to divert millions of dollars in the complicated school finance formula to urban districts at the expense of rural districts.

Legislative leaders have taken a Jan. 9 Legislative Division of Post Audit cost study to heart and have carved new money for six urban districts with high poverty rates. The new provision is based on the number of poor students per square mile.

As a result, those districts — Hutchinson, Kansas City, Leavenworth, Topeka, Wichita and Turner in Wyandotte County — are six of the top seven in total additional new dollars per pupil.

Wichita, the state's largest district, would receive an additional \$28.4 million during the plan's first year. But Superintendent Winston Brooks said the district has identified more than \$100 million in needs, including reducing class sizes and boosting teacher pay 6 percent.

"It's woefully short," Brooks said.

Not all superintendents believed the urban poverty provision is fair. "Poverty is poverty and should not be defined by density," said Dave Novack, superintendent in Ingalls. "The additional funds would benefit the largest school districts by far more than the smaller."

The cost study recommended reducing the amount of extra money small districts now receive because they have low student enrollments and can't, for example, get the kinds

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Dave Roberts, superintendent Clifton-Clyde district

of large bulk discounts for supplies that bigger districts could get.

Novack said the cost study misunderstood the needs of rural districts. For example, cutting the amount of aid for transporting students takes money out of the classroom for rural districts, he said.

Many small districts face declining enrollments, and gains offered by the House plan would be diluted as fewer students come through schoolhouse doors.

However, the effects would be delayed because state law now allows districts to count either the current year's enrollment or a three-year average. If a district has seen declines, it could count students who have long since departed. Thus, the smallest district in the state, Prairie Heights in Decatur County, would emerge as the biggest per-pupil winner under the plan.

The district had only 12.5 full-


time-equivalent students to start the year. But because it can average previous enrollments, it would stand to gain \$834.75 per pupil — if it weren't planning to dissolve

this summer and send its students to neighboring districts.

Other small districts, such as Elk Valley, Hamilton, Lewis, Golden Plains and Mullinville, would be among the top 10 percent in reaping additional funds per pupil.

Yet other small districts believe they couldn't keep up with the salaries larger districts can pay. Solomon Superintendent Jim Day said even with an additional \$50 for each student, his district may have to increase property taxes to keep pace with neighbors that are giving 6 percent raises.

Max Pickerill Lecture Series Presents



Dr. William Schulz
 Executive Director of Amnesty International

Monday, March 6th
 Cultural Arts Center ~ Colby Community College

7:00 P.M. PUBLIC LECTURE
 Terror, Torment, and Tyranny: The State of Human Rights Today

Dave's Refurbishing TREE SERVICE

Tree Care, Fruit Trees, Deciduous, Coniferous, Balling, Pruning, Tree Clean Outs, Tree Removals, Expert Field Tree Surgeon, Evergreens, Shaping, Trimming, Feeding, Shelterbelts, Removal, Pine Tree Care

- Bucket Truck Available -
 Nurseryman • Landscaping
 Yard Artist • Gardening • and Clean-up
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785-443-0994 or 462-2000

Thank You

Thank you to all who bought Sacred Heart raffle tickets from me. You helped the school reach its goals.

Taylen Hubbell
 1st Grade

Gem Lions Club
 Annual Soup Day
VEGGIE - CHILI - POTATO
 March 4, 2006 • 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
 Gem Community Building
 Free Will Donation
Net proceeds will be used for community betterment.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

Swine production facility located in Long Island, Kansas is seeking individuals to work in all areas of live animal care. We offer competitive wages, longevity enhancements, health insurance and opportunity for advancement. Interested applicants may call 785-854-7460 for an application. SMS is an EOE

Make a Difference - Please Recycle 

S&T is now offering Wireless service

Authorized Agent For

NEXTECH wireless
 Member of the Sprint Rural Alliance

Superior Local Coverage
Nationwide Rate Plans
Rollover Minutes



Now's the best time to add your whole family to your plan!

Add up to 4 lines
 on rate plans of \$59.99 & higher
 & get the \$9.99 access fee
FREE* for 6 months!



LG 5550
Buy 1 \$999*
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S&T NEXTECH wireless
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Brewster S&T Telephone Cooperative Association 320 Kansas Ave 785-694-2256	Colby S&T Communications LLC 755 Davis Ave 785-460-7300	Dighton S&T Telephone Cooperative Association 201 E Long 620-397-2111	Goodland S&T Communications LLC 1318 Main 785-890-7400
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* 2-year contract required. New add-on lines required. Certain restrictions apply. Ask for details.