

Weather
Corner

Breezy, cooler
with low 30

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 30. South wind around 10 mph.

Friday — Partly cloudy with a high near 57. Breezy with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Friday night — Partly cloudy with a low near 37. Breezy with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Saturday — Partly cloudy with a high around 56. South wind around 15 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 29.

Sunday — Partly cloudy with a high around 57. **Sunday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 27. **Monday** — Mostly sunny with a high around 58. 6

Temperatures
Wednesday's high, 67
Low this morning, 26
Records for this date, 90 in 1935, -11 in 1943
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.

Fines raised on first-time pot offenders

LAWRENCE (AP) — The Lawrence City Commission has given preliminary approval to an ordinance that keeps first-time marijuana offenders from having a state conviction on their record but that increases the fines they must pay.

The Drug Policy Forum of Kansas, a Lawrence-based group that advocates fewer penalties for marijuana violations, had asked the city to allow first-time possession cases to go to municipal court, rather than state court.

But the group isn't happy about the way things turned out. Along with a minimum fine of \$200 for first-time offenders, the ordinance approved Tuesday night on a 3-2 vote tacks on a requirement that they complete a drug evaluation program costing them an additional \$100.

That \$300 total is more than many first-time offenders pay in Douglas County District Court. There's no minimum fine there, and fines generally range from \$25 to \$100.

"I think the fine is too high," Laura Green, executive director of the Drug Policy Forum, said of the new ordinance. "I'm opposed to the fees because I think this is more of a public health issue."

City commissioners must finalize passage of the ordinance, so it won't take effect for at least another two weeks.

"If it becomes a revenue-generating source for the city, with traps that are set up to catch people, we will be back to talk to the commission about that," Green said.

Briefly

Mothers of Preschoolers to meet

Mothers of Preschoolers will meet at 9:15 a.m. Thursday, March 9 at Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin. The program will be local preschool teachers talking about enrollment information and curriculum. Childcare is provided, for a small fee, for children ranging from infant to age 5. Any mother with children under the age of 6 or expecting mothers are invited. For information, call Michelle Mettlen at 460-3310.

Youth center meeting March 13

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. Stramel can be reached at 460-3222.

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.

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.

School board member wanted

The Brewster School Board is looking to fill a vacancy until the general election. The vacancy will be filled by appointment. The board has an opening because of the resignation of board member Tony Horinek. Anyone interested should call board clerk Daryl Ann Jorgensen at (785) 694-2236 before 4 p.m. Friday, March 17.

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.

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. For questions, call 460-6332.

Community orchestra to play

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.

Fire destroys building, 200 paintings

OVERLAND PARK (AP) — About 200 original paintings by a well-known regional artist were destroyed Wednesday when a fire swept through his gallery in the historic downtown of this Kansas City suburb.

Flames were shooting out of Gil Rumsey's Gallery when firefighters arrived shortly after the blaze was reported around 5 p.m.

Eventually, about 40 firefighters from several surrounding municipalities worked to keep the three-alarm fire from spreading to attached buildings, said city spokesman Sean Reilly.

One firefighter hurt his hand, but the injury was not serious, Reilly said.

While the blaze was brought under control, he said the adjacent buildings sustained some smoke and water damage but no major structural damage.

Rumsey's building, which was built in 1924, was a total loss. It is located across the street from the Clock Tower Plaza, which is the scene of a summer concert series and farmers market.

"I don't feel like an interview," Rumsey said as stood across the street and watched plumes of black smoke billow from the building. "I just lost 200 original paintings and every stick of inventory we had."

Besides the paintings, the store also sold antiques.

Asked how much the store's inventory was worth, he said "a lot more than we had it insured for."

Open House

Sunday, March 5, 2006

445 Lawrence Dr, Colby
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Brand new listed brick ranch. Has just been recently updated!! Lots of new!!

335 La Hacienda, Colby
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Recently reduced! Seller wants offer on this spacious contemporary 2-level home on 2 acres w/lots of trees!!

HOSTED by Molly J. Oliver

460-SOLD (7653)
STOCK REALTY & AUCTION CO.
390 N. Franklin
Colby, KS

God Bless...

TONYA WINGER/Courtesy photo

Kindergarten students at Heartland Christian School recited a poem using the letters in the word "America" as part of the monthly morning chapel services. Left to right: Elise Corbett, Gage Winger, Genial Morgan, Landee Kistler, Carrie Myers, Lander Niblock, Elizabeth Collins and Chandler Horney hosted the service last week. Their teacher, Lona Donley, said her class chose to show their appreciation for God and country with a patriotic theme. The students also sang many patriotic songs.

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SUPPER SPECIALS

March 6-11

\$9.95 EACH 6-9 PM

FISH FRY EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT

MON: Steak Dinner (USDA Choice 10 oz Strip with baked potato, salad, and roll) No Hot Buffet available.

TUES: Pizza and Pasta Buffet

WED: American Heartland "Home Cookin" Buffet

THUR: Mexican Buffet

FRI: Seafood Buffet

SAT: BBQ Buffet

462-6565

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