

Weather
Corner



Wind gusts
at 30 mph

The forecast

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a high around 54. South wind between 5 and 15 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 51. West wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy with a low near 26. Breezy with a southeast wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph.

Sunday — Partly cloudy with a high near 49. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday night — A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy and blustery with a low around 26. **Monday** — A slight chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy and breezy with a high around 42. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Monday night — Mostly cloudy and blustery with a low around 23. **Tuesday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 44.

Temperatures
Thursday's high, 55
Low this morning, 30
Records for this date, 82 in 1989, -5 in 1948
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
March's precipitation, 0.00
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Briefly

School board to meet Monday

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the board room of the Administration Building. Items on the agenda include approval of the agenda and consent agenda; a curriculum presentation; reports from the principals, curriculum director and superintendent; discussion on republishing the 2005-2006 budget; emergency substitute license; student application to attend Northwest Kansas Technical College and personnel issues, if needed. The meeting is open to the public.

Heartland Share sign-up

Heartland Share sign-up will be until noon Monday at the State Farm Insurance office in Colby. A share is five meats, five vegetables and fruit for \$20.50 and two hours of volunteer hours of your choice. Share pick-up is Saturday, March 25 at 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart School gym. For more information, call 460-3579 or 460-8640.

Women and hats program Sunday

Angela Bates of Nicodemus will present "African American Women and Their Church Hats" starting at 3 p.m., Sunday, at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin Ave., Colby. The program celebrates the African American Woman and her style through her hats, organizer said. Bates will be wearing hats and wraps worn by African American Women and sharing their stories. Refreshments will follow the program. The Women's History Month program is presented by the Colby American Association of University Women and the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Admission is free. For questions, call (785) 460-4590 or e-mail: prairiem@st-tel.net.

Murder mystery planned Saturday

Pioneer Memorial Library's "Murder, Maestro, Please" begins at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, in the basement of the library, 373 W. Fourth St. in Colby. Tickets are on sale at the library

and included in the price will be Hors d'oeuvres and a chance to win a prize for correctly deducing the murderer. Reservations can be made by calling 460-4470 or stop by the library.

Military support group to meet

The Northwest Kansas Military Family Support Group will meet at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 18, at Montana Mike's in Colby. For questions, call Melanie Fortin, 460-2995, or Lisa Varney, 890-6939.

'Bowl for Kids Sake' needs teams

The Big Brothers Big Sisters organization in Thomas County is having its annual "Bowl For Kids Sake" on Saturday and Sunday, April 1-2, at Colby Bowl, said Donna Jennings, board member. Many people can be involved in this event by forming teams and recruiting team members, she said. Many of the "littles" also bowl and help raise money for the group. For questions, call (785) 460-9125.

New nursing
director
in St. Francis

By Karen Krien
St. Francis Herald

Tenille Lee took over the position of director of nursing at the Cheyenne County Hospital in January. She takes the place of Craig Button who will continue to work as a registered nurse at the hospital as well as keep the hospital up to date on information technology.

Lee was hired at the hospital in 2002 after she, her husband Brandon and children, Journey, 7, Isaiah, 4, and Kaden, 2, moved to Cheyenne County from Page City.

She said she has found her nursing experience at Cheyenne County Hospital to be wonderful and has allowed her professional and personal growth.

Lee's duties are to direct and oversee the standard of nursing care at the hospital. She is in charge of 13 nurses and 7 nurses aides.

Other duties that fall under her direction are infection control, discharge planning and swing bed coordinator.

One of her goals is to designate a nurse as a discharge planner who will work with the patients from the time of admissions through their discharge and help identify any post hospital needs.

As education director, she is in charge of making sure the staff's education is up to date and the certifications are current.

Eventually, she will be assisting with in-service training for all of the hospital staff.

She said a lot of recognition needs to be given to the hospital's great staff of nurses.

"They have a lot of education and a lot of experience," she said. "I'm confident we have the best staff in the area."

Lee also thinks Dr. Mary Beth Miller is an excellent doctor and one of her goals is to help make Miller's job easier.

"We are very fortunate to have her," Lee said, adding that Patrick Delano and Nadja Button also do a very good job.

Lee was raised on a farm near Page City with her two sisters, Crystal Rucker of Winona and Niki Clark of North Platte, Neb., and brother, Gary Collins of Winona. Her mother, Judy Collins, is a teacher and her father, George Collins, works with the school system as well. She said there were no nurses on her side of the family but her husband's parents are both nurses.

KAREN KRIEN/St. Francis Herald

Tenille Lee, the new director of nursing at the Cheyenne County Hospital, goes over some of the charting with Brenda Hays, R.N. (seated).

Following high school graduation, she earned an associate's degree in nursing from Colby Community College. Since then she has had additional training in advanced cardiac life support, advance burn support, trauma nursing and emergency pediatric care. She said there is always something new to learn and she enjoys being able to continue her education.

Before coming to Cheyenne County, she worked in nursing homes in Sharon Springs and Oakley. While she said she liked working there, she really likes working at the hospital.

"I'm so happy that Les (Lacy - hospital administrator) gave me the opportunity to be the director of nursing," she said, noting he had been a great mentor.

The Lees live south of St. Francis. Brandon is in the carpentry business. Lee is a Girl Scout leader and said when she has some spare time, she enjoys spending it at home with her family. In the summer, the family packs up for camping and fishing outings.



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U.S. AIR FORCE
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Fire danger
dampened
by rains

El DORADO (AP) — Rains dampened the fire danger Thursday across much of the state's parched grasslands, as Butler County officials surveyed the damage from a blaze that charred 10,700 grassland acres a day earlier.

"Many times, weather can cause some serious problems in Kansas, but this time it was a godsend," Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said in a news release. "The rain helped us in the end. However, the real thanks goes to all those who worked together in containing and extinguishing this fire."

The fire began just east of Towanda on Wednesday afternoon and quickly spread — ultimately engulfing an area 4 miles wide and 8 miles long, said Kathy Guy, assistant director of emergency management for Butler County.

On Thursday, officials assessed the final damage: at least 10 outbuildings were damaged or destroyed and two homes suffered minor damage. Three oil wells also caught fire.

Guy said that was "pretty incredible" considering the vast area burned.

"Nobody lost a home, nobody got hurt, nobody got killed," Guy said.

Nearly 475 fire, emergency management and law enforcement officials from 34 different agencies responded to the blaze, bringing with them 175 pieces of equipment.

The county used a reverse 911 system to automatically call about 150 residents to evacuate their homes. Most were back in their homes by 6 p.m., less than four hours after receiving the call, she said.

With the blaze mostly contained, firefighters kept watch throughout the night to put out any hot spots. By 9 a.m. Thursday, the fire was declared completely out.

"We have been very fortunate," Guy said. Thursday's rain was a mixed blessing. Fields were now soggy, which could be a concern if fire trucks need to go out again, she said. But even with the latest showers, Kansas is not completely out of fire danger.

Lansing inmate claims
love prompted escape

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Proclaiming his deep love for "an angel" and continuing to deny that he was a violent criminal, John Manard said he was solely responsible for his escape in a dog crate from a Kansas prison.

In a four-page letter to television station KCTV in Kansas City, Manard said he loved Toby Young, a 48-year-old married mother of two, "more than life" and he planned the escape from Lansing Correctional Facility so he could be with her. KCTV said Manard's sister verified that the handwriting was her brother's.

"We have a fairytale love the size of infinity that's been lived by 2 real people," Manard wrote in the letter, which the TV station posted on its Web site. "She means more to me than my own life."

The convicted murderer said he was writing to "clear up some things" about Young's involvement in the Feb. 12 escape, when she drove a van used by the Safe Harbor Prison Dog program out of the prison while Manard, 27, was in a dog crate in the back.

After a highly publicized search, the two were arrested Feb. 24 near Chattanooga, Tenn., where they had rented a secluded cabin. They were caught shortly after coming out of a Barnes & Noble bookstore, and authorities said the cabin was full of things the two bought while on the run.

In the letter, Manard said Young planned to help him only by getting a lawyer, then was going to leave her husband to start over with Manard. He claimed Young did not know he was "in a box" inside a

See "ESCAPE," page 8

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