


### Weather Corner



**The forecast**  
**Tonight** — Mostly cloudy with a low around 30. Southeast wind around 15 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph.  
**Saturday** — A 40 percent chance of showers mainly after 1 p.m. Cloudy with a high near 42. Breezy with a southeast wind between 15 and 20 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph.  
**Saturday night** — A 50 percent chance of rain. Cloudy with a low near 33. Breezy with a southeast wind between 15 and 20 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph.  
**Sunday** — A 40 percent chance of rain. Cloudy with a high around 37. East wind around 15 mph.  
**Sunday night** — Snow likely. Cloudy with a low around 26. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.  
**Monday** — Snow likely, mainly before 1 p.m. Cloudy and blustery with a high near 31. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.  
**Monday night** — A slight chance of snow. Cloudy and blustery with a low around 21.  
**Tuesday** — Partly cloudy with a high around 38.  
**Temperatures**  
Thursday's high, 55  
Low this morning, 22  
Records for this date, 83 in 1916, -6 in 1906  
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.

### Three dogs found; one needs home

The Colby Animal Clinic has three lost dogs and one puppy ready for adoption, a spokesperson for the facility said today.

The lost animals include a German shorthair, liver and white colored, male, found north and west of Levant; a female Welsh Corgi, tan and white, blue collar, found at Friendly Acres Mobile Home Park; and a Dachshund, male, black and brown, chain collar, also found at Friendly Acres.

The clinic has one Rottweiler cross with Chinese Shar Pei ready for adoption as well. The pup is a 12-week-old male. The only fee for adoption is the cost of immunization shots.

Anyone who may have lost a dog fitting the description above or would like to adopt the puppy, either call the facility at 460-8621 or stop by 810 E. 4th, Colby.

Animals not claimed after one week will be eligible for adoption.

Briefly

**Commissioner meeting Monday**  
The Thomas County Commissioners meet Monday at 9 a.m. with youth from the Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) Reach-In/Teach Out program in the commissioner's room of the courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave., Colby. At 9:15 a.m., Larry Jumper, landfill director, will give an operation update. For questions, call 460-4500.

**Preschool open house planned**  
Heartland Christian School is having its preschool open house March 31, 2006 from 8:15 a.m. to noon. All preschool age children and their parents are invited to come and visit and participate in the activities, school officials said. If you would like to attend this open house, call the school at 460-6419.

**Lions holding Sunday lunch buffet**  
The Rexford Lions Club is holding Sunday lunch buffet from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Rexford Community Hall. Items on the buffet include homemade noodles and chicken or noodles and beef, mashed potatoes, corn, salads and home-made desserts. Free will donations accepted. Proceeds will be used to send a student to Kansas Lions state band and other community projects.

**Town meeting scheduled**  
The Thomas County Interagency Coalition is hosting a town meeting for all residents interested in curbing underage drinking. The event starts at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, at the Colby Community Building. The meeting is also being coordinated with many other towns across the nation. For questions, call Vicki Beiser or Diane Stithem at the Prevention Center, (785) 460-8177.

**Memory Walk set for April 1**  
The Alzheimer's Association in the nine-county area is sponsoring a Memory Walk starting at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 1, at Fike Park in Colby. The counties involved include Tho-

mas, Rawlins, Logan, Cheyenne, Sherman, Sheridan, Decatur, Wallace and Gove. Residents in these counties are encouraged to take part in this fundraising event, said Rhonda Riedel, with the association. The walk, she said, raises not only money, but awareness about the disease and is the largest national fundraising event for support programs. To register or with questions, call Riedel at (785) 673-3149 or visit: colbywalk.kintera.org

**'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. "It is a celebration and fundraiser, and we welcome anyone who wants to form a team or bowl on an established team." For questions, call (785) 460-9125.

Kansas boy no different despite rare disorder

MOUNDRIDGE (AP) — Tyler Huxman of rural Moundridge is a lot like any other 5-year old.

He has a lot of energy, has a favorite shirt and changes his mind often about what he wants to be when he grows up.

"I want to be a bull rider," Tyler said recently.

His parents, Chris and DeAnn, said every day Tyler gives a different answer.

He's not limited by his imagination, or by his physical traits — despite having only six fingers and four toes.

Tyler is affected by one of more than 150 types of Ectodermal Dysplasias syndrome.

"It is a mutation of the P63 gene," Chris said. "The chances of this happening are basically none. It just happened. That's his gene now."

The syndrome affects about seven in 10,000 babies. Typical symptoms include missing teeth, abnormal or small nails, and the inability to perspire. The syndrome can also cause cleft lip, missing fingers or toes, respiratory infections, irregular skin pigmentation and hearing or vision impairment.

The Huxmans don't know how it happened, but a gene mutation caused Tyler's development to be a bit different.

He was born with only three fingers on each hand and two toes on each foot. But he can still run, jump and play basketball with his older brother Ryan, a first-grader at Moundridge Elementary.

"He can do anything another kid can do," Chris said. "He might have to work a little harder at it."

Like get a Girl Scout cookie out of the plastic sleeve — it can take a little more work and require some ingenuity. But Tyler gets the job done.

He has been raised to believe he can — his parents refuse to treat him as a handicapped child.

"The biggest thing is how people react," DeAnn said. "We've had a big realization as to how cruel kids can be."

Tyler will turn six this spring and is slated to start kindergarten in the fall. He currently attends preschool in Moundridge, where the family said there have been no problems.

"He is just Tyler to them," Chris said. "I don't have fears about what will happen with his children or what success he will or will not have, but how he will be treated by others."

Chris said just last month the family was eating at a fast-food restaurant, and junior-high age customers in the booth behind the family were making fun of Tyler. They were making fun of how he eats and how he would have to do some tasks because of his lack of fingers.

"It takes a lot of restraint not to say or do something," Chris said.

Tyler has endured 13 surgeries on his hands, feet and mouth.

"To this point, that's the biggest challenge for me," Chris said. "Watching the nurse carry him to the operating room and him not wanting to go."

There's also been doctors appointments to get to. It's been hard for the family, though parts are getting easier.

"The biggest thing for me is juggling doctors visits and appointments," DeAnn said. "The major part was when he was younger. I think it gets easier on us as parents, but it gets harder on him."

Sherman County's burn ban remains in effect

With no rain in sight and the wind kicking up, Sherman County Commissioners agreed this week to keep a countywide burn ban in place.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the little snow received this month had not reduced the dry conditions, and that the burn ban should continue until there is some rain.

The commissioners voted unanimously to continue the countywide total burn ban. The ban, which includes the city of Kanorado, prohibits any open burning, including trash in trash barrels or any container of any type.

The ban does not effect backyard barbecue grills, but does prohibit any open fires at places such as Smoky Gardens Commissioner Kevin Rasure said.

It already is illegal to burn in the city of Goodland without a permit issued by the Fire Department, said City Manager Wayne Hill.

Commissioners said they felt the ban was necessary to protect lives and property in Sherman County. It will remain in place until the dry spell ends.

State Fire Marshal Jack Alexander said Wednesday 69 of 105 Kansas counties have issued burn bans because of the dry conditions.

Winds gusted to 44 mph on Wednesday, the National Weather Service said, while the total for moisture for the year is just .59 inches.

The average for this time of year is 1.39 inches. Goodland had a skiff of snow Monday, which added .01 of an inch to the total. That is the total moisture for March.

The winds were expected to slow down to 10-15 mph on Thursday, and the National Weather Service forecast for the weekend has a 30 percent chance for rain and snow Saturday through Sunday. The high Wednesday was 72, but the highs for the rest of the week were forecast to be in the mid 50s, and in the 40s for the weekend.

Scientists at Kansas State University reported that the first two months of the year were the fourth driest on record.

"Out of the more than 200 (weather) reporting stations we have around the state, only a handful had any measurable precipitation," said Mary Knapp, state climatologist. "Three of the nine divisions are having their driest start since 1895."

Knapp, who directs the state's Weather Data Library on the K-

State campus, said the statewide average for precipitation in the January-February period this year was .41 inch.

That compares with the driest start to any year, she said, recorded in January-February 1970, when average precipitation across Kansas totaled .29 of an inch. The second driest was in Jan.-Feb. 1923 at .32 of an inch and the third was in 1917 when Jan.-Feb. precipitation averaged .3 of an inch across the state.

### The Prestigious Sunburst Beauty Pageant and MOST BEAUTIFUL BABY CONTEST!

**April 7, 2006 • 7:00 PM**  
**Holiday Inn • Colby, KS**

**Baby Contest Age Groups:**  
(Boys & Girls Judged Separately) Under 1 Year, 1 Year, 2-3 Years

**Pageant Age Groups:**  
(Girls & Young Ladies): 4-6, 7-10, 11-13, 14-17, 18-27 Years

**EVERYONE WILL RECEIVE A TROPHY!!!**  
Call (816)263-2045 to receive an entry form with complete contest information. Visit our website: [www.sunburstbeauty.com](http://www.sunburstbeauty.com)



### Southern Gospel Concert

featuring Gaither Homecoming Artist:  
**Ivan Parker, Jessy Dixon, the Isaacs**



and Colby's own John Jones

**Sunday Night March 26th @ 5:00 p.m.**

**Colby High School Auditorium ~ Doors open @ 4:00 p.m.**

Tickets are \$20.00 advance  
Groups of 15+ for \$15.00  
All tickets are \$25 @ the door

**Ticket outlets:** All First National Bank locations in NW Kansas, Shay Realty of St. Francis, National Farmers Insurance of Oakley, His Shop of Colby, F&M Bank-Dillons Location, Memory Lane of Burlington, CO.

**FOR CONCERT INFORMATION GO TO: [www.j-rmarketing.net](http://www.j-rmarketing.net) or call 785-443-1994 or 785-460-9751**



House backs cancer center

TOPEKA (AP) — A proposed cancer center at the University of Kansas Medical Center has a strong endorsement from the House, but members don't support other budget initiatives from Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

The House's proposed state budget, with \$11.7 billion in spending for the fiscal year beginning July 1, largely resembles the plan Sebelius outlined for legislators in January.

Spending would drop \$149 million, or 1.3 percent, but doesn't factor in any major increase in aid to public schools, an issue to be settled later.

The GOP-dominated House Appropriations Committee differed with the Democratic governor on several initiatives, including the cancer center, expanded state health coverage for infants and toddlers, and a new youth mentoring program led by former Kansas State University football coach Bill Snyder.

### Farmer's National Company (ask Sharon) 2x6 85% at GSN