

**Weather Corner**



*Cloudy, but no rain expected*

**The forecast**  
**Tonight** — Mostly cloudy then gradually becoming mostly clear with a low around 36. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

**Friday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 66. North wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Friday night** — Partly cloudy with a low near 33. Calm wind becoming east between 5 and 10 mph.

**Saturday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 68. South wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Saturday night** — Mostly cloudy with a low around 36. **Sunday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 64.

**Sunday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 35. **Monday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 66.

**Temperatures**  
 Wednesday's high, 79  
 Low this morning, 39  
 Records for this date, 91 in 1943, -4 in 1987

Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
 March's precipitation, 12.7  
 A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

**Dead birds found in oil fields**

WICHITA (AP) — Federal wildlife inspectors have found hundreds of dead birds in a piece of equipment common to the oil drilling industry that officials had not suspected caused migratory bird deaths.

For years, wildlife inspectors have worked closely with oil producers to reduce bird deaths in open pits and open tanks, but no one realized heater treaters were a danger to migratory birds until the agency received a complaint from a rural resident of Pratt County, said John Brooks, special agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"I don't think anybody really realized how big a problem this could be — and certainly the Service was not aware of the bird deaths taking place in heater treaters," Brooks said Wednesday. The equipment is used in oil fields to separate gas, oil and saltwater pumped from the ground. Heater treaters are enclosed cylindrical stacks that are typically about 20 feet tall and 5 feet in diameter with a 6-inch to 8-inch wide exhaust stack.

**Briefly**

**Gaither concert Sunday**

Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine, is sponsoring a Gaither video concert at 6 p.m., Sunday. This concert will feature "Mark Lowry on Broadway." The event is free.

**Swim Club meeting Sunday**

The Colby Swim Club will hold a parent's meeting at 4 p.m., Sunday, in the Health Science Building (Room 803) on the campus of Colby Community College. Registration, fees, and information will be provided and following the meeting, children will swim at 5 p.m. For questions, call 462-8331.

**Free sports physicals planned**

Colby Medical and Surgical Center, 175 S. Range Ave., is once again providing free sports physicals on Tuesday, May 9, for middle school and high school students planning to participate in sports next fall. Students are asked to bring physical forms with them. Colby High School students will be seen at 5:30 p.m.; Colby Middle School at 6 p.m.; and

Brewster and Golden Plains at 6:30 p.m. For questions, call Patti Stephens, (785) 462-3332.

**Farm Bureau ethanol rally Saturday**

The Thomas County Farm Bureau will hold a rally to showcase ethanol in Thomas County Saturday at Frontier Equity in Brewster from 8 a.m. to noon. The Farm Bureau will pay 5 cents per gallon up to 40 gallons per vehicle for all who purchase ethanol blend gasoline during this time period.

**Deadline Friday for student trip**

Middle school students in Thomas County are being invited to take part in a trip to Kearney, Neb., Saturday, April 8. The first 20 students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade who complete a registration form and turn it in with their participation fee of \$20, will get to participate in this activity, said Judy Kleinsorge, children's librarian at Pioneer Memorial Library. Deadline to register is Friday with forms available at the library. For questions, call Kleinsorge, 462-4470 or stop by the library at 375 W. Fourth, Colby.

**Puddle Duck Preschool enrollment**

Enrollment-open house for 2006-07 school year for Puddle Duck Preschool will be Wednesday, April 5 from 4-6 p.m. Puddle Duck is for 3- to 5-year-old children and welcomes all denominations. Questions, call Amy Jennings 460-2603.

**New center plans grand opening**

Colby has a new youth center, The Rock, with its grand opening beginning at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, at Southwind Plaza. In addition to four Christian rock bands performing, hamburgers and hot dogs will be served. For questions or costs, call 462-8234.

**Childbirth classes begin in April**

Citizens Medical Center is offering childbirth classes in April, July and October, 2006, said Jeanene Brown, RN, coordinating the program. The next series of classes will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. on Thursdays, April 6, 13, 20 and 27. All classes are held in the education room located in the lower level of Family Center for Health Care, 310 E. College Dr.

*Signs of progress*



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Bernie Koerperich, owner of Koerperich Construction of Selden, used a forklift and jack system to raise Tom Peter high enough to install metal siding on the new building which will house Hoxie Ag and Radiator Service at 1340 Oak Ave. Business owners Dave Rall and Leon Weis lost their original building during a fire last November.

**County meets Friday**

The Thomas County Commissioners meet at 9 a.m. Friday for their end-of-the month meeting. Sharon Munk of Menlo and Colby Fire Chief Bob McLemore will talk with Commissioners Ron Evans, Paul Steele and Ken Christiansen about ideas for a fire district in Menlo.

At 9:30 a.m., Clair Schrock will talk about work to be done on the two miles of roadway north of Levant and about the five-year plan for the Willow Street project.

Other items on the agenda include approval of minutes from the March 20 meeting, approval of pay-

roll and the second half of March's accounts payable, continued talk about medical oxygen bids submitted by the emergency medical service and a copier for that department, Martin Tractor Company repairs to landfill equipment since 1996, a review of 2006 tax year appraisal valuations, a bid from Office Works for a new desk, bids for folding chairs for the commission room, minutes from the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission and miscellaneous pieces of correspondence.

For questions, call Shelly Harms, county clerk, 460-4500.

**Pet Adoption**

The Colby Animal Clinic is reminding residents that it currently has cats and dogs ready for adoption. The animals include an adult male Border Collie mix, a female Daschund.

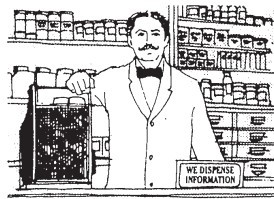
Both dogs are housebroke with friendly dispositions.

Three kittens are also available for adoption.

One is black and the other two are grey. Their mother is also available for adoption.

The only cost is the animal's immunization shots.

For questions or to see the animals, call 460-8621 or stop by the facility at 810 E. Fourth St., Colby.



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