

Weather Corner



Rain possible on Saturday

The forecast
Tonight — There is a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 a.m. Partly cloudy with a low around 53. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy with a high near 79. Windy with a south wind 15 to 20 mph becoming west between 30 and 35 mph.

Sunday — Mostly sunny with a high around 76. West wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Sunday night** — Clear with a low around 45.

Monday — Mostly sunny with a high around 79.

Monday night — Mostly clear and breezy with a low around 42. **Tuesday** — Partly cloudy and breezy with a high near 67.

Temperatures
 Thursday's high, 90
 Low this morning, 46
 Records for this date, 86 in 1940, 13 in 1893
 Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
 April's precipitation, .44
 A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Artist finds niche in ceramic fish

MANHATTAN (AP) — When Brandon Lutterman was 3 years old, he liked to draw pictures of whales and fish, which his mother kept as keepsakes.

Twenty-four years later, he still is fascinated with marine life, but instead of pencil and paper, his chosen media today is clay. Over the years, he has created about 250 ceramic sculptures.

"My mom's got a good portion of them," he said with a laugh. "She won't let anything go."

Lutterman, 27, who recently completed his course work for a master's degree in fine arts at Kansas State University, is the winner of the 2006 Niche Award for his ceramic sculpture "Unearthed."

The Niche Awards are sponsored by Niche magazine, an exclusive trade publication for American craft retailers. The awards honor outstanding creative achievements of American and Canadian craft artists in a variety of media. Works by this year's winners were featured in February at the Philadelphia Buyer's Market of American Craft, as well as in the spring issue of Niche magazine.

Lutterman, of Madelia, Minn., said "Unearthed" represents the landscapes and solitude of the Boundary Water canoeing area between the Minnesota-Canada border. It was created using curved slabs of clay that rest on legs that resemble tree branches. Rocks, branch sprigs and other natural objects were pressed into the clay to give it texture. Its glazes range from metallic to bright teal in color.

Even though he began drawing at an early age, Lutterman said he didn't make the decision to become an artist until he graduated from high school and received both basketball and arts scholarships to York College in Nebraska.

"I heard in church to invest in your talents," he said of his decision to follow his artistic dreams. "I'm busting my butt to make sure it pays off."

Lutterman went on to attend Mankato State University in Minnesota, where he worked on his bachelor's and master's degrees and narrowed his interest to ceramics.

Briefly

Landfill closed Easter Sunday

The Thomas County Landfill will be closed on Easter Sunday. The landfill will open at its regular time on Saturday and reopen on Monday.

Grass, tree limb collections begin

The City of Colby will begin picking up grass clipping Monday. Residents are required to bag or can the grass clipping, which must be separated from other household garbage. Tree limbs must be separated and tied together in bundles less than 4' long and less than 50 pounds, officials at the Public Works Department said. All collections must be at curbside by 8 a.m. For questions, call 460-4410.

Coffee planned for volunteers

A coffee beginning at 10 a.m., Thursday, April 27, is being held for all volunteers who have donated their time to Prairie Senior Living Complex. The event is being hosted by the staff and residents of the facility, said Cheryl Schwarz, activity director. For questions, call (785) 462-8295.

Adelines plan guest night

The Hi-Plains Harmony Chapter of Sweet Adelines International is inviting area ladies to attend "Guest Night" at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, at Colby United Methodist Church. Door prizes and refreshments will be served. For questions, call Joan Wessel, president, (785) 386-4241 or Sheila

Krehbiel, publicity, 462-3313.

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 a public hearing on the 2005-2006 republished general fund budget; approval of consent agenda; a curriculum presentation on Colby Grade School Everyday Math; reports from the principals, curriculum director and superintendent; new business on a city easement; approval of the 2005-2006 republished budget; student vo-tech requests; setting a date for the year-end staff gathering; tentative board meeting dates for 2006-2007; approval of late start dates on the academic calendar; and personnel issues, if necessary. The meeting is open to the public.

Amusement Association to meet

The Amusement Association Board will meet at 8 p.m. Monday, in the Thomas County Office Complex conference room, 350 S. Range Ave. in Colby. The meeting is open to anyone who might have ideas for this year's county fair or comments about last year's fair.

Entrepreneurship focus of event

NetWork Kansas, a service of the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship, will hold a town hall meeting from 7-9 a.m., Wednesday, April 19, in the student union at Colby Commu-

nity College to discuss entrepreneurship. The meeting is open to the public, students, and public officials. It will be an open forum dialogue concerning entrepreneurship as a priority for economic and community development and creating an entrepreneurial environment in local communities. The forum will also include NetWork Kansas partners who provide business building services to entrepreneurs and small business owners in each community. For information or questions, call Barry Kaaz, business and industry representative, at 462-3984, ext. 224.

Heartland Share delivery next week

Heartland Share delivery is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22 at Sacred Heart School gym. There are a few shares left for \$20.50 each and two hours of volunteer time of one's choice. Included in this month's share are: deli turkey breast, bratwurst, bacon, ham steak, chicken breast strips, carrots, onions, potatoes, zucchini, salad mix, apples, grape fruit, pears, breakfast cereal oats. For orders or information, call 460-3570 or 460-8640.

Teen formal April 22

A group of parents are joining together to plan and put on a formal evening for their high school teens. The formal will be from 6:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 22 at the Quality Inn. The event will include pictures, dinner, entertainment and prizes. Volunteers, reservations or donations are being accepted at 462-9946 or 462-6248.

Economic development group studies applications

GOODLAND — The vacant director position for the Sherman County Economic Development Council could be filled after council members reviewed applications in closed session this week.

Nine council members attended a special meeting Tuesday to review the applications in closed session. No action was taken in the open meeting, but it appeared the council did reach a consensus on the top

choice and will be offering that person a contract.

The monthly meeting of the council is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday in the basement at Western State Bank.

The council has been without a director for over 16 months, and when the group named new officers in January, hiring a replacement for Carolyn Applegate was a top priority.

Kay Younger, project coordinator, has been keeping the office at 1208 Main open and handling development efforts since she was hired in January 2005.

Applegate, who was the first economic development director, resigned in December 2004. She was hired in October 2002.

Council members present Tuesday were Shelly Thompson, chairman, from Bankwest; Don Newell, vice-chairman from S&T Telephone; Steve West, Western State Bank; Harlan House, farmer and rancher; Kim Bohme, Millers Home Furnishing; Gary Slough, S&T; Chuck Wilkens, Wilkens Truck and Trailer; Dwane Timm, First National Bank; and Mike Cochran, Cochran Farms. Council member Richard Breininger of Sunflower Computers was absent.

Sherman County looks at \$12 million road project

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

County commissioners and members of the city commission met this week to talk about the first steps to get the joint road improvement project moving.

Collection of the new one-cent sales tax will begin in July to pay for the \$12 million-plus city-county road improvement project, but city officials told the county commissioners they are ready to begin work on two projects, replacement of the intersections on Caldwell at Eighth and Armory Road with concrete paving.

City Manager Wayne Hill, City

Clerk Mary Volk, City Commissioners Josh Dechant and Annette Fairbanks and Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates who has handled many city projects, attended the county meeting to talk about the planning and design work for the road projects.

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he had looked at a list of financial advisors for the bond issue, and called Dechant, a banker, for his review of the top two.

Rasure said the list came from Kevin Cowan, bond counsel from Gilmore and Bell of Wichita, who had suggested a financial advisor would be good because of the size

of the bond issue. He passed out background information received from Ranson Financial Consultants of Wichita.

Rasure and Dechant agreed Ranson appeared to be a good candidate because they are financial advisors only and have done projects in western Kansas.

Rasure said he called a second firm, but has not received information from them.

Rasure offered to call John Hass, president of Ranson, to allow the other commissioners to ask ques-

tions. Hass called back and talked to the commissioners about what his company could do, and offered to provide a proposal with cost estimates for the next commission meeting on Tuesday.

Dechant said he was impressed with Ranson's response.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she talked to the Russell County clerk about a project Ranson handled for them. Rumpel said the clerk said the county had been pleased with the work Ranson did.

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 We will not be serving Mexican food this day
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 Shawn & Shelly Plummer, Owners
 1950 S. Range, Colby (Quality Inn) 785-462-3933
 Monday - Saturday: 11-2 & 5-10; Sunday: 11-2

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 Phone: 785-460-3321
 Toll Free: 866-460-3321
 240 W. 4th
 Colby, KS 67701

Thank You!
From the Thomas County Interagency Coalition After school Program
for all your support and help through the year!

Colby Grade School: Mrs. Harrison Mary Beth Flanagin Becky Schiferl Colby Bus Garage: Allan Wade	Susan Orr Mike and Pat Tubbs Betty Fitzsimmons-Sloan David Barnum
High School Student Aides: Katie Friesen Cyndi Rothfuss Amanda McInlay	Colby Fire Department: Rick Dickman
Tutor: Shelli Bielser	Colby Girl Scouts: Jan Barnum Terrilyn Fleming Amanda Barnum Jessica Kennedy Audra Fleming
K-State Food and Nutrition Program: Karen Jones	Colby United Methodist Church: Poppy Dean Kim Barnett Dale Deaver
First National Bank: Kristin Ostmeier	Colby Recreation Department: Ryan Sturdy Josh Elliott Brenda Mazanec
Pioneer Memorial Library: Judy Kleinsorge	Thomas County Emergency Management: Jim Engel
K-State Extension: Diann Gerstner Joe Liebrandt Lynette Koon	Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
PCAN: Roxy Cabral	Thomas County Sheriff's Office: Sherri Staab Jason Moses
The First Presbyterian Church: Linda and Randy Smith Linda and Gary Garrett Wynn Duffey Paula Sothman Fran Smith Don and Vera Saddler Donna Pflasterer Peggy Saddler	Colby Police Department: Keyna Baalman Ron Alexander Kansas Highway Patrol: Andy Schippers & Parents