

Weather Corner



Weekend looks sunny, warmer

The forecast
Tonight — Mostly clear with a low around 33. North wind around 4 mph becoming calm.
Friday — Sunny with a high near 77. Calm wind becoming south between 5 and 10 mph.
Friday night — Mostly clear with a low near 40. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Saturday — Mostly sunny with a high around 84. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.
Saturday night — Mostly clear with a low around 46.
Sunday — Partly cloudy with a high near 80.
Sunday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 46.
Monday — Partly cloudy with a high near 64.
Temperatures
 Wednesday's high, 67
 Low this morning, 27
 Records for this date, 95 in 1902, 19 in 1966
 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.

Briefly

'Dig Into History' Sunday at museum

The Thomas County Historical Society will be celebrating its 47th year with an eye on archeology. The TCHS Annual Meeting will be held at the Prairie Museum of Art and History on April 23, 2006 with a short business meeting starting at 1:30 p.m. At 1:45 there will be a DVD Presentation by Brad Geist, a Goodland High School student. At 2:30 Dr. Donna Roper, an archeologist, will speak about Recent Explorations of an Early Wichita Indian Village in Central Kansas. Following the programs there will be an atlatl throwing demonstration. The Annual Meeting is open to the public. There is no charge. For more information contact the Thomas County Historical Society at 1905 S. Franklin, Colby or call (785) 460-4590.

After-prom activities planned

The Colby High School Project Prom Committee is sponsoring an after-prom from midnight to 3 a.m., Saturday, in the school's gymnasium. The committee said there will be games, karaoke, music, foosball, food and more. Those planning to attend are asked to wear casual clothes to change into after prom.

Remote control car races Sunday

The Colby RC Club is planning its first race of the Kansas-Colorado 3 Track Series at noon, Sunday, at the Southwind RC Raceway at Southwind Plaza, 2280 Southwind Ave. "The 3 Track Series is a touring series of the following tracks: Southwind RC in Colby, Dirtworks in Burlington and Rat Raceway in Denver, Colo.," said Kent Higerd, with the Colby club. All tracks are visited twice during the season with the final race in Denver Sept. 24. The three classes ran in the series are, 1/10 scale 2WD stadium trucks, 1/8 scale 4WD buggy and 1/10 scale 4WD monster trucks. Spectators and RC enthusiasts are encouraged to attend.

Contact lens warning issued

As a public service, Dr. Larry Washburn, Colby optometrist, wanted to remind contact users about the recent warning from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Protection, regarding Bausch and Lomb's *ReNu with MoistureLoc*. and reports of 109 fungal keratitis infections among contact lens wearers. According to the information Washburn said he and other optometrists received, this warning does not

affect other products by that company. For questions, call Washburn or another optometrist professional.

Soaring Singers to perform

The Colby Grade School Soaring Singers will perform their annual spring concert at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, April 27 in the grade school auditorium. The public is invited to attend.

Help needed for cleanup week

The City of Colby and the Thomas County Commissioners are combining their efforts to sponsor a city-wide and county-wide cleanup week from May 1 through May 6. Area service clubs and church groups are asked to commit their organizations to clean public areas in the city, such as ballfields, parks, all roadsides and entrances in Colby. If anyone is willing to volunteer their services to assist the elderly and infirm, call Jo Stange, administrative assistant to the city manager, 460-4410, and leave name. Those who need assistance should also call the city and leave their names. The city will then match up those who can help and those who need help.

Thomas County prepares for when avian flu arrives

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Thomas County Health Nurse Juanita Gatz is prepared to accept and oversee grant money to combat a flu pandemic. "Avian flu is now in a mixture of the wild fowl and tame fowl and the mixer is the pig's feces," Gatz said. "We have the environmental conditions to have Kansas receive it." Gatz told Thomas County Commissioner Ron Evans, Paul Steele and Ken Christiansen she is prepared to accept \$4,211 of a \$1.1 million dollar grant from the federal government to combat a worldwide flu outbreak. "The money will go for training sessions to educate people how to address mass dispensing, but

there's no cure for avian flue," Gatz said. "I went to a meeting and was told the best way to combat the flu is to wash your hands and keep clean," Evans said. Gatz said the grant will run from May 1 to Aug. 30, and she and her staff will help others become better educated about communicable diseases. The process includes outlining expectations to local health officials, recruiting and assembling a local pandemic influenza task force, convening ongoing meetings about the flu and completing a pandemic flu plan for the county. The grant also covers participating of a local pandemic flu exercise Gatz has scheduled that to take place before Aug. 1, as well as re-

ports about the exercise which are due to the government by Sept. 15. The commissioners signed off on paperwork to accept the grant money and told Gatz to proceed with her work on the project. In other business, Road and Bridge Supervisor Clair Schrock met with the commissioners about the need to repair one of the county's loaders. Schrock said the loader was accidentally submerged in water when a chain broke while it was being removed from a sediment pond. Damages to the loader in-

cluded the transmission. The estimated repair cost is \$21,813. Insurance may pay a portion of the bill. • Approved were the minutes of the March 31 commission meeting and purchase of six folding chairs at \$17.95 each from Colby True Value. • Reviewed were the Kansas Department of Transportation project schedule for the 2-mile strip of road north of Levant to be done by 2009; the landfill totals for the month of March which ran 13.83 ton per day; a letter from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment stating

contingent approval on work at the landfill; and April oil and gas rates as presented by Karen Befort of ONEOK Energy Marketing of Hays.

Look Who's Turning 50!



Marilyn Meyer!
In the next 50 years, you will... have more grandchildren, more time for love and laughter, and spend more money at the beauty shop! Happy Birthday! Love, All of your family

Sheep dog trials to be held at Cottonwood

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Sheep dog trial enthusiasts will have a chance to watch or participate in the seventh annual competition hosted by Cottonwood Ranch May 6-7. Starting at 8 a.m. and running through early evening both days, spectators will watch 60 dogs and their handlers herd sheep in a pasture at the 1800s English sheep ranch that became a state historical site in 1982. "Last year we had dogs and handlers from seven states," said Gayle James of Lenora who volunteers at the ranch. "They came from South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Texas and Kansas. This year we expect people from western Montana again." James said Ed Mattke of Ogalla

will judge the competition and registration has already closed due to the number of entries. Mattke will judge dogs and handlers during timed events during which dogs must herd a small group of sheep from a distant point in the pasture to a pen near the judge. Cottonwood Ranch is located on U.S. Highway 24 one-half mile west of Studley. The sheep dog trials are co-sponsored by the State Historical Society and the Friends of the Cottonwood Ranch. During the trials, the ranch's buildings and house will be open to the public. Each year the Friends of Cottonwood Ranch host two major activities, the sheep dog trials and a holiday open house in December, as a way to promote the preservation, interpretation, history of the site and early settlers of north-

west Kansas. The non-profit organization supports the ranch through supplemental funding, volunteer services, public relations assistance, community involvement and educational programming. James said food vendors will be on hand during the morning and early afternoon hours. Vendors will set up near the ranch house originally owned by John Fenton "Fent" Pratt and his wife, Jennie. For more information about the ranch or sheep dog trials can contact curator Don Rowilson at the ranch at (785) 627-5866.

Faced with a Drinking Problem?
 Perhaps
Alcoholics Anonymous Can Help
 Meetings are Open to the Public
 City Hall Basement
 Mondays & Thursdays - 8:30 p.m.

ST. THOMAS LODGE #306
Hog Roast - Monday, April 24th
 6:30 p.m. Dinner; 8:00 p.m. Meeting
 ~All members invited.~

Oberlin to jam with Cajun

Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission's final season ticket event of the 2005-06 series is a Cajun music program at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Morgan Theater in The Gateway. Wes Thibodeaux and the Cajun Travelers will bring typical Cajun music. Members of the band, from Baton Rouge, La., include Thibodeaux on Cajun accordion; Tom Gerald, fiddle; Leon Gautreau, guitar; and Charlie Gautreau, bass, a spokesperson for the commission said. The group has entertained at bluegrass festivals, the christening of the USS Louisiana, the Kennedy Center in Washington (1998 and 1999) and at Silver Dollar City, Mo. Today's Cajuns are descendants of French Acadians whom the British forced from their Nova Scotian colonial lands in the 18th century. Many settled along the eastern seaboard, but one group settled in the area just west of what is now New Orleans, mainly along the Mississippi River. Cajuns bring not only lively music, but ethnic foods and a unique culture to the area. Gautreau said he played bluegrass before he started playing Cajun. He calls it "happy music." Tickets for the event are by season ticket or at the door. For details, call commission members, Ella Betts, (785) 475-3557, or Mary Henzel, (785) 475-3329.

CITY LIMITS
SUPPER SPECIALS
 April 17-21
Buffets available 6-9 PM for \$9.95 (soup & salad bar included)
MON: Mexican Buffet
TUES: Special: 1 LB. Certified Angus Beef T-Bone Steak
 served with side & salad No Hot Buffet available. \$24.95
WED: Homestyle Buffet
THUR: Special: USDA Choice 10 oz Strip Steak
 with baked potato, salad, and roll No Hot Buffet available. \$9.95
FRI: Seafood Buffet
SAT: BBQ Buffet
462-6565

Hi-Plains Co-op 2x4

Wylie Talk 3x10.5