

Weather Corner



Saturday high expected at 86

The forecast
Tonight — Clear with a low around 40. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph.
Saturday — Partly cloudy with a high near 86. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph.
Saturday night — Partly cloudy with a low near 50. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Sunday — Partly cloudy with a high around 81. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Sunday night — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1 a.m. Partly cloudy and breezy, with a low around 45.
Monday — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy and breezy with a high around 55.
Monday night — Mostly cloudy with a low around 37.
Tuesday — Partly cloudy with a high near 61.
Temperatures
Thursday's high, 70
Low this morning, 29 in 1989, 13 in 1899
Records for this date,
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
April's precipitation, .44
Water Use Report for Thursday
2,545,000 gallons
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Pet Adoption News

The Colby Animal Clinic has three stray animals that want to go home, said Bobbie Burroughs, at the clinic.
Two retriever mix females — one adult and one puppy — both golden in color and wearing pink collars were picked up on Highway 24 between Brewster and Levant. According to the animal clinic, both dogs appear to have had haircuts

Education secretary to review loopholes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Education Secretary Margaret Spellings is pledging to scrutinize a loophole that allows states to exclude nearly 2 million student test scores under the No Child Left Behind Act.
“When children are not part of the accountability system, then that’s a problem,” Spellings said in an interview Thursday at the conclusion of four-day Associated Press series that highlighted the excluded scores.
Spellings said the AP report amounted to a “truth-in-advertising” exercise for state policymakers, parents and federal officials. She declined to specify exactly how she will address the excluded scores, noting the issue will come up with the law’s renewal next year and with pending federal reviews of state education plans.
At least 10 states are seeking permission to change the numbers of

Briefly

Honorary degree reception planned

Colby Community College will host a public reception to honor Jay Donelan and Jim and Betty Firestone on Wednesday, April 26, beginning at 3 p.m. in Room #108 of the Student Union. Donelan and the Firestones have been selected as the 2006 honorary degree recipients. The degrees will be conferred during commencement exercises on Saturday, May 13.

Tree Day Saturday

The Thomas County Conservation District is holding its Tree Day from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at the Recycling Center in Colby. If anyone has placed an order for trees, please plan to pick them up at that time. The District still has a few trees left unclaimed.

Legion baseball to meet Tuesday

An organizational meeting for American Legion baseball players and parents will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Sunflower Bank hospitality room, 500 N. Franklin Ave. Young men 19 and under are eligible to play unless they will turn 20 in 2006.
First-year players should bring their birth certificate. For more information, contact John Gatz at 460-2490.

Waste site open Saturday

As part of this year’s Earth Day celebration, the Thomas County Household Hazardous Waste Site facility, 190 W.

Fourth, Colby, will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, for safe disposal. Acceptable items include old paints, stains, varnish, thinners, cleaning products, lawn and garden chemicals, automotive products, swimming pool chemicals and batteries, said Sandy Swob, director. Empty containers need not be brought to the facility. “These can be discarded as regular household trash,” Swob said.

Grass, tree limb collections begin

The City of Colby began picking up grass clipping last Monday and reissues 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. on Mondays. For questions, call 460-4410.

‘Dig Into History’ Sunday at museum

The Thomas County Historical Society will be celebrating its 47th year with an eye on archeology starting at 1:30 p.m., Sunday. The annual meeting will be held at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin Ave., Colby. Following the programs that start at 1:45 p.m., there will be an atlatl throwing demonstration. The meeting is open to the public and free of charge.

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 call the city and leave their names. The city will then match up those who can help and those who need help.

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 bring casual clothes to change into.

Remote control cars 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. Everyone welcome to attend.

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.

Petitions filed seeking investigation into pornography

WICHITA (AP) — Pornography opponents in Wichita and Topeka filed separate petitions with court clerks on Thursday seeking to convene grand juries to investigate adult businesses in their two cities for alleged violations of obscenity laws.
The petition filed in Sedgwick County has about 3,800 signatures and targets nine adult bookstores in Wichita.
A separate petition filed in Shawnee County has about 3,300 signatures and targets four adult establishments in Topeka.
“This isn’t just a Wichita issue. It is a state issue and a national issue,” said Jan Beemer, president of the Wichita anti-pornography group Operation South Wind.
Anti-pornography activists first successfully used the state’s grand jury petition law last year to convene a grand jury to look at seven

adult entertainment businesses in Wichita. That grand jury returned an indictment against just one business, Priscilla’s, and its owner, Robert Floyd, for one misdemeanor count each of promoting obscenity. That case has not yet come before a jury.
His attorney, Stephen Joseph, was not in his office and did not immediately return a call for comment on the latest petition effort, which is aimed at another Priscilla’s store as well as other Wichita businesses.
Similar anti-pornography grand jury petitions filed in Saline and Dickinson counties seeking investigations of adult businesses there were thrown, one on a technicality and the other because the judge felt

it was unconstitutional, Beemer said. The two latest petitions need to be certified to make sure they contain enough valid signatures. The petitions must have at least 2,600 signatures from registered voters in Wichita and 1,360 signatures from Topeka voters before they are turned over to a district judge, who then decides whether they are in proper form to convene a grand jury.
In Wichita, pornography opponents are seeking an investigation of nine businesses — Circle Cinema, Frolix, Party Store, Priscilla’s, Vegas Video, Video Adventures, Xcitment Video and two After Dark Video stores.
In Topeka, they are targeting four Topeka establishments —

Sinsations, After Dark Video, Adult Entertainment Center and one of two Priscilla’s stores in town.
The group believes the businesses are violating a Kansas law against promoting obscenity, in part by selling sexual devices.
“This action is sweeping Kansas,” said the Rev. Paul Barnes, senior pastor at the Brookwood Covenant Church and president of area evangelical ministries. “We are not needing all this material in our cities, and there’s limits by Kansas law, and we need to get rid of it.”
Alan Ribelin, the owner of a Topeka landscaping business and father of five daughters ranging in age from 8 to 14, said pornography generates crime. He said too many people assume that as long as they

ignore pornography, it won’t affect them.
“The sex industry has basically taken a stronghold in our community,” he said.
The groups presented their petitions two days after Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed a bill into law to restrict signs and other outdoor advertising for sexually oriented businesses within a mile of any highway or interstate.
Under the law, taking effect July 1, a business within a mile of such roadways could post two signs — one no more than 40 square feet with the name, address, phone number and operating hours and another noting that the premises are off-limits to minors. Signs already in place could remain for three years.

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