

**Weather Corner**



**Forecast calls for highs near 80**

**Tonight** — Mostly clear with a low around 38. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 79. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Thursday night** — Partly cloudy with a low near 44. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Friday** — Partly cloudy with a high around 71. Breezy with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph.  
**Friday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 41.  
**Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high around 66.  
**Saturday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 41.  
**Sunday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 68.  
**Temperatures**  
 Tuesday's high, 50  
 Low this morning, 21  
 Records for this date, 91 in 1927, 23 in 1907  
 Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
 April's precipitation, 0.55  
**Tuesday, April 25**  
**Water Use**  
 1,521,500 gallon  
 4.0 million = Water Warning  
 4.5 Million = Water Emergency  
 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**

**Four puppies looking for a home**  
 Colby Animal Clinic has four puppies ready for adoption. They are a Boxer-German shorthair mix, 11-weeks-old, male and female, and black and white in color. In addition, a black and white, adult

male, Lhasa-Apso mix, was found and is in need of a home or its rightful owner. The male is friendly and potty-trained. For questions about any of these animals, call 460-8621, or stop by the clinic, 810 E. Fourth St. The only cost for adoption is the price of immunization shots.

**Senate committee drafts \$466 million finance plan**

TOPEKA (AP) — The Senate Education Committee endorsed a \$466 million school finance package Tuesday, sending the bill to the chamber for debate.  
 The committee assembled the three-year package after two days of meetings, culling ideas from six proposals aimed at satisfying a Kansas Supreme Court order to increase school spending to meet constitutional mandates.  
 Senators want to debate the bill as soon as possible, perhaps as early as Thursday.

Legislators return Wednesday to the Statehouse after a 3 1/2-week break to conclude their remaining business of the 2006 session.  
 Other items still on the table include stronger penalties for sex offenders, limiting government seizure of private land and a bevy of tax cuts.  
 The plan puts more money in the base state aid that all districts receive, and sets aside additional funds for special education and programs aimed at students at risk of failure in school.

**Briefly**

**CRP deadline Friday**

The USDA's Farm Service Agency in Thomas County announced the extension of the sign-up deadlines for both the Conservation Reserve Program general sign-up and the special Conservation Reserve Program re-enrollment and extension opportunities until Friday, April 28. The CRP program is a voluntary program. For questions, visit the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crpinfo.htm>

**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.

**Cell phone donations continue**

Colby Grade School is continuing the used cell phone recycling project, said officials at the school. All proceeds from the donation of these phones will fund new playground equipment while protecting the environment at the same

time. Anyone who would like to contribute can drop off cell phones at Colby Grade School, 210 N. Grant Ave.; Dillons Store at the customer service desk, 1605 S. Range Ave.; Unicef, 1933 S. Range Ave.; or Gavons Electronics, 1870 S. Range Ave.

**Preschool open house Friday**

Sacred Heart Preschool, 1150 W. Sixth St., is holding an open house from 1 to 6 p.m., Friday. "Feel free to stop by and visit," said Principal David Evert.

**Scheduling change announced**

The Alferd Packer Memorial String Band performance scheduled Sunday in Sharon Springs has been changed to 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 13, in the Quinter High School Auditorium.

**Brain development event planned**

A program on how the adolescent brain develops and how it can be understood and protected, "Why 21? It's all About

the Adolescent Brain," by Karen Williams will be given at three different times on Monday, May 1. A breakfast program will from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Pioneer Memorial Library; 375 W. Fourth St.; a lunch program from noon-1 p.m. at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin Ave., and an evening question and answer session from 6-8:30 p.m. also at the library. To RSVP for the lunch program, call 460-8177.

**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, 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.

**'House of Blue Leaves' begins on Thursday**

Colby High School graduate Regina Heier has been cast by Colby College theater director Deb Bickner in the spring play which begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday with two more evening performances Friday and Saturday

Heier will play the part of Bananas, a troubled middle-aged woman, in John Guare's black comedy "The House of Blue Leaves."

The play is set in 1965 when the Pope is coming to New York City. The Shaughnessy family lives in a small, shabby apartment within walking distance of where the Pope will be passing on his way to speak at Yankee Stadium.

Like many other people in the area, a few of the odd characters in this production wish to see him pass by in hopes of receiving blessings.

Bananas has a different goal. She wants her husband back from the woman he has been having an affair with.

She wants to be a good housewife, and faces a variety of emotions which change fast and easily. "That's the most difficult part in playing the role," said Heier.



Corrina Stroller, played by Tina Schmid, right, Daniel Blake as Artie Shaughnessy and Regina Heier, as Bananas Shaughnessy, left, will be among the cast of players starting at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, in the "House of Blue Leaves."

DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Free Press

"It's hard to always change pace. I encourage everyone to come see the production. "It's different, yet still funny," she said. "The cast has been practicing

several weeks for two to three hours each night. "The House of Blue Leaves" will be performed in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center. Tickets are available at the door

prior to the Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances or may be purchased in advance at the Campus Bookstore. The play is suitable for adult audiences, Bickner said.

*Thank You!*  
 Your prayers, cards, food, flowers memorials and your kindness will always be remembered.  
 Thank you from the family of Lloyd Chick

The Max Pickerill Lecture Series Presents...  
**The Ethics of Stem Cell Research**  
**Dr. Jason Robert**  
*Bioethicist, Arizona State University*  
**TUES., MAY 2 - 7:00 P.M. PUBLIC LECTURE**  
**Cultural Arts Center**  
**Colby Community College**  
 For more info., contact: Cathy Gordon at 462-3984, ext. 310  
**This event is FREE to the public!**

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