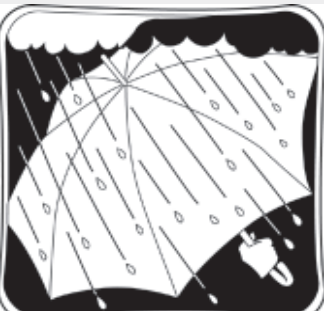


Weather
Corner



Chance of rain
Saturday, Sunday

Tonight — There is a 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy with a low around 43. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday — Showers likely and mostly cloudy with a high around 58. Breezy with a north wind between 15 and 25 mph with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Saturday night — A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy with a low near 42. Breezy with a north wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Sunday — There is a 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy with a high around 63. Breezy with a north wind between 20 and 25 mph with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Sunday night — Forecast calls for partly cloudy and breezy with a low around 40.

Monday — Partly cloudy with a high near 66.

Monday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 39.

Tuesday — partly cloudy with a high near 75.

Temperatures
Thursday's high, 80
Low this morning, 46
Records for this date, 97 in 1910, 23 in 1965
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
April's precipitation, 0.55

Water usage for Thursday
2,544,300 gallons
4 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.

Kansans
help Indians
by fixing bikes

PARSONS (AP) — Being a missionary is not always easy. In the face of adversity, knowing one person is being helped can make all the difference.

On June 3, some members of the Wesley United Methodist Church will again be loading up to travel to the Crow Creek Indian Reservation in Fort Thompson, S.D.

The Tree of Life Ministries schedules different church groups to provide services at the reservation each year. The Parsons group will be there seven days, said participant Mark Swafford. Behind the 12-passenger van will be a 16-foot trailer loaded with around 50 bicycles to be distributed to Lakota children. This delivery will bring the total number of bicycles donated by the group to more than 200 in four years.

Swafford, who has operated the First Gear Bike Shop at the Parsons State Hospital and Training Center for 10 years, was first approached with the idea by Sharon and Brian Morton.

Sharon heard another church had taken a few new bicycles to the Lakota children in years past, and thought Wesley could provide used bikes. The Mortons approached former PSHTC administrator Gary Daniels, who agreed to provide the bike shop's services to them. Labor would be free.

After searching for bicycles and donations, the group managed to acquire 48 bicycles the first year and 56 the second.

"It just tugs at your heart strings," Sharon Morton said. "We know it touches their lives," Brian Morton said. "There is so little open to them and they have so little family life. We can't just walk away. If you touch one heart, one life, that's what you do."

Briefly

Agency on Aging to move

The Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging offices are moving to a new location in Hays. The current office at 301 W. 13th St., Hays, will remain open until Wednesday. The office will reopen at its new location, 520 W. 29th St., Suite B, Hays, Monday, May 8, said Glenna Clingsmith, information and assistance coordinator. For questions, call (785) 628-8204.

College play continues

"The House of Blue Leaves," presented by the Colby Community College drama department continues tonight and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center Frahm Theater. Tickets are available at the door.

Free storm spotter class Monday

The National Weather Service in Goodland is offering one advanced storm spotter class at 7 p.m., Monday, at the Colby Community Building, 285 E. 5th St. The class is free and open to any person who has received basic spotter training within the past three years, said Joy Hayden with the Weather Service Office in Goodland. The class will last two hours and provide an indepth look at supercell thunderstorms. Topics include supercell variations, storm movement and evolution, Rear-Flank Downdraft, and weather parameters,

Tractor safety course deadline near

A tractor safety course is being offered from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, May 6, at Brewster High School, said Doug Musick, Thomas County extension agent. The course is open to people 14 and older who are planning to do farm work involving tractor driving for someone other than a parent or legal guardian. "If that is the situation, you must take a Tractor Safety Course according to the U.S. Department of Labor requirements," Musick said. A pizza lunch will be provided by Farm Bureau and there is a registration fee, which includes breaks and materials. Anyone wanting to take the course needs to also bring their social security card. Pre-registration is due by Tuesday. For questions or to register, stop by the Thomas County Extension Office, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby or call (785) 460-4582.

Stem cell highlight of lecture

Dr. Jason Robert is the featured speaker for the last Max Pickerill Lecture Series of the 2005-06 season. Robert's topic, "Cloning and the Stem Cell Circus," begins at 7 p.m., Tuesday in the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community College. His talk will delve into the science behind the

Why 21? meeting set Monday

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. 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. at Pioneer Memorial Library. To RSVP for the lunch program, call 460-8177.

Free sports physicals planned May 9

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.

Some disabled and seniors confront Medicare

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mildred Lindley is stuck in a hole, the doughnut hole — "right in the middle of it," she says — that comes with Medicare's new prescription drug benefit.

Just four months into the program, Lindley has hit the point in her coverage where she has to pick up, at least for a few months, the full cost of the medication she takes to keep her bone marrow cancer in remission.

As a result, her two-month supply of Thalomid shot up from \$40 to a whopping \$1,300.

"If I can't get it, I guess I'm here until the Lord takes me out. That's all I can do, because there's no way I can afford it," said Lindley, an 80-year-old from Jonesboro, Ark.

"I'm in the hole all right."

Under the standard drug benefit, the government subsidizes the drug costs for seniors and the disabled. But after costs reach \$2,250, the subsidy stops until a beneficiary has paid out \$3,600 of his or her own money.

Then, the government will start picking up 95 percent of each purchase.

If I can't get it, I guess I'm here until the Lord takes me out. That's all I can do, because there's no way I can afford it. I'm in the hole all right."

Mildred Lindley,
80-year-old from Jonesboro, Ark.

lied on the patient assistance programs for many of her prescription needs last year.

She enrolled in a Medicare drug plan when told by one of those companies that such help would end Jan. 1.

Now, that she's hit the doughnut hole, she's charging some of her drugs to her credit card.

She said she'll worry about the ramifications later since she cannot afford to skip taking her Seroquel, which is used to control bipolar disorder.

"Basically, I've been to hell and back on this," said D'Angelo, referring to her disease. "I'm just deathly afraid of getting sick again."

Shirley Rhodes of Gladwin, Mich., figures that while she and her husband, Samuel, are in the doughnut hole, they'll have about \$49.67 a month to live on after covering their drug expenses.

For that reason, they will wait until the last possible day to enroll in a Medicare drug plan. In the meantime, she'll continue to ask the pharmaceutical companies to help her out, and she'll work with Social Security officials to figure out how the family might qualify for extra assistance through Medicare.

"If we don't qualify, we will be giving our house back to the mortgage company, and then we'll still owe for the second and third mortgage," Rhodes said.

Some beneficiaries pay higher

monthly premiums to make the doughnut hole smaller or do away with it entirely. Also, the poorest beneficiaries don't have to worry about it at all.

Analysts say that most beneficiaries who hit the doughnut hole probably won't get there until the fall.


Mark McClellan, administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, stresses that the beneficiaries may be able to avoid the doughnut hole entirely by switching to generic drugs or lower-cost brand names.

Consumers Union, publisher of Consumer Reports, says that senior citizens taking five commonly prescribed drugs — for high blood pressure, cholesterol, heart disease, arthritis pain and depression — could save between \$2,300 and \$5,300 a year under various Part D plans by switching to lower-cost drugs.

Lawmakers are also pleading with drug manufacturers to continue with patient assistance programs that allowed many low-income people to get free medicine.

"We've got a situation where it looks like the May 15 date has be-

come an excuse for dropping the assistance that many Medicare beneficiaries rely on, and that's not right," said Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa.



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