

**Weather Corner**



*Sunny skies, warmer temps*

**Tonight** — Mostly clear with a low around 48. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Tuesday** — Mostly sunny with a high around 86. Southwest wind around 15 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Tuesday night** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low near 42. Breezy with a south wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

**Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 67. North wind 10 to 15 mph becoming east.

**Wednesday night** — Mostly cloudy with a low around 39.

**Thursday** — Mostly cloudy with a high near 58.

**Temperatures**  
Sunday's high, 67  
Low this morning, 44

Records for this date, 94 in 1928, 17 in 1909

Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.03  
April's precipitation, 0.65

A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

**Briefly**

**'Booked for Lunch' is Wednesday**

The last "Booked for Lunch" until September, 2006, will be held at noon, Wednesday, at Pioneer Memorial Library and not Tuesday as reported in the weekly Library Link column. Wednesday's event will feature Cathy Gordon reviewing the book "Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling," by Ross King. Librarian Jeff Friesen encourages people to "plan to be here, lunch will be served." For questions, call 460-4470 or stop by the facility, 375 W. 4th St., Colby.

**Safety course deadline Tuesday**

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. 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.

**Day of Prayer starts Wednesday**

Area Christians are invited to participate in a National Day of Prayer Praise and Prayer Rally from 7 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, in the Colby Community Building Little Theater. This will be a time of honoring God through singing praises and praying for our nation.

Thursday everyone is invited to join in prayer on the lawn of the Thomas County Courthouse from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. These events are part of the nation wide National Day of Prayer activities and are sponsored by the local National Day of Prayer Committee and the Thomas County Ministerial Alliance respectively.

**Stem cell lecture Tuesday**

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, May 2, in the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community College. His talk will delve into the science behind the stem cell debate, outline key ethical questions, and consider political ramifications. This event is free to the public. For questions, call Cathy Gordon 462-3984 ext 310.

**Gaither concert Sunday**

Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine, is hosting another Gaither video concert, starting at 6 p.m., Sunday. This week's concert will feature a "Homecoming in Israel." Everyone is welcome and the event is free of charge. Organizers encourage people to enjoy "great gospel music on the big screen."

**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 plans two spring concerts**

The Colby Community College vocal music concert is scheduled Thursday and the instrumental music concert is Tuesday, May 9. Both events will begin at 7:30 p.m. and both performances are planned in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center. There is no admission charge.

**Special week encourages being 'water wise'**

The Thomas County Conservation District is showing its support for the Soil and Water Stewardship Week by showing people how to be "water wise."

"Water is one of the most pressing resource issues facing our country," said Krysta Harden, Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Conservation Districts.

"Every person can help conserve water," said Chairman of the Thomas County Conservation board Jon Starns. "It's easy, it helps the environment, and it usually saves money."

According to recent statistics provided by the local conservation district, in the United States, more than 53,000 community water treatment systems deliver drinking water to millions of people. About 13 million private wells provide water to families and businesses with agriculture, electronic power genera-

**"We want to help people in Thomas County learn how important it is to help conserve water but how easy it can be."**  
Chairman Jon Starns,  
Thomas County Conservation District

tion, industry, and transportation all depending on water resources.

Many people may take water supplies for granted, Harden said, but a large network of private and government agencies help protect, treat, and deliver that water.

"Conservation districts across the country help landowners, homeowners, and businesses learn how to conserve water, from simple lifestyle adjustments to large scale

projects," she said.

"We want to help people in Thomas County learn how important it is to help conserve water but how easy it can be," Starns said.

As part of the national association, the Thomas County Conservation District is taking part in the Soil and Water Stewardship Week, which began April 30 and will continue through May 7.

The Thomas County Conserva-

tion District is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts (www.nacdnet.org), which oversees the Stewardship Week program.

Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation. The association represents the nation's 3,000 conservation districts, which were established to encourage conservation across the country.

For information about Stewardship Week and conservation, call Danielle Freeman, district manager, (785) 462-7482, ext. 303.

"You can learn more about the National Association of Conservation Districts and Stewardship Week at www.stewardshipweek.com," she said.

"You don't have to be a wise old owl to find out how to be 'water wise.'"

**Thomas County man charged with 'terrorizing' girlfriend**

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

A Brewster man has been charged with attempting to terrorize and choke his girlfriend at the home of neighbors on April 22.

According to Thomas County Undersheriff Jason Moses, Dee Petty, 45, was arrested at his home

in the 400 block of Nebraska Ave. after an incident which took place in the 300 block of Nebraska Ave. in Brewster.

Moses said Petty and Michelle O'Brien, 28, were the invited guests at the home of Joe and Michelle Barron when an incident is alleged to have taken place about 10:15 p.m. According to documents filed

in Thomas County District Court on April 24, Petty allegedly told O'Brien he was "going to kill her" and he allegedly placed his hands around her neck and choked her.

Moses said Joe Barron pulled Petty away from O'Brien and removed him from the residence. Petty was arrested his home at 1:34 a.m. and booked into Thomas

County Jail where as of this morning he remains in lieu of a \$50,000 bond.

If convicted and depending on a presentence investigation, Petty faces three to 14 years in prison and a fine up to \$300,000 for the aggravated battery charge stemming from the alleged choking incident, which as listed on the Kansas Sentencing Guidelines is a severity level 4 person felony.

He also faces five to 17 months in prison and a fine up to \$100,000 for the alleged criminal threat

charge, a severity level 9 person felony.

Petty, if convicted and depending on a presentence investigation, faces six months in the county jail and a fine of \$1,000 for a domestic battery charge, a Class B person misdemeanor, of having allegedly had with O'Brien physical contact which was in a "rude, insulting or angry manner." He also faces one month in the county jail and a fine up to \$500 for his alleged disorderly conduct, a Class C misdemeanor, during that same incident.

**Church fire intentional, officials say**

TOPEKA (AP) — Investigators are trying to find out if anyone had a beef against a southwest Topeka church that was damaged in an arson fire early Sunday.

The entry hall at Hillside Community Church was destroyed and the rest of the building sustained extensive damage in the blaze, which was reported around 6:30 a.m. Sunday.

Church members say fire walls that separate the lobby from the sanctuary and other areas might

have prevented the rest of the building from being destroyed.

Local, state and federal investigators, using an accelerant-sniffing dog, determined later Sunday that the fire had been intentionally set.

Church secretary Shelia Ramos said she got a call from the church's security company early Sunday telling her that a motion detector had gone off in the building.

By the time she arrived at the scene, firefighters already were there battling the blaze.

She said congregation members spent much of the day coming to grips with the fire and boarding up the building.

**MOVIE PASSES**  
Watch for your name in the Wednesday movie listings for 2 free passes.  
(Passes must be used within 7 days.)  
Pick up your passes at your:  
**COLBY FREE PRESS**

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!**

**PropiMax® Protects Wheat from Tan Spot, Other Diseases**  
Diseases and their impact on small grain yields have been getting more attention lately. Tan spot is one of the diseases that dents small grain yields, but there are a lot of other minor diseases that chip away at your bottom line profitability, too.  
To help combat foliar diseases like tan spot, cereal grain producers can rely on **PropiMax® EC fungicide** from Dow AgroSciences. PropiMax contains the same active ingredient as Tilt fungicide and uses the same label use directions and rates. Yet, it offers a more economical price and the backing of a company with a solid reputation.  
Here are some of the benefits PropiMax provides:  
● Controls numerous yield-robbing diseases, such as tan spot, leaf and stem rust, powdery mildew, leaf blight and glume blotch, Helminthosporium leaf blight, spot blotch, barley scald and net blotch  
● Protectant and post-infection activity  
● Excellent rainfastness  
● Residual that lasts more than 14 days  
● Rapid absorption by leaves and stems and upward movement to new plant growth.  
Consider tank-mixing PropiMax with your grass and broadleaf herbicide program to save a trip across the field. An effective tank-mix program includes 2 oz./A of PropiMax for tan spot control, 1 pt./A of **WideMatch™ herbicide** for broad-spectrum broadleaf weed control, and the grass herbicide of your choice.  
For more information about using PropiMax herbicide to control foliar diseases in wheat, contact your local ag retailer or visit [www.PropiMax.com](http://www.PropiMax.com).  
**Brendon Lueck**  
Sales Representative  
Garden City, KS  
**Dow AgroSciences**  
\*TM PropiMax and WideMatch are trademarks of Dow AgroSciences LLC. Always read and follow label directions.  
[www.FarmSmart.com](http://www.FarmSmart.com)

**State urges Kansans to stay home with mumps**

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment urges Kansans who contract mumps to stay home for nine days to avoid spreading the virus and increasing the scope of the outbreak.

Currently, there are 309 mumps (confirmed/probable) cases in 36 Kansas counties with 52 additional patients being investigated as potential cases.

The majority of the cases are concentrated in Douglas County (143 cases), but there are also cases in Anderson, Atchison, Barton, Butler, Chautauqua, Clay, Cowley, Crawford, Dickinson, Ellis, Franklin, Geary, Gove, Harvey, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Marshall, Miami, Norton, Osage, Pottawatomie, Pratt, Reno, Riley, Rooks, Saline, Scott, Sedgwick, Seward, Shawnee, Sheridan, Wabausee, and Wyandotte counties.

**Minimize Outbreak**  
"While those who contract mumps are most contagious up to four days after the onset of symptoms, it is still possible for someone to spread the virus to others for as long as nine days," said the state's Division of Health Director

Howard Rodenberg. "KDHE recognizes the challenges this may pose, but after careful evaluation in order to minimize the ongoing spread of this outbreak and to pro-

tect the public's health, we believe the nine day recommendation should be followed.

**EAT HEARTY.....**  
**— STEAK FRY —**  
**Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.**  
*Your choice of Potato and Salad*  
**COLBY VFW MEMBERS & GUESTS WELCOME!**

**American Profile**  
Celebrating Hometown Life  
(available in trade area only)  
See American Profile Magazine in today's issue of the  
**COLBY FREE PRESS**  
Brought to you by the Free Press and:  
**FIRST NATIONAL BANK** 1195 S. Range Colby, KS 460-2000  
*"Neighbors helping neighbors"*

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County wants to thank the following businesses and individuals who helped to make Bowl for Kid's Sake 2006 a success!**

**Presenting Sponsors:**  
American Family Insurance, Rita Roe - Peters Agency, Colby High School Chapter SADD, City of Colby Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund, Colby Bowl and Fun Center, Arby's, Comfort Inn, Palace Drug Store, The Service Oil Company, F&M Insurance Store, S&W Supply, Dr. Larry Washburn, Optometrist, Morrison Optometric Associates, P.A., Colby Canvas Co., John C. Tweed Agency, Colby Implement, Total Image, Donelan Jewelry, Kansas Quick Lube, American Legion Post #363, Van's Body & Frame, Orscheln Farm & Home, L&C Home Health, Sears Store, Red River Commodities, Johnson Transport, Colby Ag Center, Inlow Interiors, Someplace Special, LeRoy's Printing & Publishing, Harrison Chapel, HomeLand Real Estate, J&J Oil, Linda's Hair Affair, Bickner Electric, Butch's Body Shop, B-Hive, Dr. Barlow, DDS, Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, McDonald's, Family Center for Health Care, Commercial Sign Co., Bourquin's Old Depot, Restaurant & RV Park, Colby Automotive, Colby True Value, Carousel Beauty Salon, Dillons, Uptown Style, Pepsi, Pizza Hut

**A special, heartfelt thank you is extended to team captains, bowlers, and every sponsor who pledged to a bowler!!**