

Briefly

Commissioners meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m., Monday, at the courthouse. Mike Schultz will talk with Commissioners Ron Evans, Paul Steele and Ken Christiansen about tipping fees at the landfill. At 9:15 a.m. members of the extension council will talk to the commissioners about their upcoming budget and at 9:30 a.m. Thomas County Emergency Management Director Jim Engel will visit with the commissioners about certification procedures for the department. At 10 a.m. Thomas County Road and Bridge Supervisor Clair Schrock will visit with the commissioners about a sign for the Willow Street project. Other items on the agenda for Monday include approval of April 28 minutes; a deposit for oxygen for the emergency medical services; an easement agreement and conveyance for the landfill and landfill totals for the month of April; May natural gas indices; and miscellaneous mail items.

Deadline May 11 for college trip

Colby Community College and the Thomas County Council on Aging are sponsoring a one-day trip for Thomas County senior citizens Sunday, June 11. Colby College instructor Larry Koon will accompany the group to Boulder, Colo., where they will attend a performance of "The Music Man." Availability is limited and the price includes meal, transportation, snacks and tickets to the musical. For information on cost or to sign up for this one-day trip, call Deb Koon at 462-6617 by Thursday, May 11.

'Bridging the Gap' planned May 20

"Bridging the Gap," a special day for mothers and young women, is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at the Colby Community Building, 285 E. Fifth St. Sponsored by the Colby Secondary Parent, Teacher, Student Association and Thomas County Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect/Prevention Center, the event, organizers say, is "designed to help moms and teens, teen moms and single moms open lines of communication." It will also offer in-

formation and resources on issues such as boyfriends, prevention of pregnancy, being a teen mom, time/money management, drugs and alcohol, sexually transmitted diseases and peer pressure. The day will include guest speakers, a teen maze, activities, free lunch, prizes and incentives and free child care for the day. To reserve a spot, contact Kathy Lindberg at (785) 443-1040 or kncomm@st-tel.net.

Car wash/bake sale Saturday

The College Drive Assembly of God Church is sponsoring a car wash and bake sale fundraiser from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, at the Dillons parking lot, 1605 S. Range Ave., Colby. All proceeds from the sale will help some church members go to Mexico for mission work. Free-will offerings will be accepted.

Vacation Bible school May 30

Trinity Lutheran Church, Fifth and Country Club Drive in Colby, is inviting children, ages 3 through 6th grade, to Vacation Bible School starting May 30. The class goes from 9:30 a.m. to noon, May 30 through June 2. *Iesta* is an exciting way for children to learn more about Jesus' love as they learn how Jesus is a friend, life, leader, and savior. For questions or to pre-register, call 462-3497.

Commodity Distribution Monday

United States Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1:30-3 p.m. Monday at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park. For information, call the RSVP office at 462-6744.

Farewell receptions next week

Colby Community College will host a public retirement/ farewell reception beginning at 3 p.m., Wednesday, in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union. Carol Barnes, English instructor; Carol Otter, nursing instructor; and Rita Speer, nursing instructor; will be retiring at the end of the

semester. Cheryl Traub, nursing instructor and Dr. David Mruzek, band instructor, have resigned and will also be recognized at the reception.

Academy plans open house Monday

Thomas County Academy, a charter school operated by Colby Public Schools, is sponsoring an open house and informational meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Monday, in the academy classrooms at the grade school, 210 N. Grant. Visitors are asked to enter the doors leading to the elementary gymnasium on W. Third Street. (See front page story).

Scrapbooking project Saturday

Heartland Christian School is sponsoring a scrapbooking fundraising project from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, May 6. The classes will be held at the school, 1995 W. Fourth, Colby, and are open to experienced scrapbookers and beginners. For questions and costs, call Tonya Winger, 462-3677.

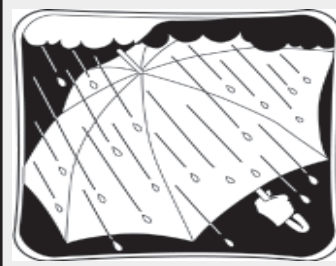
Awards presentation Tuesday

Colby High School is sponsoring its annual "Senior Awards Night," starting at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, in the school's auditorium, 1890 S. Franklin Ave. The event will recognize students for their academic, attendance and scholarship awards. In addition, the all-school student awards assembly will be earlier that day at 1:15 p.m., also in the auditorium. Parents and friends are invited to attend either of these two events. For questions, call 450-5300.

Free sports physicals Tuesday

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.

Weather Corner



Rain remains in the forecast

Tonight — There is a 20 percent chance of showers. Cloudy with a low around 41. Calm wind becoming west around 5 mph.

Saturday — A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy with a high near 58. West wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday night — Patchy fog. Otherwise, partly cloudy with a low near 42. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday — There's a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy with a high around 74. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 46.

Monday — Partly cloudy with a high around 78.

Monday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 47.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy with a low near 47.

Temperatures
Thursday's high, 58
Low this morning, 42
Records for this date,
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.04
May's precipitation, 0.13
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

State brief

Negotiations continue over school finance plans

TOPEKA (AP) — Negotiators failed Thursday to come up with a compromise school finance package that will satisfy a Kansas Supreme Court order and hasten the session's end.

Three-member delegations from the House and Senate met for about an hour, finishing their review of several policy provisions sought by the House. It also became clear that the House wasn't planning to defend a \$633 million spending package the chamber adopted March 30.

That plan was offered by a coalition of moderate Republicans and Democrats.

Man faces fourth DUI

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

An Oakley man pleaded guilty in Logan County District Court on Thursday to drunk driving for the fourth time.

Harry L. Roudebush, 71, told District Judge Glenn Schiffner he drove his car on June 5 after he had been drinking, knowing he'd been convicted of the same offense three times earlier. Roudebush, represented by Oakley attorney Charles Stewart, waived his rights to a formal reading of the complaint outlin-

ing the charge against him. Schiffner told Roudebush the charge is a felony which is punishable by "not less than 90 days and not more than 365 days" in the county jail.

In addition, Roudebush faces a mandatory 72 hours in jail and a post-release probation period of one year and completion of an alcohol abuse program. Sentencing is set for 10 a.m. on July 6 in the courtroom of Logan County District Courthouse. Roudebush remains out of jail on bond until then.

Everyone expected to see some drought stress, but they were interested to find out how widespread freeze damage was across the state, Fritz said. They found "a little bit" of freeze damage in nearly every region, with some isolated fields in which 25 to 30 percent of the crop had freeze damage.

The unofficial forecast is the first indication of the size of the state's 2006 winter wheat crop. Kansas Agriculture Statistics Service releases its official production estimate on May 12.

KASS director Eldon Thiessen, one of the participants in this year's wheat tour, said if it stays dry and temperatures rise again into 90s

with windy conditions, Kansas could have a lot of abandoned wheat acres.

The weekly crop weather updates by KASS have been documenting the declining condition of the winter wheat crop in the state, he said. Western Kansas has missed out on most of the recent rain that has fallen elsewhere in the state.

"I don't think I was very surprised at anything because I was expecting a pretty poor situation in the western area, and that is what we saw," Thiessen said.

The agency's latest crop update, released Monday, rated 37 percent of the wheat crop in poor to very poor condition. The crop is now in

far worse shape than it was last year at this time, when just 6 percent was ranked in poor to very poor condition.

Thiessen's group toured wheat fields as it traveled through Colby, Lakin, Garden City, Pratt and Wichita. His group estimated yields of about 31 bushels per acre on average for that leg of the tour.

The tour, which began Tuesday, ended Thursday at the Kansas City Board of Trade. About 50 people participated this year, making 435 stops at wheat fields across the state.

At each stop, participants count wheat stalks within a designated square foot in a field. Each night they get together and compare

findings. In the drought-stricken regions, the heads are significantly smaller than would be expected in Kansas, Thiessen said.

"The caveat is that if it doesn't rain then even what we saw wouldn't happen," Thiessen said. "There are some very dry areas and some very stressed."

Those fields cannot recover to normal production even if it rains because of the short heads, he said. If it does not rain, some farmers will lose their crop entirely or have very poor crops.

"We found rain today, and it was nice to see that. We hear it is raining a little bit all over," Fritz said. "It is good news."

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