

Weather
Corner

Rain possible, lows around 40

Tonight — 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** — 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.

Western Plains plans final performance

The 2005-06 season of Western Plains Arts Association will close with the Alferd Packer Memorial String Band performance in the Quinter High School auditorium at 7:30 p.m., Saturday.

"The band performs a lively show of contemporary and traditional bluegrass and American folk music," said Mary Beth Akers, medi correspondent. "Its six members sing and play fiddle, banjo, guitar, mandolin, hammer dulcimer, accordion, bass, shotgun and washboard."

Admission is by Western Plains Arts Association season pass or at the door: adults \$8, children \$4.

This program is presented in part by Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency and National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Profiling stirs complaints

WICHITA (AP) — A Wichita man whose racial profiling complaint was the first one ruled on by the Kansas Human Rights Commission has a long history of complaints, a newspaper reported Sunday. *The Wichita Eagle* examined the commission's records and found that Aaron Patterson, 46, had lodged 18 complaints since 1990. That included his claim of profiling during a traffic stop last August.

One local activist worried that Patterson's history of filing complaints would be used against him.

"It's more comfortable for people

Briefly

High school art show Tuesday
Colby High School is hosting its annual art show from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Tuesday in the high school commons area. For information, call 460-5300.

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.

Slavens to offer physicals May 10
Slavens Family Practice will be offering free athletic physicals for all middle school and high school students in Thomas County from 5 to 7 p.m., Wednesday. Slavens Family Practice is located at Citizens Medical Center, 100 E. College Dr. For questions, call Tawny Stover, 460-8000

Fair board to meet Thursday
The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include Thomas County extension agent report; bills and financial report; committee reports on the buildings and grounds, carnival, rodeo, parade, demolition derby, races, fair book, advertising expenses and income; a discussion on the fair barbecue, tent for the fair and display cases for open class entries. The meeting is open to the public.

Deadline Thursday 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 for 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. The event is sponsored by the Colby Secondary Parent, Teacher, Student Association and Thomas County Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect/Prevention Center. To reserve a spot, call Kathy Lindberg at (785) 443-1040 or kncomm@st-tel.net.

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. "The theme this year is Fiesta and will provide fun, memorable Bible-learning activities and more," a spokesperson said. Each day children will sing catchy songs, play Grande Games, eat Maraca Munchies, experience Bible adventures and create Bible crafts at the Cactus Craft station. *Fiesta* is an exciting way for children to learn more about Jesus' love. For questions or to pre-register, call 462-3497.

Every dog has its day at annual sheep trials

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Sheep dog trial organizers were pleased with this year's overwhelming turnout despite cool and wet conditions on Saturday.

"We've got 53 dogs and handlers from seven states," Gayle James said. "They came from South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Oklahoma and Kansas."

James is a member of a volunteer organization called Friends of Cottonwood Ranch which hosts two major activities each year at the ranch — the sheep dog trials and a holiday open house. Cottonwood Ranch is located on U.S. Highway 24 one-half miles west of Studley and during the trials, the ranch's house and buildings are open to the public.

James said she was glad to see people from out of the area attend the trials and visit the ranch on Saturday.

"This morning we had a group of about 14 seventh and eighth grade girls from Abilene stop. They were

going to Colby to the museum for what their teacher calls Saturday School. They do something in Kansas as a field trip and go back and have lessons on it."

Starting at 8 a.m. and running through early evening on Saturday and Sunday, spectators watched dogs and their handlers herd sheep in a pasture at the 1800s English sheep ranch known as Cottonwood Ranch which became a state historical site in 1982.

James said besides the students, on Saturday a group of 50-plus-year-olds from Nebraska stopped as part of a tour they were on.

"We had a 55 plus tour group from Nebraska and some folks from Colby came to visit this year," James said. "Each year the event seems to draw people from a wider area."

Besides watching working dogs, visitors to the ranch were able to enjoy food provides by a variety of vendors, as well as weaving and spinning demonstrations provided by Diane Frost of Villarica, Ga., Edie Hopson and Amy Johnson, both of Phillipsburg.



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press
Dennis Edwards of Sundance, Wyo., and his dog, Ben, participated in the sheep dog trials at Cottonwood Ranch at Studley on Saturday and Sunday. Handlers like Edwards worked 53 dogs as judges watched the dogs herd sheep in a pasture at the ranch.

Day Care Provider Appreciation Day Friday

Smart Start NW Kansas urges everyone to show their local child care providers how much they appreciate them Friday on *Provider Appreciation Day*.

"We are fortunate in northwest Kansas to have some of the best quality child care providers in the state of Kansas," said Karen Merryman, with SmartStart."

"Most of the child care facilities in our rural areas are family child care homes.

These are loving providers who open their own homes to provide care in a home environment for children outside their immediate family," she said.

Provider Appreciation Day of-

fers children and families an opportunity to recognize the hard work and dedication child care providers give.

Child care providers are a vastly underestimated part of the economic well being of our communities, SmartStart officials said.

"In today's culture many families find it necessary for both parents to work outside the home to be financially stable," Merryman said, "and in most cases this requires that they place their children in the care of someone outside their family."

Leaving young children with a virtual stranger can be a traumatic experience, she said, and as a parent we need the security of know-

ing children are being well cared for while their parents are away.

"In order to concentrate on our jobs we must be free of the worry of how our child is doing in their child care setting," she said,

Many providers care for children in their homes, which gives many youngsters a sense of security with a familiar home-style environment.

Other children thrive in a group or center-type child care setting.

"Both types of settings provide safe, secure environments that a parent can count on for quality care thanks to the commitment of loving care givers," she said.

Of the 157 legal childcare facilities in the northwest Kansas area

114 are licensed by the state.

As parents have less and less time with their children, the child care professional often has to take on the responsibility of teaching many of the social and pre-academic skills family members once taught, officials said.

"The child care setting is where most young children get their first experience with relating to their peers, learning to share, exploring the world around them, and learning to enjoy books," she said.

With all the contributions child care professionals make, SmartStart officials encourage families to remember their accomplishments and dedication Friday.

NOW PLAYING:

COLBY CINEMA
& ARCADE

MAY 5 - MAY 11

R.V.
Fri. & Sat. : 7:15 & 9:00 (PG-13)
Sun. - Thurs: 7:15 1:40

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
Fri. & Sat. : 7:00 & 9:30 (PG-13)
Sun. - Thurs: 7:00 2:10

COLBY THEATRE

MAY 5 - MAY 11

HOOT
Fri. & Sat. : 7:15 & 9:00 (PG)
Sun. - Thurs: 7:15 1:30

SILENT HILL
Fri. & Sat. : 7:00 & 9:15 (R) 2:10
Sun. - Thurs: 7:00

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