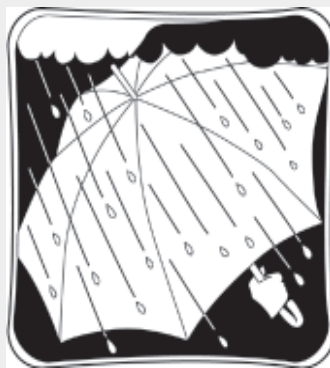


**Weather Corner**



**Rain back in the forecast**

**The forecast**  
**Tonight** — There is a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy with a low around 57. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 83. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east.  
**Thursday night** — Partly cloudy with a low near 57. South wind around 10 mph.  
**Friday** — Mostly sunny with a high around 91. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.  
**Friday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 59.  
**Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high around 92.  
**Temperatures**  
 Tuesday's high, 72  
 Low this morning, 52  
 Records for this date, 92 in 1955, 36 in 1964  
 Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.50  
 May's precipitation, 1.03  
**Water Use Report for Tuesday**  
 • 2,109,900 gallons  
 This issues a Water Watch.  
 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.

**Briefly**

**Governor candidate to visit Colby**

Sen. Jim Barnett (R-Emporia), one of the Republican candidates for Kansas governor, will be in Colby from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Colby Economic Development Office, 350 S. Range Ave. Barnett will meet people and answer questions. Everyone is welcome.

**Grant workshops scheduled**

Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development in Colby is sponsoring the final series of grant writing workshops from June 13-15; July 18-20 and Aug. 15-17. The June workshop will focus on foundations; the July workshop will take the grant writer through the research process for foundations and government spending. The August event will provide participants with communication styles.

Call Tracey Gilchrist, (785) 462-2602 or stop by the office in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 13, in Colby for more information.

**Sponsors sought for Relay event**

Corporate sponsors are needed for the annual Thomas County Relay for Life event Friday, Aug. 18 and Saturday, Aug. 19.

“Support from corporate sponsors is vital to the overall success in bringing about a lifetime of hope for those afflicted with cancer,” said Suzi Duncan, recruitment chair.

All money raised by corporate sponsors and through the individual teams will assist the American Cancer Society in research, education and progress toward a cure for cancer. The deadline to become a corporate sponsor is June 11.

For information, call Duncan at (785) 846-7678 or write: 573 County Road 8, Levant, KS 67743.

**DSNWK plans art show**

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas is having an art exhibit at the Hays Public Library, 907 Washington

from June 9 through July 17. The exhibit, “Art Abilities...Natural Talents,” will feature artwork from people with developmental disabilities served by the organization. In addition, a reception is scheduled for 7 p.m., Friday, June 16.

For more information, call Barbara Carlin, (785) 625-2521.

**Cost-share requests continue**

The Thomas County Conservation District is accepting requests for state cost share assistance until June 9, said Danielle Freeman, district manager.

“This sign-up period is earlier than in the past, but we want to allow ample time for everyone interested to sign up, and all proposed projects to be evaluated,” she said.

Landowners are encouraged to stop by the Thomas County Conservation District to discuss solutions and possible state financial assistance.

For more information, call at 785-462-7482 ext. 303.

**State's wheat crop in poor shape as harvest begins**

WICHITA (AP) — The first combines rolling over this year's winter wheat fields in southern Kansas have hauled in crops of excellent quality, but yields have been so bad that prospects now are for less than half a normal crop in the area, according to early harvest reports.

On Tuesday, the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service issued its latest crop update showing nearly half of the state's drought-plagued winter wheat crop was in poor to

very poor condition.

About 150,000 bushels of wheat have been taken into the grain elevator at Kiowa since the first loads began showing up Thursday evening, said Alan Meyers, general manager of OK Co-op Grain Co. in Kiowa. Normally, harvest does not start here until June 5 or later.

“Quality is fantastic,” Meyers said. “Quantity is not going to be there as we wish it was.”

Test weights have been high, run-

ning between 61 and 64 pounds per bushel, he said. But yields have been in the mid to upper 20 bushels per acre.

Meyers said he anticipates wheat production around Kiowa — which has not gotten a good rain since last fall — will be around 40 percent of a normal crop for the area. But spotty rains have made for a sporadic start to a slimmed-down harvest.

“It is ironic, too, complaining

about the rain now,” Meyers said. “If the rains held off, we would be done in a week.”

About 17,000 bushels have been cut around Anthony so far, said Mary Ewertz, harvest coordinator at the Department of Commerce harvest office in Anthony.

Elevators in the area reported test weights between 60 and 62 pounds per bushel, she said. About five custom harvest crews are looking for work.

The breakdown released Tuesday by KASS shows 21 percent of the state's wheat crop in very poor condition, with another 28 percent rated as poor and about 30 percent was ranked as fair. Just 20 percent of the Kansas crop was said to be in good condition, and only 1 percent was ranked as excellent.

About 44 percent of the wheat has turned color, with the crop maturing quickly, KASS said.

But rains brought a quick halt to the winter wheat harvest just as it was about to start in much of southern Kansas.

In Kingman, harvest coordinator Martin Hampel said harvest in the area had not yet started when the area was soaked by rain Tuesday. Now, farmers and cutters will have to wait at least until Friday or Saturday for fields to dry enough to start cutting, he said.

“This stuff has to blow out of here,” he said. “And we have to get some sunshine again.”

Meanwhile, the state's corn crop is doing far better. In its weekly update, KASS rated 4 percent of the corn crop as poor, 44 percent as fair, 47 as good and 5 percent as excellent.

Spring planting also is progressing across Kansas. About 34 percent of the sorghum has been planted, 64 percent of the soybeans, 25 percent of sunflowers and 45 percent of the cotton, KASS said.

**Toddler identifies, draws accurate maps**

LAWRENCE (AP) — Some toddlers like to draw smiley faces and stick figures. Tavi Shaffer-Green likes to draw detailed maps of the world.

Sitting on the floor of a home in western Lawrence, the 2 1/2-year-old pointed out all the countries on a map of Asia he was drawing by hand with a crayon.

“We did Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, China, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan,” he said in a sing-song toddler voice, tapping each country as he listed them.

He drew a shape under Afghanistan and marked it with a “P” for Pakistan, then asked his mother to help him color the continent.

“Tavi can do the 'Stans, and

mommy can do the bigger ones,” he said.

Tavi is still in diapers and hasn't yet started preschool, but he can identify all the countries in the world — with the exception of maybe a Pacific island or two — and can draw many of them by hand.

He's known all the planets since he was 20 months old and can tell you during what time period Antarctica formed.

“It started with him just studying the atlas,” said his mother, Tanya Shaffer. “Then he wanted me to draw the United States all the time.”

Brains and international savvy run in the family. Tavi lives near Berkeley, Calif., but he and his parents are in Lawrence for the next month to visit his grandfather, long-

time University of Kansas economics professor Harry Shaffer and stepgrandmother Betty Shaffer.

Tanya Shaffer, a Lawrence High School graduate, is an actor and writer. Her first book, “Somebody's Heart is Burning: A Woman Wanderer in Africa,” is her memoir of a year spent roaming the African continent.

Then there's Tavi's dad, David Green, who won a \$500,000 MacArthur Fellowship — often called the “genius award” — in 2004 for his work, which involves making cataract surgery and hearing aids affordable to people in developing countries.

Green and Tanya Shaffer said they don't pressure their son to learn things; they simply follow his interests and make good materials avail-

able for him.

With help from a United States jigsaw puzzle, he learned how to draw a U.S. map by hand, complete with all the two-letter state abbreviations. He learned a world jigsaw puzzle, too, and reminded his mom that when he gets back to California he wants to find a puzzle of Pangaea, the supercontinent that existed millions of years ago.

“He is the leader,” Tanya Shaffer said. “I follow what he wants to learn.”

To put things in perspective, typical learning milestones for kids approaching age 3 include understanding what the number one means, being able to count two or three objects, and matching circles and squares, according to the National Network for Child Care.

**Police destroy 1,326 samples in BTK investigation, official says**

WICHITA (AP) — Police on Tuesday incinerated 1,326 DNA samples taken to eliminate possible suspects in the BTK serial killer investigation, inviting the media to watch the event.

“There is a lot of discussion about the destruction of them. This was a visual way for people to see them destroyed,” said Deputy Chief Robert Lee.

Dennis Rader, who called himself BTK for his preferred method to “bind, torture and kill” his victims, pleaded guilty last June to killing 10 people between 1974 and 1991. He was sentenced in August to 10 consecutive life prison terms. The judge also ordered the destruction of the DNA samples.

“We are just glad it is done. Get them out of here, get them destroyed and move on,” Lee said.

About 25 people — all members of media or law enforcement — watched as white smoke billowed out of an incinerator that had been placed on the back of a trailer and hauled to the police bomb range on the outskirts of Wichita.

The incinerator is more com-

monly used to destroy ammunition. “On this one we wanted to have the media so the public will know — for those 1,300-plus people who took swabs — that this is where they ended up,” Lee said.

Among those watching from the crowd was Wichita Eagle reporter Hurst Laviana, one of several journalists whose DNA sample was taken during the long search for the BTK killer.

Laviana had just finished covering a routine police briefing in 2004 for *The Wichita Eagle* when a detective pulled him aside and told him five people had fingered him as a suspect in the BTK serial killings.

Laviana allowed police to take the DNA swab.

Laviana said some people do not care if police have their DNA on file, while others consider it an invasion of privacy. Laviana said he fell in the first category.

“I don't have any feeling about it,” Laviana said as he watched the burn.

“It is just another milestone in the whole investigation — a small one.”

**GIVE BLOOD. SHARE LIFE!**

For more information on donating blood, please call 1-888-719-8929 or in the Wichita area, 268-0834

**Auction of Surplus School Items**

June 3, 2006  
 10:00 a.m.

Herndon School  
 616 Radnor  
 Herndon, Kansas

Contact: Mark Wolters  
 USD #105 Superintendent  
 785-626-3236

**Picnic In The Park**

Bring your lunch and lawn chair and enjoy the musical talent of....

**Larry Booth**

**Thursday, June 1st 12:00 noon Fike Park**

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In order to move to our new location, we will be closed June 1st and 2nd.

BEGINNING JUNE 5TH, WE WILL BE AT 1535 S. RANGE (EAST OF THE QUILT CABIN)

Our phone number will remain the same!  
**785-460-8000**

Thank you for your patience!

**d**

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