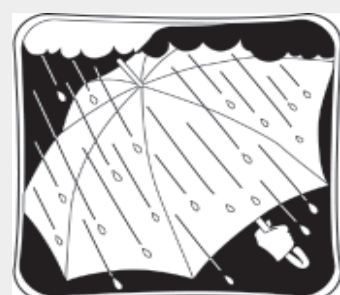


Weather Corner



The forecast

Tonight — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy with a low around 61. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Thursday** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy with a high near 96. South wind around 10 mph. **Thursday night** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy with a low around 64. Calm wind becoming north around 5 mph. **Friday** — Mostly sunny and hot with a high near 98. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Friday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 63.

Temperatures
 Tuesday's high, 87
 Low this morning, 55
 Records for this date, 105 in 1933, 41 in 1985
 Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
 June's precipitation, 3.20

Water Use Report
Average Friday, Saturday and Sunday
 • 2,082,200 gallons
 3.5 million = 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

College to hold special meeting

The Colby Community College board of trustees will hold a special meeting at 5 p.m., today, in the Thomas Hall board room on campus. Agenda items include approving the purchase of a bus, a resignation and disposal of a printer.

Fireworks illegal within Colby

The Colby Fire Department is reminding residents that the use, sale, or possession of fireworks within the city limits is prohibited. When using fireworks outside the city limits, individuals will need permission from the landowner. In Kansas, the sale of fireworks started Tuesday and will continue until Wednesday, July 5, said Colby Fire Chief Bob McLemore.

Bottle rockets are illegal in the state of Kansas. It is illegal to shoot fireworks on or under a vehicle, on any public roadway, within 50 feet of a fireworks stand or where fireworks are stored and gas stations or any place liquid gas, including propane is stored, he said.

McClemore urges everyone to consider a safer and less expensive alternative, by planning to attend the fireworks display at 10:15 p.m., Tuesday, sponsored by the Thomas County Kiwanis Club.

Artwork on display at local bank

A display of artwork done by members of High Plains Art

Club will be on exhibit in the board room at Farmers and Merchants Bank, 240 W. Fourth, Colby. The public will be able to view the artwork from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 3-7, 24-28 and 31.

Fundraiser to help storm victims

A fundraiser beef and noodle feed to benefit Phyllis and Allen Cheney will be at 11:30 a.m. Sunday at Rexford Community Hall, 205 Main. The Cheneys home and barn were damaged during recent storms. All proceeds will be used to help pay for repairs. Donations may be left at any branch of The Bank or mailed to Cheney Benefit, c/o Lyn Cheney, Rt 2 Box 38, Rexford, Kan. 67753. For information, call Lyn Cheney at (785) 687-8042 or Kay Cheney at 687-4651. The fundraiser is being sponsored by friends and family.

Mingo Church plans one-day event

The Mingo Bible Church is presenting a one-day Vacation Bible School starting at 9 a.m., Friday, July 7, at the church. "Better than a Circus," is the theme with activities concluding at 4 p.m., said Pastor Chris Shubert.

All children from kindergarten to sixth grade are welcome to attend the one-day Vacation Bible School.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and a lunch will be served. For questions about transportation or the class, call (785) 462-2992.

Commissioners meet Friday

The Thomas County Commissioners will hold their end-of-the-month meeting at 9 a.m., Friday, at the courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave., Colby. Agenda items include meeting with Landfill Supervisor Larry Jumper, who will talk about the trash compactor and other landfill business. Andy Munk and members of the Menlo Township Board will talk with the commissioners about incorporating a fire district in Menlo at 9:30 a.m. Fair board members Audrey Hines and Stan Strange, along with Groundskeeper Ron Kogler, will talk with the commissioners at 10 a.m. about campsite fees for the fairgrounds. County department heads will visit about a PowerPoint presentation for upcoming fair at 10:30 a.m. Other items on Friday's agenda include: approval of the June 19 minutes, end-of-month payroll, bills and review of miscellaneous mail items and budget requests.

Ad company not endorsed

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce is warning businesses and individuals of an advertising company, All Star Publishing, which is selling ads for a Colby Eagles calendar.

Holly Ann Stephens, chamber director, said this company does not have permission from the school to be soliciting for ads. For questions or if approached, call the Colby School District at 460-5000.

Kansas improves in 'Kids Count' survey

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas ranked higher among states this year in how its youngsters are faring, but a children's advocate said Tuesday that officials shouldn't be complacent about its relatively good marks in a national report.

The annual Kids Count survey rated Kansas 12th overall in child well-being, compared to 15th last year. The report was compiled by the nonprofit Annie E. Casey Foundation, of Baltimore, and based on 10 statistics that include dropout rates, infant mortality rates and the percentage of children living in single-parent households.

In six of 10 measurements, Kansas saw its numbers improve, while figures remained steady in two other categories. But the state saw

an unwanted increase in both the percentage of low birth-weight babies and the percentage of children in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment.

Generally, Kansas ranks well compared to other states, but Gary Brunk, executive director of Kansas Action for Children, said that's not sufficient when its children face global economic competition.

"We shouldn't be too comfortable comparing ourselves to other states in the country," Brunk said in an interview. "We shouldn't be resting on our laurels."

This year's report is based on data collected in 2003 and 2004, the latest available for its various categories. It prompted Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, a Democrat, to say she would continue to push her proposal to expand the state's medical services for the poor and disabled, so nobody age 5 or under is without health coverage.

She also said legislators took a big step toward improving children's lives by approving a three-year, \$541 million school finance plan this year.

"But there's still more we can do to help children succeed," Sebelius said.

Rep. Brenda Landwehr, R-Wichita, chairwoman of a House Appropriations subcommittee on social services, said the latest reports suggest that legislators' efforts to target more money to programs for young children were paying off.

She and other Republicans rejected Sebelius' proposal, fearing it could prove costly in the future and force the state to retract promised services.

business. Officers spoke with the person who made the call.

• **Indecent liberties:** An individual went to the Law Enforcement Center at 6:33 p.m. to report a possible molestation that took place Thursday, June 22. Officers made a report and investigated.

Saturday, June 24

• **Aggravated assault:** Police were advised at 6:04 a.m. by a passenger on a Greyhound Bus that she had been sexually assaulted by another passenger. Police said the victim didn't want to talk about it with police.

• **Suspicious people:** Police were advised of five suspicious males at 10:26 p.m. loitering around the outside of the Subway Restaurant. Two officers responded and dealt with the problem.

For the Record

The following arrests or incidents have been provided by either the Thomas County Sheriff's office or the Colby Police Department. All suspects were booked into the county jail and are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The Thomas County Jail is used by Colby, Oakley, Logan and Thomas counties.

Thomas County Sheriff's office

Friday, June 23

• **Disorderly:** Michael Paul Meyer, 27, of Colby, was arrested at 6:14 p.m., in the 1900 block of South Range Avenue by the Colby Police Department on disorderly conduct and criminal trespass. He was released from the Thomas County Jail at 4:52 p.m., Monday, June 26.

• **Lost:** An individual inquired about a lost wallet at the westbound Interstate-70 rest area at 9:43 a.m. A sheriff's deputy took the report.

Saturday, June 24

• **Possession:** Benjamin Lance Avery, 26, of Eugene, Ore., was arrested by the Colby Police Department at Subway Restaurant and jailed at 11:30 p.m. for possession of marijuana. He was released from custody at 7:49 p.m., Monday, June 26.

• **Possession:** Daniel Anthony Kohler, 27, of Tucson, Ariz., was arrested at Subway Restaurant by the Colby Police Department and jailed at 11:30 p.m. on possession of psychedelic mushrooms and marijuana. He was released from custody at 7:37 p.m., Monday, June 26.

• **Possession:** Rinah Jessica Segal, 24, of Brower County, Fla., was arrested by Colby Police at Wal-Mart and jailed at 12:01 a.m., Sunday, on possession of drug paraphernalia. She was released at 6:22 p.m., Monday, June 26 on \$2,500 bond.

• **MIP/DUI:** Lane David Rietcheck, 19, of Oakley, was arrested at 2:32 a.m. by the Kansas Highway Patrol in the eastbound lane of Interstate 70, milemarker 62. He was charged with minor in possession of alcohol and driving under the influence. He was booked into the Thomas County jail at 3:37 a.m. and released the same day at 4:09 a.m.

Colby Police Department
Friday, June 23

• **Disorderly:** An individual advised police at 6:04 p.m. that his friend was making suicidal messages as he was leaving a Colby

Campus tour



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College interim President Skip Sharp, far right, took members of the school's board of trustees on a tour of the campus at their last meeting. The tour highlighted changes for the coming school year, including the relocation of the computer center from Thomas Hall to the library basement and office changes.

Fight over cats and dogs earns Monument man a date in court

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

A squabble over cats and dogs has landed a Monument man in court.

Dennis R. Baalman, 56, has been charged with one count of criminal threat against his neighbor's sister for an incident which took place June 16.

Heather Stoltenberg and Baalman are neighbors, and while Stoltenberg's 19-year-old sister, Kayla, was house sitting, Baalman is alleged to have threatened her during an argument about animals, said Logan County Sheriff Pat Parsons.

Parsons said Baalman claims Heather Stoltenberg's dogs were trying to attack his cats.

"Kayla and she got scared and called the authorities," Parsons said.

Criminal threat is a level nine person felony punishable by five to 17 months in prison and a fine up to \$100,000.

Baalman made his first appearance in court before Magistrate Judge Mark Temaat and is out of jail on a recognizance bond.

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