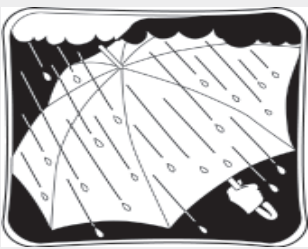


Weather Corner



Fourth of July highs near 85, rain possible

Tonight — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 64. East wind between 10 and 15 becoming calm. **Independence Day** — Partly cloudy with a high near 84. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east. **Tuesday night** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 61. East wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with high near 84. Northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Wednesday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 61. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 89. **Temperatures** Sunday's high, Low this morning, Records for this date, 107 in 1934, 44 in 1924 Precipitation past 24 hours at 8 a.m. today, 0.00 July's precipitation, **Water Use Report Average Friday, Saturday and Sunday** •2,915,000 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.

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. **Colby Police Department Wednesday, June 28** • **Fireworks:** Neighbors complained about fireworks at 12:31 a.m. in the 400 block of Country Club Drive. Police spoke with the individuals responsible. • **Harassment:** Police were advised that an ex-husband was calling at 6:38 p.m. and threatening to take their child. No report filed, but information was provided.

Briefly

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. Officials are reminding everyone to consider a safer and less expensive alternative, by planning to attend the fireworks display at 10:15 p.m., Monday, sponsored by the Thomas County Kiwanis Club. Also games and hot dogs will be served at the Thomas County 4-H Building on the fairgrounds starting at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to all activities.

Landfill closed for holiday

The Thomas County Landfill will be closed for the Fourth of July holiday and reopen Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Council meets Thursday

The Colby City Council will meet at 7:30 pm. Thursday rather than 7:30 p.m. Tuesday due to the Fourth of July holiday. The council plans to swear in Tom Waldschmidt to fill the unexpired term of Mitch Beims. Other business will include a request for funding from the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center; discussion of the 2006 voluntary dues assessment with the Kansas Municipal Utilities Transmission Fund; assignment of transportation gas contract from Midwest United Energy to Seminole Energy Services; resolution of appreciation for Beims; and use of city sales tax fund for Phase I Environmental Assessment and Archeological

Survey Assessment. Thomas County Economic Development Director Jerry Fulwider will provide information on the use of the sale tax fund for the survey. In addition, Mayor Ken Bieber is also expected to ask the council for approval of Danielle Freeman to the library board, filling the unexpired term of Brenda Kimberly.

Farewell party planned

A community farewell party is planned for Mitch Beims, former wrestling coach and social studies instructor at Colby High School; his wife, Courtney, registered nurse at Colby Medical and Surgical Center; and their son, Braden. The Beims family is moving to Holton (north of Topeka) where Mitch has accepted the job of activities director/assistant principal at Holton High School. The potluck begins at 7 p.m., Friday, in Fike Park. Organizers are asking participants to bring a covered dish and table service. Everyone is welcome.

Singles dance Friday

The Colby Singles Dance is planned from 8 p.m. to midnight, Friday, at the Colby American Legion, 1850 W. Fourth St. Entertainment is being provided by Jim Christensen and the public is invited.

Bible school planned in Rexford

Rexford Community Church is holding Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday, July 11 through Thurs-

day, July 13. Children 4 years old to fifth grade are invited to attend. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Children are asked to bring an offering each day for a missions project and extra clothes for water games. A supper and program for parents and community members will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 13. For information, call 687-3333 or 687-4861.

Brewster church plans Bible school

Brewster Community Church will be having Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m. until 2:30 pm on Tuesday, July 11 for ages kindergarten through sixth grade.

They will be studying "Then Commandments." Lunch and snacks will be provided. For information call (785) 694-2720.

Mingo Church plans one-day event

The Mingo Bible Church is presenting a one-day Vacation Bible School starting at 9 a.m., Friday, at the church. For questions about transportation or the class, call (785) 462-2992.

Childbirth classes starting

Citizens Medical Center will hold a four-week series of childbirth education classes beginning Thursday from 7 to 10 p.m. and will continue on July 13, 20 and 27. Expectant mothers in their last trimester are encouraged to attend. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown, RN, education department, (785) 460-4850.

Logan County, Oakley welcome new pharmacy

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Logan County is getting a long awaited business. The opening for Oakley Health Mart Pharmacy is July 12. "Getting a pharmacy back in Oakley has been a long process," Logan County Healthcare Foundation Director Susan Bloom said. "It started when Melinda Moeder wrote a tax credit proposal in the amount of \$140,000 with the Kansas Department of Commerce. It allowed the foundation to raise \$200,000 in donations from the

community." The last time a pharmacy was open in Oakley was in 2003. It closed when Paul Smith retired. Oakley Health Mart Pharmacy will be operated by Kezia Schwieterman, a May graduate of the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy. Schwieterman, who grew up in Syracuse, decided to take advantage of the foundation's offer to own her own pharmacy. In June 2005, the foundation started an ad campaign to find someone interested in a guaranteed income comparable to a phar-

macist's salary package at any of the bigger pharmaceutical chains, good benefit options, share of the total profits above the guaranteed income, operating capital loans and the building gifted to him or her after 10 years of service. "I am excited to get the pharmacy open and to meet the people," Schwieterman said. Pharmacy hours will be from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Schwieterman plans to offer in-town and mail delivery for individuals who can't make it to the store during regular business hours

at no cost. She said anyone interested in transferring prescriptions to Oakley Health Mart Pharmacy from another pharmacy should bring their prescription bottles to the store when it opens and she will take care of the transfer. Besides prescription items, the pharmacy will carry over-the-counter medications as well. Schwieterman plans to accept insurance from most companies and if she is not set up to accept insurance from a particular carrier she will work to get set up that company.

The new pharmacy is one of more than \$1 million dollars in contributions made to the community by the Logan County Healthcare Foundation. Since 1993, the foundation's mission is to enhance health care services in Logan County and the surrounding area; assist in recruitment of medical professionals; provide scholarships to students in accredited medical programs; update technology and equipment and develop long term care alternatives. Logan County Health Foundation is located at 216 Center Ave. in Oakley.

Blind man in Phillipsburg challenged by word game

PITTSBURG (AP) — Normally, touching somebody else's letters on a Scrabble board is a big no-no. But for Kirk Ford, those are the rules of the board. You see, Ford is blind, and that touching is his maneuvering the game, searching for that triple-word score. "It's challenging to the mind, and I like word games," Ford said. "Crossword puzzles are kind of rough in Braille. I need something I can kind of see forming in front of me." "It works out pretty good for me," Ford said. "But I think sometimes it makes it rough on other people. My hands are always in the way." Ford plays with a board that has Braille tiles and feels his way around the board to see what plays he can find. When pieces are set in the board, the little squares sink into the table, so they don't slide when Ford is looking for a move. He

"You learn all of those two- and three-letter words, and it helps you build a nice solid base to work from."

Kirk Ford of Phillipsburg

bought the board with his high school graduation money about 30 years ago. He also plays Monopoly in Braille. Ford lost his eyesight to an aspirin overdose when he was 2 years old. "I went into a coma for three months," Ford said. "When I came out, I was blind. My optic nerves were paralyzed." He discovered Scrabble just before purchasing the board and has been playing ever since. Unfortunately, the board is also much older. It's missing the rules and five tiles. This may not matter

as much when he's playing at home, but when Ford plays at NSA Scrabble Club meetings, he must learn a new system. The Scrabble club has a set of Braille letters for Ford to use, but the letters and numbers are in opposite places. On Ford's board, the letters are on top, with the score number on bottom. "That makes it kind of difficult because the first 10 letters in Braille are also the first 10 numbers," Ford said. "So it can sometimes take me a little while. I've been using my board for 30 years, so sometimes

it's tough to think differently." Dan Lee, organizer of the NSA Scrabble Club meetings, said Ford would be classified as a novice. "Being able to see everything in front of you is so invaluable," Lee said. "It's a big part of being able to put things together. I can't imagine not being able to see everything. He has the Braille, so he's not completely in the dark. But that has to be difficult." "But he could definitely get better," Lee said. "You really need to have those word lists in order to compete at a high level. You learn all of those two- and three-letter words, and it helps you build a nice solid base to work from." For instance, there are 96 two-letter words, and memorization of those words is precious knowledge in a tight game. The club has all types of players, from casual to competitive, with some of the club members traveling to compete.

Competitive players typically look to close things up with short words to minimize the points, Ford said, and without knowing the tricks of the trade, it's difficult to compete. "I've been playing for probably 31 years," Ford said. "I would just like to get to be better than I am. We play four games, I might win one. But I think breaking even would be a real nice start."

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