

Weather Corner



Cloudy, lows around 60

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 60. East wind around 10 mph.

Thursday — Partly cloudy with a high near 85. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Thursday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 63. South wind around 15 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Friday — Partly cloudy with a high near 93. Breezy with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Friday night — Partly cloudy and breezy with a low around 66.

Saturday — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy with a high near 96.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 65.

Sunday — Partly cloudy with a high near 91.

Temperatures
Tuesday's high, 85
Low this morning, 59
Records for this date, 106 in 1911, 46 in 1931

Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.15

July's precipitation, 0.37

Water Use Report averages for Monday and Tuesday

• 2,745,500 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.

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460-WOW

You Can Make A Difference

Briefly

Pet rabbit found Monday

A light brown rabbit was found Monday in the 500 block of North Riddle in Colby. The rabbit is being held at The Colby Animal Clinic, 810 E. Fourth St., awaiting its owner to come forward. Clinic officials believe the rabbit is domesticated. For questions, call 460-8621.

Council meets Thursday

The Colby City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, in council chambers, 585 N. Franklin. The council, in addition to regular business items, plans to swear in Tom Waldschmidt to fill the unexpired term of Mitch Beims. For an agenda, call 460-4410.

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. The labor support partner who will be with the mother in labor,

is also encouraged to attend classes. For questions, call Jeanene Brown, RN, education department at (785) 460-4850.

Deadline for relay teams extended

Anyone interested in organizing a team for Colby's Relay for Life event slated to begin at 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 18 and continue through 7 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 19 can do so until Friday. All money raised by the individual teams will assist the American Cancer Society in research, education and progress toward a cure. For questions, call Carla Sharp, team co-coordinator, 460-4881.

Farewell party Friday

A community farewell party is planned for Mitch Beims, former wrestling coach and social studies instructor at Colby High School, and his family. Beims 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.

Benefit picnic planned Sunday

A benefit event will be held for Jeff Grauerholz of Colby from noon until 2:30 p.m., Sunday, July 9, at Fike Park in Colby to help defray his medical expenses.

The picnic will include a hog roast and ice-cream social with freewill donations being accepted. Organizers are asking that everyone bring lawn chairs or a blanket and enjoy the day while helping someone in need. The benefit is sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church and Thrivent Financial Services. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church located at Fifth Street and Country Club Drive, Colby.

Rexford youth crowned princess

Taylor Todd, 9, of Rexford, was crowned Miss Beef Empire Days rodeo Princess June 9 during the coronation ceremony. She won the horsemanship, speech and modeling portions of the contest, as well as the People's Choice Award.

The crowning took place at the Beef Empire Days Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association event in Garden City.

Taylor is the daughter of Jay and Brandy Todd.

She attends Golden Plains Elementary School and will be in fourth grade next fall.



Taylor Todd

Southwest Kansans worry about impact of ethanol plant

HAYNE (AP) — Residents who live in this unincorporated Seward County hamlet are upset that plans to build an ethanol plant will ruin their quiet way of life.

Despite assurances from Conestoga Energy Partners that its proposed plant would cause little disruption, many residents questioned why the plant had to be built along U.S. 54 near the 50 or 60 homes scattered throughout Hayne.

"The issue is they're going to put it right across the road from my house, my next-door neighbor's house," said Ernie Peitz, a cemetery groundskeeper who moved to Hayne to get away from the "rat race" in Liberal.

During a public hearing last week, Conestoga officials tried to assure several Hayne residents that the plant, which would produce 110 million gallons of ethanol a year, would not upset their way of life.

"We appreciate the concerns, we appreciate the ability to address all the concerns, and we feel that it is an excellent site to put that project in," said Ed Stahl, the project manager.

Some Hayne residents acknowledge that increasing the use of ethanol would help the local agricultural

economy, as well as lessen the country's dependence on foreign oil. They said they are mostly concerned with the plant's location.

"Isn't there a better location to place the plant, away from a residential area?" asked Cindy Hall, who serves on the Seward County Zoning Board and voted against the board's recommendation in June that the agricultural land where the plant would be located be rezoned for industrial use.

Seward County commissioners were tentatively scheduled to consider a zoning change at a meeting Wednesday. If it's approved, Conestoga's plant would be the largest of several ethanol plants proposed in Kansas, particularly in the south-

west area of the state. It would complement a 55-million-gallon complex the Liberal-based firm is building near Garden City and would employ up to 55 people with an annual payroll of \$2 million or more.

"I think it'll be good for Seward County, good for economic development," said Joyce Hibler, a Seward County commissioner.

Opponents said they worry that trucks using the plant will be a safety hazard, that property values will dip, and that the plant's water consumption will hurt the water table.

"It could be a boon; it could destroy the community," Hayne resident Bonnie Atwell said.

New law could hurt retirees

WICHITA (AP) — A new law designed to get more money into the state's retirement system could have the unintended consequence of keeping highly qualified retired teachers out of the work force at a time when they're needed the most.

It is estimated that around 500 teachers who have retired and are drawing pensions from the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System currently teach part time in another district. Sen. President Steve Morris' office projects that number will climb to around 4,000 over the next several years.

But a law that went into effect Saturday, requiring public schools to pay 13.75 percent of those teach-

ers' salaries into the retirement fund, has many retired teachers reluctant to step back into the classroom because the money is being kept out of their paychecks.

Legislators say the bill was written with the understanding that school districts would pay at least part of the 13.75 percent. But the schools say they can't afford to pay the extra cost, so the money is being withheld from the teachers' pay instead.

"If we would have known the districts were going to do that, we probably would have made adjustments and changes in the bill," said Morris, R-Hugoton.

Would the party who dumped the tree limbs in the 100 block of North Court on Friday June 30th please remove them. You were observed.

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**Thursday, July 6
12:00 noon
Fike Park**

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All who were able to attend the event to honor the military personnel, we offer our gratitude and to everyone who so generously gave of their time to make this evening happen, we also Thank You!

- Members of the Northwest Kansas Military Readiness Group -