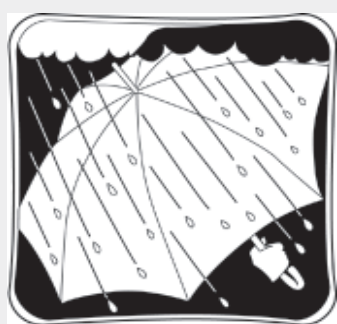


Briefly

Weather Corner



Wind gusts could reach 30 mph

Tonight — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 65. Breezy, with a south wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Saturday — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a high near 90. Calm wind becoming north between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday night — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a low around 63. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Sunday — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a high near 84. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday night — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a low around 66.

Monday — Partly cloudy with a high near 88.

Monday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 66.

Temperatures
Thursday's high, 106 in 1973, 44 in 1908

Low this morning,
Records for this date,
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
July's precipitation, 0.37

Water Use Report Thursday, July 6
• 2,614,800 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.

Queen contestants wanted

The Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess Pageant is looking for contestants for the 2006 contest, said Marie Skolout, coordinator. Girls ages 8-11 are eligible for the junior princess; 12-15 for princess and 16-23 for the queen contest. Contestants are judged on horsemanship, interview, speech and modeling. A trophy saddle is awarded to the queen along with other great prizes for the princess and junior princess. This year's contest will be on Friday, July 28, with entries due July 26. For entry forms or questions, call Skolout at (785) 586-2228.

Picnic in the Park next week

Sappa Strings of Colby will be singing in the park, noon, Thursday as part of the weekly *Picnic in the Park* entertainment. The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the *Colby Free Press* are sponsors. Everyone is encouraged to bring a lawn chair, a sack lunch and enjoy the festivities, officials said. The concert series will run each Thursday at noon through July 27.

Voter registration

The Thomas County Clerk is reminding residents that if they move within the county or out of the county, they need to re-register to vote at their local clerk's office. For questions, call 460-4500.

Mosquito fogging continues

City of Colby crews are fogging for mosquitoes on Mondays and Tuesdays on the the south side of town from Webster south and Thursdays and Fridays on the north side of town from Webster north.

The city urges residents to check their yards and empty anything that is holding stagnant water, such as cans, swimming pools, and tires to help keep the mosquito population at a minimum. For questions, call 460-4420.

Reminder about bicycles in city

The City of Colby is reminding bicyclists and others riding related devices about the ordinances against riding on sidewalks and other walkways. According to the law, no person

riding a bicycle, roller skates, skateboards, coasters, toy vehicles or similar devices are allowed to use sidewalks or pedestrian walkways in the downtown business district. More specifically, the ordinance addresses designated sidewalks and walkways in the area from Second Street to Sixth Street between Chickamauga Avenue and Lake Avenue and other locations designated by the council.

Fines for a first offense is \$55; second offense is \$65; and third offense is \$90. For questions, call 460-4410.

Music Boosters continue fundraiser

The Colby Music Boosters are continuing to sell "Colby Eagle" sunglasses to benefit the music program at Colby Schools. The sunglasses are available by calling 462-6503.

Adelines practice Tuesday

The Hi-Plains Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines International practice each week at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, at the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave. Anyone interested in singing is invited to attend.

Man given second chance on possession charge

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

An blind Oakley man was given a stern warning by the judge in Logan County District Court Thursday.

District Judge Glenn Schiffer told Jerome L. Kruse, also known as J.D. Kruse, he didn't want to see him back in his courtroom.

"I think you know the court is giving you a second chance," Schiffner said.

Schiffner also told Kruse if for any reason he was back in court the underlying prison sentence of 18 months would be imposed.

In May, Kruse pleaded guilty to one count of sale of marijuana. Five other counts, three for possession with the intent to sell marijuana and two counts of sale of marijuana were dismissed.

Kruse sat next to his attorney, Todd Stramel of Colby, throughout the proceeding.

Stramel called Kruse as his only witness to testify about his successful participation in a drug and alcohol treatment program in Colby since his arrest in June 2005.

"The meetings are doing me good," Kruse said.

"So far, I've remained clean, no drugs or alcohol."

Kruse told Schiffner his only means of support are a disability check and part-time job selling salvaged metal.

Logan County Attorney Andrea Wyrick passed on a chance to cross-examine Kruse, and Schiffner sentenced him to 18 months supervised probation and a 24-month post-release probation.

Owing more than \$2,000 in

finances, lab and court fees, Stramel in the next few days is to submit Kruse's financial statement to Schiffner, who will then decide what, if any, of the fees are to be paid.

As part of standard probation terms, Kruse will be required to submit blood and saliva samples to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and not own a firearm for a period of five years.

Oakley man sentenced for third drunk driving offense

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

An Oakley man was sentenced in Logan County District Court for driving drunk for the third time.

Merle D. Curfman, Jr. in April

pleaded guilty to driving drunk on Sept. 20, 2005, in Logan County.

The only witness called to the stand on Thursday, Curfman told District Judge Glenn Schiffner his only means of support is a veteran's disability check in the amount of

\$881 per month.

Curfman's attorney, Bruce Flipse of Colby, told Schiffner letters from Fred Waters, Curfman's counselor based in Colby, supported his request for probation.

"According to sentencing guide-

lines, my client would be better off with this (treatment) program than being sent to prison," Flipse said.

For the past year, Curfman has attended meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, completed an alcohol education program, and agreed to

complete another year in a treatment program.

Schiffner agreed with Flipse and sentenced Curfman to an underlying prison sentence of 18 months should he violate the terms of an 18-month supervised probation.

In addition, Curfman will be required to serve 24 months on a post-release probation, furnish the Kansas Bureau of Investigation with blood and saliva samples and not own a firearm for a period of five years.

Schiffner gave Flipse an opportunity to file a financial statement on Curfman's behalf to have some, if not all, the fine, court costs and fees set aside should it be determined they present a hardship to him due to his disability.

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

Monday, July 3

• **Probation violation:** Frankie Lane Stevens, 36, of Colby was arrested at 1:31 p.m. by Colby police in the 700 block of West Eighth on a probation violation involving possession of cocaine.

Tuesday, July 4

• **Battery:** Leon Bernard Zerr, 49, of Colby, was arrested at 5:53 p.m. by the Thomas County Sheriff's

office in the 2100 block of U.S. Highway 24 and charged with criminal deprivation of property and domestic battery.

Wednesday, July 5

• **Possession:** Justin Arthur Hiltz, 23, of Tampa, Fla., was arrested at 7:25 p.m. by a Thomas County Sheriff's deputy on Interstate 70 at milepost 55 for possession of drug paraphernalia and littering. He was released from custody at 9:54 p.m. with charges pending.

• **Littering:** Jeffrey Martin Czum, 19, of Kenmore, N.Y., was arrested at 7:25 p.m. by a Thomas County Sheriff's deputy for littering on I-70 at milepost 55. He was released at 11:44 p.m. with charges pending.

• **Littering:** Ferdinando Salvatore Cimato, 18, of East Amherst, N.Y., was charged with littering by

a Thomas County Sheriff's deputy at 7:25 p.m. on I-70 at milepost 55. He was released at 10:46 p.m. with charges pending.

• **Littering:** Michael Geoffrey Magann, 22, of Medway, Ma., was arrested at 7:35 p.m. by a Thomas County Sheriff's deputy on I-70 at milepost 55. He was released at 12:10 a.m. with charges pending.

• **Burglary:** Nathan David Trail, 20, of Northglenn, Colo., was arrested at 2:35 p.m. by officers in Washington County, Colo., on a Jan. 13, 2006 Thomas County warrant. The warrant included charges of burglary and theft over \$1,000. Trail was transported back from Colorado by a Thomas County deputy and remains in jail here.

Scholarships given to two Colby graduates

HAYS — Megan Voss and Jennifer Wilson, two Colby High School graduates, have accepted scholarships to attend Fort Hays State University for the 2006-07 academic year.

Voss, a 2003 Colby High School graduate and a senior at Fort Hays, accepted a \$500 Floyd Wagner Trust Scholarship, a \$500 Nursing Scholarship and a \$250 Carolyn Miller Scholarship.

Jennifer Wilson, a 2003 Colby High School graduate and an FHSU senior, accepted a \$500 Trish Davies Theatre Fund Scholarship.

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Ad Council

First National Bank Salutes and Supports Thomas County 4-H Programs



First National Bank recently donated \$2500.00 to the Thomas County 4-H Clubs. The funds will be used for the benefit of every club member of each of the five clubs.

First National Bank plans to make similar annual donations in the future. Pictured are Lori Wilson and Brenda Wilson receiving a \$500.00 check for the Solomon Valley 4-H Club from Kristen Ostmeier and Relda Galli, First National Bank employees. Other clubs receiving checks were Brewster Prairie Gem, Abilene Hustlers, Colby Comets and Gem 4-H Club.

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