


### Weather Corner



### Heat wave continues most of the week

**Tonight** — Clear with a low around 68. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

**Saturday** — Sunny and hot with a high near 99. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

**Saturday night** — Clear with a low around 70. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Sunday** — Sunny and hot with a high near 102. South wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. **Sunday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 71.

**Monday** — Partly cloudy and hot with a high near 103.

**Monday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 67.

**Tuesday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 91.

**Temperatures**  
Thursday's high, Low this morning, Records for this date, 109 in 1943, 52 in 1969  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
July's precipitation, 1.68

**Water Use Report Thursday, July 27**  
• 2,635,800 gallons  
3.5 million = Water Watch.  
4 million = Water Warning  
4.5 million = Water Emergency

## Briefly

### College board meets Monday

Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at noon, Monday, in the Thomas Hall board room for a special meeting to discuss the budget, reviewing paper bids, and approving contracts. All meeting are open to the public.

### Pond Tour scheduled Sunday

Everyone is invited to attend a “Pond Tour,” from 1:30 to 4 p.m., Sunday sponsored by Barton Concrete Works. All proceeds from the ticket price will benefit the High Plains Harmony Chorus — Sweet Adelines, a group of volunteer singers who tour the area.

Seven homes, along with the concrete business, are featured on the tour. Homes on the tour include Brent and Connie Menges, Bill and Bev Biel, Rod and Judy Taylor, Harvey and Charlie Metz, Lon Frahm, Russell and Stephenie Bowers and Jerry and Peggy Barton. Refreshments will be served, along with a drawing. Tickets may be purchased at each location or at Barton Concrete. For questions, call 462-6312 or 462-3004.

### Nine-Run-Run Saturday

The Thomas County Emergency Medical Services is sponsoring its annual Nine-Run-Run, starting with an 8:30 a.m. registration, Saturday, at Fike Park.

Participants can register the day of the race or call the EMS office, 460-4585 to pre-register. As in year’s past, there are four events to choose from to include the 2K fun walk, 2K fun run, 5K run and 10th annual 10K race with age divisions, to include 2-9; 15-24; 35-44; 55-64; 10-14; 25-34; 45-54; 65 and up and wheelchair. Walks start at 9:30 a.m., runs start at 9 a.m. and the award ceremony begins at 10:30 a.m. Refreshments will be served.

For questions, call Kenneth Gatlin, EMS director, or stop by the office, 1275 S. Franklin Ave. Proceeds will go toward buying needed equipment for the emergency services department.

### Book sale begins Saturday

Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. Fourth St., Colby, is planning its annual book sale beginning Saturday through

### Saturday, Aug. 5.

The sale starts at 9 a.m., Saturday and during the week and 1 p.m., Sunday. For questions, call 460-4470.

### Volunteers still needed at fair

The Thomas County Free Fair scheduled from Tuesday through Saturday, Aug. 5, and the Amusement Association needs volunteers to work games during the fair, said Holly Stephens, executive director of the Thomas County/Colby Chamber of Commerce.

Volunteers are needed for the ball of chance, shooting gallery and bell ringer. Each game requires two people per shift. Help is needed all five days of the fair from 6:45 to 9 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 11:15 p.m. For those interested, call Stephens at (785) 460-3401.

### Extension office closes during fair

The Thomas County Extension Office, 350 S. Range Ave., will be closed from Monday through Friday, Aug. 4 so the staff can be on the fairgrounds during the fair.

# Incumbent commissioner seen as vulnerable in race

ABILENE (AP) — Trying to persuade 100 or so fellow Republicans to nominate him for insurance commissioner in Tuesday’s primary, Eric Carter calls to the back of the room and asks his 11-year-old son where the boy’s new football was manufactured.

After a beat, the boy answers, “China.”

Carter then suggests his son’s birthday present and other products are made overseas because frivolous lawsuits against businesses plague the American legal system — and that he can do something about it if elected.

The folksy moment was in keeping with a campaign that emphasizes yard signs and forums like the one at Abilene senior center. But it belied Carter’s aggressive effort to oust incumbent Sandy Praeger, whom he has accused of not being a real Republican.

Praeger’s mediums of choice have been television and billboards. She has responded to Carter with an TV ad depicting him as a frequent luncheon companion for lobbyists and as a bobble-headed carpetbagger for moving to Kansas 10 years ago.

There’s a reason for the harsh tone. Many Republicans think Praeger stands a good chance of becoming the first commissioner to lose a primary.

“Based on yard signs, I’d say yes. Based on television, I’d say no,” said House Speaker Doug Mays, R-Topeka. “This one is going to be a barn burner.”

Voters first elected Praeger the state’s insurance regulator in 2002, after she had served 12 years in the Legislature. Carter, an Overland Park attorney, has served in the House since 2003.

It’s not just their campaigning styles that contrast.

At 61, Praeger was born just before the post-World War II baby boom. She calls herself a moderate; some Republicans label her a liberal. Carter is 34, part of the conservative movement that’s come to dominate the Kansas GOP over the past decade.

“I don’t think one voter in 10 is going to worry about the issues,” said Burdett Loomis, a University of Kansas political scientist who served on Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius’ staff.

“I think they will vote against Praeger because she is not a conservative Republican in any way, shape or form.”

The primary winner will face Rep. Bonnie Sharp, D-Kansas City, who has no primary opponent, in the Nov. 7 general election, as well as Libertarian Patrick Wilbur, of Lawrence.

Praeger raised nearly \$304,000 for her campaign through last week. Half that — about \$155,000 — paid for television ads.

Carter raised nearly \$181,000, enough to make the race competitive. However, his biggest expense was yard signs, which cost him about \$23,000.

Praeger repeatedly says she has brought a balanced approach to regulating the industry, protecting consumers while creating a climate that has attracted 100 new companies to Kansas.

“If it’s about insurance issues, I don’t know why I have an opponent,” Praeger said during an interview. “I look at my record of service these past four years, and there’s nothing to find fault with, in my humble opinion.”

Joe Hart, a Pittsburg insurance agent, said he was surprised initially that Praeger had a primary opponent.

He considers her a good listener, and he has no complaints with how she has balanced consumer interests with the industry’s needs.

“I think she’s done a good job for us,” Hart said. “I’d like to see her serve another term.”

Carter contends there isn’t enough market competition, especially among health insurers, and that rising premiums are testimony to that.

Also, he said, most of the companies new to Kansas are writing life or property and casualty policies rather than health coverage.

In Abilene, he asked audience members to raise their hands if they were happy with what they were paying for health insurance, eliciting chuckles because no one was.

Carter contends the state could do more to prevent exorbitant damage awards in lawsuits. For example, he said, Kansas is too liberal about who can testify as an expert witness at a trial.

He also carries with him copies of a July 2004 Lawrence Journal-World story headlined, “Praeger endorses Kerry’s health care plan.” Praeger said she actually favored one element in 2004 Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry’s plan, similar to an idea President Bush later incorporated in a proposal.

There’s also Praeger’s appearances with Sebelius across the state late in 2004, touting a doomed legislative proposal to raise tobacco taxes \$50 million a year to fund health initiatives.

“Now she’s trying to pretend like this never happened,” Carter said.

“You really can’t find an issue that differentiates Republicans from Democrats where she’s not on the side of the Democrats,” he said.

To blunt that, Praeger campaign stalwarts include such GOP luminaries as Nancy Kassebaum Baker and Bob Dole, and one TV ad pictured her with President Bush.

## \*\*Notice\*\*

For those who may not be aware, a special account has been set up to defray legal expenses for Dr. Victor Hildyard. The account was established in mid-June and will remain open for contributions while the issue with the Kansas Board of Healing Arts continues.

**Donations may be sent to:**  
**Peoples State Bank**  
**P.O. Box 869**  
**Colby, KS 67701**

Fund Drive Coordinators: David Jennings, Judith Sears, Terry Cousins.

*Thanks for supporting this fund!*



## Raytheon looks at sale options

WICHITA (AP) — Amid a rebounding business jet market, Raytheon Co. announced Thursday it was exploring options for its Wichita aircraft unit — including a possible sale, initial public offering or a spinoff.

William H. Swanson, Raytheon’s chairman and chief executive officer, told analysts during a conference call that the decision to possibly sell the Wichita division came after the company took “a hard look at our product portfolio.” He did not provide any more details.


Raytheon Aircraft employs about more than 6,300 Wichita workers.

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