

Weather Corner



Only slight chance for rain

Tonight — Increasing clouds with a low around 69. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming west.

Thursday — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy and hot, with a high near 97. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday night — Cloudy, then gradually becoming partly cloudy with a low around 66. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday — Sunny with a high near 95. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 68.

Saturday — Partly cloudy with a high near 95.

Saturday night — chance of showers or thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 66.

Sunday — A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a high near 88.

Temperatures
 Tuesday's high, 99
 Low this morning, 63
 Records for this date, 110 in 1938, 49 in 1989
 Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
 August's precipitation, 1.52

Water Use Report Tuesday, Aug. 8
 • 2,175,300 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

High school yearbooks arrive

The 2006 Colby High School yearbook can be picked up from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, during enrollment in the commons area, said Donna Henry, journalism instructor and yearbook coordinator.

Extra yearbooks are also available for purchase. Graduates can pick up their yearbooks after Thursday in the high school office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Colby enrollment Thursday

Enrollment for students returning to Colby Public Schools

is scheduled from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, in the Colby High School commons area. Parents are reminded to bring enrollment packets when registering, school officials said.

Enrollment for new students will be from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, in the respective buildings. In addition, the Thomas County Academy, the Colby School District's charter school, is accepting fall enrollment applications for students in fifth through eighth grades.

For information on the charter school, call Principal Diana Wieland at (785) 460-5004 or e-mail her at: dwieland@colbyeagles.org. For questions on general enrollment, call

individual buildings: grade school, 460-5100; middle school, 460-5200 or high school, 460-5300.

Adult range school planned

The Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition and Western Prairie RC&D in Colby is hosting a western adult range school Aug. 29-31 at 300 E. Scott Lake Dr., Scott City. The topics include grazing systems, plant identification, balancing forage and animals, and much more, said Duane Cheney, coordinator in Colby. Scholarships are available to the first 15 registrants, he said. For questions, call 462-2602.

Thomas County primary results finalized

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Results from the Thomas County primary election Aug. 1 have been confirmed.

Votes from the primary were canvassed by county commissioners Ron Evans, Paul Steele and Ken Christiansen Friday.

The Barrett Township clerk race had Republican candidate Wilburn Holloway receiving six votes and

Patrick Tinkham, unaffiliated, getting 11 votes. The two will face off in the November general election.

Republican candidate for Kingery Township clerk Shawn Simmons received 11 votes; Ray Duncan, Jack Duncan and Dan Rogge each received 1 vote.

For Lacey township clerk, Republican Norma Jordan, who had one vote, will face Pete Ziegelmeier, who had six votes.

In Menlo Township, Loren Guill

had five votes for township clerk. In East Morgan, Democrat Don Woofert also had one vote.

West Morgan candidates Bert Stramel and Kevin Wark had one vote each for township clerk. Susan Guill, assistant deputy clerk, said that race hasn't been decided. Both were write-ins, and they haven't yet been called to see which one actually wants the job.

North Randall's clerk is Linda Sowers, Republican, who received

20 votes. In South Randall, Libertarian Gene Huelsman received 20 votes; Republican James Rumbach had four write-in votes and Democrat Larene Wentz had two votes. Huelsman and Rumbach will compete for the township clerk position in the November election.

The race for Rovohl Township clerk will be between Republican Arnold Wehkamp, who had 21 votes, and Norman Shull, who had two votes. Summers clerk will be between

Republican Lynn Goossen, who had one vote, and unaffiliated Dee Olson, who received 42 votes. In November, Republican Kenneth Johnston will run against Dave Rudy, unaffiliated, for the Wendell clerk position. Rudy had one vote and Johnston had 12.

County Clerk Shelly Harms said there were only four provisionals in the race between county commissioner Evans and challenger Byron Sowers. Sowers won. Only 36 votes separated the two.

Oakley to vote on power plant

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

Oakley residents will decide whether they want their power plant and distribution lines sold to Midwest Energy.

Since March, Mayor Frank Munk and city council members Jim McGuire, Kevin Uhrich, Larry Eberle, Charles Beamer have talked about selling the town's electric lines, poles and associated equipment. They couldn't agree about a pending sale and have decided to let residents make the decision.

City Clerk Rose Wessel said, at Monday's city council meeting Jim McGuire and Kevin Uhrich voted in favor of the sale. Charles Beamer

and Larry Eberle voted against it. Munk broke the tie in favor and the council passed an ordinance for a special election Sept. 14.

Midwest Energy offered to pay \$2.5 million dollars for the city's power lines, poles, meters and metering equipment, electric materials and supplies, digger derrick, street lights and various other equipment and supplies.

Should residents vote to decline Midwest Energy's offer, the city will have to maintain all the items outlined in the proposal, plus spend \$2.5 million dollars to replace the lines and repair engines at the power plant. According to Wessel the city currently has 1,000 active meters which generated \$1.8 million in

utility sales in 2005. However, it cost \$1.9 million dollars to furnish electricity to those meters during 2005.

"I have submitted my plan to the Kansas Secretary of State's Office as of today asking to hold the election on Sept. 14," Schippers said. "If (Ron Thornburg) accepts my plan, we will be taking some 1,300 to 1,400 ballots to the Oakley Post Office on Friday, Aug. 25 for delivery the next day." As part of the plan Schippers had to submit to the state regarding the special election she had to estimate the cost of a mail ballot election to that of a polling place election. She estimated the mail ballot to be \$2,292 and polling place at \$945.

County thanks 4-Hers and board on good job

Thanks and appreciation was offered to county 4-H participants and fair board members by Thomas County Commissioners during their meeting on Monday.

County Commissioner Paul Steele said last week's 4-H Fair was "very successful" and all the projects were well supervised by the county's Extension Council. The fair had 140 Thomas County youth in it with projects they had worked on throughout the year.

Steele said the 4-H livestock

sale generated \$105,107, of which the market value of the livestock was estimated at \$43,645.

"That means the value of support by farmers, ranchers and businesses for the 4-H youth in premiums was \$61,462," he said. "There were 33 steers, 24 lambs, 11 goats and 54 hogs."

Christiansen said the fair was a "fine example of everyone's" effort and participation paid off.

"Congratulations to the fair board for another excellent fair.

Midwest farmers urged to practice fire safety

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — When Bob Finken goes into his fields, he carries a fire extinguisher on his combine. He thinks more farmers should do the same.

As harvest begins over the drought-stricken Midwest, fire officials are urging farmers to carry fire extinguishers and take other precautions that could help cut down on grass fires. "I don't think enough do," Finken, a rural Douglas producer, said Tuesday while harvesting peas. "It's about 50-50."

About one-third of the grass fires in North Dakota in July were started by farm equipment, and that percentage could rise this month and next when harvest is in full swing, said Jeremy Olson, the fire plan-

“A lot of (fires) are combines literally hitting rocks and sparks are starting the fire. It's a tough year for farmers.”

Jeremy Olson, fire planning and prevention specialist

ning and prevention specialist for the North Dakota Forest Service.

Finken said two grass fires this week near Max, in the central portion of the state, were started by producers baling hay on Conservation Reserve Program land.

CRP land is normally kept idle, but the federal government opened it to haying in July because of drought in parts of the state.

State Fire Marshal Ray Lambert said many of the CRP acres being hayed are not in the areas where drought conditions are the worst, such as southwestern and south central North Dakota.

Many of the fields in those regions are too dry to produce much hay or other crops.

With CRP haying and harvest in

full swing, "certainly there's going to be an increase (in fires)," Lambert said.

Finken said one way to cut down on the risk of a fire from baling is to bale earlier in the morning, when it is cooler and the ground is wet from dew.

North Dakota had about 800 grass fires last year, about 10 percent of which were caused by farm machinery, which is typical for the state, Lambert said.

He said farmers are well aware of the fire dangers during harvest, particularly when conditions are as dry as they are this year.

Farmers also have been helping firefighters keep grass fires under control, away from livestock and farm buildings.

"I think they're responding and reacting on their day to day chores with the weather and the fire danger conditions almost first in their mind," Lambert said.

"But we do ask when they take to the fields that they have water available close at hand."

Finken and Olson both said that farmers also should keep their equipment cleaned and well-maintained.

Sometimes, Olson said, even that is not enough.

"This year is pretty volatile," he said. "A lot of (fires) are combines literally hitting rocks and sparks are starting the fire."

"It's a tough year for farmers."

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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
Thursday, July 27
 • Marijuana: Marco Antonio Sanchez, 30, of Glendale, Ariz., was

arrested at 5:21 p.m. by the sheriff's office on Interstate 70 (milepost marker 62.5) in the eastbound lane. Sanchez is charged with possession of marijuana and intent to sell.

In addition to Sanchez, three others were also arrested by the sheriff's office at the same time and location. They included Jayson Edward Onderlinde, 31, of Phoenix, Ariz.; Mariesa Suzanne Choate, 24, of Mesa, Ariz.; and Alan Matthew Champagne, 35, of Phoenix, Ariz., all three charged with conspiracy to distribute marijuana.



STORE HOURS:
 9:00-7:00 Monday,
 Tues., Wed., Thurs.
 9:00-5:30, Fri. & Sat.

SIZZLING SUMMER SALES EVENT

Thursday, Friday, Saturday ~ August 10th, 11th, 12th

- Entire Stock of Suits Reduced 25%
- Sportcoats (Select Group) Reduced 50%
- Short Sleeve Sport Shirts (Over 150 in stock!) Reduced 50%
- Short Sleeve Knit Shirts Reduced 40%
- Tall Men Sportshirts Reduced 50%
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- Short Sleeve Silk Crewneck Shirts Reduced 50%
- Short Sleeve Banded Bottom Knit Shirts Reduced 50%
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