

Weather Corner



Sunny, calm highs near 90

Tonight — Mostly clear with a low around 61. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.

Tuesday — Mostly sunny with a high near 86. Calm wind becoming south between 10 and 15 mph.

Tuesday — Mostly sunny with a high near 86. Calm wind becoming south between 10 and 15 mph.

Tuesday night — Mostly clear with a low around 63. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Wednesday — Mostly sunny with a high near 94. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Wednesday night — Mostly clear with a low around 62.

Thursday — Mostly sunny and hot with a high near 97.

Temperatures
Sunday's high, Low this morning, Records for this date, 106 in 1899, 46 in 1964
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.05
August's precipitation, 2.01

Water Use Report
Average Friday, Saturday and Sunday
•2,310,866 gallons
3.5 million = Water Watch.
4 million = Water Warning
4.5 million = Water Emergency

Where to call
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119.
For current temperatures, call 460-TEMP.

Briefly

Boot block Saturday

The Colby firefighters will be out in full force 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, for their annual Boot Block for muscular dystrophy, said Rick Dickman, assistant fire chief. Firefighters will be at the corner of Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue; Dillons Parking Lot, 1605 S. Range Ave.; and Wal-Mart parking lot, 115 W. Willow, collecting for the Arc Valley Chapter, which benefits Colby and surrounding areas. For questions, call Dickman at 460-4454.

Famous author to appear in Colby

William H. Colby, who wrote *Unplugged: Reclaiming Our Right to Die in America* will be in Colby at 7 p.m., Tuesday, at Colby Community College to read from his books and answer questions from the audience. Colby is nationally recognized for his legal argument before the U.S. Supreme Court on a high profile case involving a person's care at the end of her life. For questions about the presentation or Hospice, call Sandy Kuhlman of Phillipsburg toll-free, 800-315-5122.

Scouting night planned Aug. 29

The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are having a joint registration Tuesday, Aug. 29, with the Girl Scouts from 6 to 7:30 p.m., in the Colby Grade School cafeteria, 210 N. Grant. The Cub Scouts will have an informational meeting starting at

6:30 p.m., also in the cafeteria, along with registration. For questions, call scout organizers, Penny Kline, 460-2929 or Jan Barnum, 462-6503.

Tree trimming project to begin

The city of Colby electric crews are undertaking a major tree trimming effort in the community to insure the continuation of service during wind and snow storms, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong.

If anyone has a tree under a power line and would prefer to provide the trimming for that tree, they are asked to call Jenni at the Public Works Department, 460-4420 and provide the address and information.

'Sneak peek' offered at school

Colby Grade School, 210 N. Grant, will be open from 5 to 6 p.m., Wednesday, for students to meet their teachers, bring supplies and tour the classrooms. For questions, call 460-5100.

Brownback to visit Tuesday

U.S. Senator Sam Brownback will be in Colby at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave. The senator will be taking to community leaders and constituents about current legislative issues. The public is invited.

Heartland Share delivery Saturday

Heartland Share delivery is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Sacred Heart School gym. Items for August are bratwurst, fish fillets, deli turkey breast, chicken thighs, pork chops plus six to eight fresh fruits and vegetables and a grocery item. There are a few shares left for \$20.50 and two hours volunteer time of one's choice. If interested, call Gene Griffin at 460-3579.

Middle school yearbooks arrive

Colby Middle School yearbooks have arrived and are ready for distribution, said Linda Haas, coordinator. The yearbooks may be picked up at the middle school office, 750 W. Third St. For questions, call 460-5200.

'Welcome Back' picnic Aug. 28

The Colby Music Boosters are sponsoring a "Welcome Back to School Picnic," starting at 6 p.m., Monday, Aug. 28 at Fike Park. Hot dogs, sloppy joes, drinks and table service will be provided by the Music Boosters with those attending asked to bring either a side dish or dessert. All students and parents are encouraged to attend and meet the music teachers to include: Jennifer Koel, Colby Elementary teacher; Stacey Williams, Colby Middle School band; Jill Nickols, Colby High School band; and Joey Nickols, Colby Middle and High School vocal. For questions, call Booster Club Member Jan Barnum, 462-6503

Reasons for homeschooling vary among parents

From "SCHOOL," page 1

The reasons to homeschool are diverse; motivated by faith to being involved with what their child is learning.



R. Clark

Ruth Clark, who lives near Oakley, is a member of the group and has homeschooled her son Will since 1995 when he was in first grade.

Clark said her Christian faith is a strong reason why she chose to educate her only child. Scripture implies parents are to lead their child. "As a Christian, this is a plan God had for my life. I even considered it before getting married and having kids," she said.

Clark said spending time with Will was also a factor.

"Why have a child then send them away six to eight hours a day for the next 12 years? You miss so much," she said.

But Clark said much thought and planning needs considered before starting to homeschool.

Clark, 54, said her husband Stan's time as Senator was a factor in the decision. He was elected in 1994. Stan's hectic schedule, especially during the legislative session,

“As a Christian, this is a plan God had for my life. I even considered it before getting married and having kids.”

Ruth Clark Oakley

which usually runs from January to late March, would have prevented him spending time with Will. Stan died in 2004.

"Sending Will to a Topeka school would have been awkward," Ruth said. "So we had to make a decision."

Another motivator in Clark's decision was attending an annual homeschool convention in the early 1990s in Wichita. She remembers hundreds of vendors with homeschool curriculum, speakers and seminars about homeschooling.

But parents need to learn how to conduct class at home.

Ruth was concerned about Stan's photography business within the home. Ruth said Stan said he would not make that a distraction, should she homeschool. Ruth said distractions must be kept to a minimum, if not eliminated.

"While teaching at home you see things at home that need to be done, like the laundry," she said. "I had to discipline myself. School comes

first, this-and-that have to wait."

But other things in the house were a benefit to homeschool. Over the years, Clark realized the diverse opportunities to incorporate into a homeschool program.

"Education involves your whole life," she said.

Will eventually developed an interest in raising sheep. His interest was so strong, he asked if he could raise sheep for a 4-H project.

Clark approved and used each aspect of raising sheep as a foundation for her homeschool curriculum. Science lessons included the proper raising of sheep; finance and math lessons were based on the cost of materials to build pens and corals; physical science, and more math, were from the construction of the pens.

"When you think of what he learned through that experience, I've tried to incorporate more life experiences. Education is a lot more than learning to read, write and worksheets," she said.

Clark said she has been challenged by the curriculum as Will ages. He is now 14.

"I'm trying to stay ahead of him," she said. "It gets more complicated, more details. He has asked, 'How does it rain' and 'What's in the clouds.'"

Learning from big brother

Fifty years ago, it was common for one-room schoolhouses to dot Kansas' wind swept countryside. Inside were students from the primary grades to high school. That same principle is happening inside the home of Steve and Tamara Ziegelmeier in rural Thomas County.

Tamara, 35, homeschools her four children Kellan, 12, Brook and Brennan, 8-year-old twins, and Kinley, 5.

During her six years of teaching, Ziegelmeier noticed how Brook and Brennan eventually learned from Kellan, in addition to what she teaches.

"It is like an old, one-room schoolhouse," Tamara said. "Brook and Brennan picked up on learning about money from the older one."

Like Clark, Ziegelmeier's Christian faith was instrumental in leading a classroom at home.

"It was a calling," she said.

She received a degree in education from Kansas State University.

"That was the beginning, I just didn't know how to use it."

Ziegelmeier likes how her children interact with each other during the lessons.

"When we started we just had one kid. Now with more kids I have got to get the others the attention," she said. "And it has been better for the younger ones to learn from the older ones."

Ziegelmeier said she did extensive research of homeschool curriculum to find what she thought was best. Knowing homeschool curriculum can add up in cost, Ziegelmeier has also noticed the benefits of hands-on experiences for lessons.

"Homeschool is not just to do worksheets all day long," she said, "you do spend money on science and algebra materials. If you have a garden, you can learn about plant sciences, if you have animals, you can learn about breeding and genetics," she said.

She said it can be difficult to remember she is still their mother, but during lessons she wants to come across as their teacher.

"You do need discipline," she said. "Some things I say, I start with 'This is the teacher talking.' Mom may not be as strict."

Test scores have made Ziegelmeier confident in her work and in her children's ability to learn. Occasional testing, similar to what public school students use, show they are progressing.

"They are ahead of where they should be," she said.

Clark and Ziegelmeier said they are educating their children to prepare them for college. Clark has noticed how colleges are acknowledging, and accepting, homeschool children who have documented their studies.

Ziegelmeier's plans when her children reach high school age are to have classes similar to what other high school students are doing in preparation for college. Ziegelmeier also wants to instill something deeper in her children.

"I want to use this to strengthen them spiritually, as well as all the academics," she said.

Homeschooled youth enjoyed other activities

From "WILSON," page 1

"Once we got into high school, there was still 4-H and rodeo," she said. "We were always trying to find the time to work on our projects,"

The ability to interact with others paid off for Amy.

She was named 2007 Miss Rodeo Kansas this month. In January she will begin touring promoting rodeo

and Kansas. Because of the demands and obligations, Wilson said after graduating from Colby Community College she will take a year off from college but will eventually pursue a degree.

"Amy is a leader by nature," Lori said.

Lori said she is pleased with how her children have developed while being homeschooled.

"Each kid has their own style of learning. I don't expect the kids to learn the same," she said. "And with the five girls, Brent is new to the program."

Not only are reading and writing important to the Wilson children, but Lori said she wants each one to have high values and be a good role model for peers.

"Lonnie and I have high expectations and standards," she said. "We do not want our children to be easily swayed."

"We want them to be firm with who they are, but not so they can't relate with others."

High Plains Tumblers

is seeking new tumblers for the 2006-2007 season with coach Jason Unruh.

No membership fee, affordable rates, quality coaching.

For more information, contact Donna Corbett at 460-7905 or 443-2836

Thanks for your support during our halftime performance at the Orange and Black!

Colby man charged with sex crimes

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

A Colby man has been charged with multiple sex crimes which are alleged to have taken place over three months earlier this year.

Colin McNeil Sims, 38, was formally charged on Aug. 10 in Thomas County District Court with five counts of aggravated indecent liberties with a child younger than 14 years of age. The incidents are alleged to have taken place on March 11, April 1 and June 29.

Each charge against Sims is a level 3 person felony punishable by a prison term between four and one-half years to 20 and one-half years and a fine up to \$300,000. If convicted and depending on a presentence investigation, the maximum penalty for the crimes would be twice the most severe penalty and a fine up to \$300,000.

Sims was formally charged on Aug. 10 and in lieu of a \$100,000 bond is being detained in the Thomas County Jail. Sims is scheduled to appear in court on Sept. 13.

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EMT Possibilities
Have you ever wanted a challenge to try something new and exciting? Do you feel compelled to render medical aid to others, but feel unqualified or untrained to help others in their time of need? If you can answer yes to those questions, please attend a meeting on August 25, 2006 at 7:00 pm at the EMS office, 1275 South Franklin-East door, or call 460-4585. This meeting will answer any questions concerning a possible EMT Basic Class being offered this fall.

FREE Adult Ed Classes
Available in Colby, Rexford, Hays & Norton

- Math, Reading, and Writing Basics
- Job Skills (resume, application, interview)
- Basic Computer Skills
- GED Preparation

For more information: Call (785) 460-4663 or email: nance@colbycc.edu

COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE www.colbycc.edu

2006 Horticulture Field Day
Thursday, August 24th
5:30-8:00 p.m. CDT
K-State Research & Extension Center
105 Experiment Farm Road
Colby, Kansas

Topics to be discussed include:

- "Proper Irrigation Techniques for Trees, Shrubs, and Flowers in the Home Landscape" by Terry Mannell, Ellis County Horticultural Assistant
- "Drought Stress in turfgrass - Recommended Maintenance Practices for the Home Lawn" by Rodney St. John, K-State Extension Turfgrass Specialist
- "Prairie Star Annual Flower Varieties - Selecting Star Performers for the Soils and Climate of the Prairie" by Alan Stevens, K-State Associate Professor of Horticulture

Activities are provided for children ages 5 to 10 until 8:00 p.m. for those attending the Field Day. Admission is free, and seating will be available during presentations. For more information or directions, please contact Rodney Zimmerman or Daniel O'Brien at the Northwest Research Extension Center in Colby, 785-462-6281



Gem Lions Club
Hog Roast
Aug. 23, 2006 ~ 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Thanks
Ziegelmeier Farms
Tubbs & Sons Ford Sales
Bojac Seeds/Carl Ziegelmeier
for donating hogs.