

Weather Corner



Clear, highs near 85 and lows about 54

The forecast
Tonight — Clear with a low around 50. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Wednesday — Mostly sunny with a high near 83. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Wednesday night — Mostly clear with a low around 53. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday — Mostly sunny with a high near 83. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 54.

Friday — Partly cloudy with a high near 81.

Friday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 54.

Saturday — Mostly sunny with a high near 79.

Temperatures
 Monday's high,
 Low this morning,
 Records for this date, 108 in 1931, 40 in 1962

Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00

September's precipitation, 0.32

Water Use Report
No report available

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

School board to meet

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. today at the Administration Building, 600 W. Third St.

Items on the agenda include administrative reports; 2006 fundraising activities; out-of-district field trip requests; and if necessary, personnel. The meeting is open to the public.

Chamber luncheon Friday

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon is noon, Friday, at Montana Mike's, 1855 S. Range Ave. with Shawn Yost from Oscheln Farm and Home Supply in Colby.

All Chamber members and guests are invited. For ques-

tions, call Executive Director Holly Stephens, 460-3401.

Israel presentation planned

Two Colby residents, Gerry Anschutz and Joyce Hansen, recently returned from a trip to Israel and plan to hold a question and answer forum at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 27, at the First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St. For questions, call 462-6342.

Committee members wanted

The Kansas Water Authority in Topeka is looking for people willing to serve on the Kansas Water Authority's Basin

Advisory Committee, said Steve Irsik, chair of the authority. Applications are being accepted until Oct. 15 with review and nominations following in late November, he said. Applications and a basin-by-basin list of membership category openings may be found at: www.kwo.org or by calling (888) 526-9283.

Participants needed for tour

Colby Community College is offering a fall Colorado scenic railroad tour Sept. 17-23. Long-time Colby College instructor Roger Hale will be the tour director for the study expedition which leaves Sunday, Sept. 17, from the college campus. For questions, call Hale at (785) 460-2838.

Prairie Village could have new signage law

PRAIRIE VILLAGE (AP) — This Kansas City suburb will consider a new sign ordinance, the city attorney says, after a federal judge found the current one appeared to violate First Amendment rights.

Prairie Village resident David Quinly, backed by the American Civil Liberties Union, had challenged the ordinance after the city cited him for his front-yard signs opposing the war in Iraq.

On Thursday, U.S. District Judge John Lungstrum issued an injunction blocking Prairie Village from enforcing its ordinance.

City Attorney Charlie Wetzler said Prairie Village officials didn't mean to step on anyone's rights. He said officials would try to come up with a revised ordinance that addresses the court's concerns.

"All Prairie Village wants is an ordinance that is constitutional," Wetzler said. "We want an ordinance that works. It's difficult when you're balancing the needs of the city, the customs of the city and free speech."

Quinly had been posting signs opposing the war for more than two years when the city cited him in September 2005 for two signs that were larger than city regulations allowed.

Quinly pleaded no contest and was fined \$300.

He then appealed his conviction to Johnson County District Court, and the city agreed to dismiss the fine.

The city subsequently adopted a new ordinance designed to address deficiencies in its rules covering political signs. The ordinance regulated "information signs" that involve free speech, a personal belief or a political party, candidate or issue.

It said such signs can't be larger than 16 square feet; can't contain profane or indecent expressions; can't be displayed longer than 90 days; and must be durable enough to withstand high winds.

Quinly and the ACLU then challenged the new regulations.

After Lungstrum determined that other signs — such as for-sale signs posted by real estate agents and signs posted at churches and libraries — were treated differently, the issue became whether the rules served a compelling public interest.

Prairie Village argued that larger signs create a traffic hazard and that the durability requirement was justified as a way to prevent cheap signs in disrepair from cluttering neighborhoods.

Lungstrum ruled that the regulations achieved none of those purposes because they didn't apply to signs not containing political messages.

Wetzler said city officials could come up with new rules within a few weeks.

The ACLU did not return a call seeking comment Sunday, and no one answered at Quinly's home phone number.

District to test students for drugs

EL DORADO (AP) — The El Dorado school district has adopted a new policy allowing it to test most of its middle and high school students for drugs and alcohol, starting this year.

The new policy covers any student in seventh grade or higher who participates in extracurricular activities — a category that was expanded to cover everyone from athletes to members of the band and academic clubs to those who park in the school parking lot or who attend a homecoming dance or even a school play.

Many districts test students suspected of using drugs, and it's not uncommon for schools to test athletes, however El Dorado's policy, adopted in June, is much more encompassing.

Superintendent Tom Biggs said the policy is meant to make students safe, but some parents and students say it invades students' privacy.

Students who participate in extracurricular activities and their parents must sign a form allowing the testing.

The students are then chosen at random to take the urinalysis drug test. Students will be tested at least once a year, and those who test positive for drugs or alcohol won't be allowed to participate in extracur-

ricular activities for two weeks. They also will face additional testing and must go through a program — paid for by their parents — to determine the extent of their drug or alcohol use.

After a second positive test, a student would have to attend a substance abuse program.

The district will pay \$25 per student per test — for a total of \$10,000 to \$12,000.

The district points to U.S. Supreme Court cases allowing mandatory testing among athletes and random testing of middle and high school students participating in extracurricular activities.

"We felt we needed to include as many kids as we possibly could," Biggs said.

Martha McCarthy, chancellor's professor and the chair of education leadership and policy studies at Indiana University at Bloomington, said the policy skirts the line of the Supreme Court's rulings.

"You can always test kids that are suspicious," said McCarthy, who specializes in educational law. "What is controversial is testing the suspicious-less."

It sounds like they are pushing the legal definition.

While some districts include driving to school as part of extracur-

ricular activities, El Dorado's inclusion of attendance at dances and school plays makes its policy unusual, she said.

"I've not seen that," she said. "But it's not to say that it couldn't be upheld (in court)."

Brett Shirk, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas and Western Missouri, said he hadn't heard of a policy that makes drug testing mandatory to attend dances and plays.

"It's extreme and it's alienating students," he said.

El Dorado High School senior Rebecca King said she won't sign the consent form.

"We have nothing to hide," said King, 18, who regularly attends games and dances and is prepared not to attend her senior prom. She also parks half a block from the school. "They are not trying to help us. We're trying to be educated and graduate."

Her father, David King, is also unhappy with the new policy.

"It's a giant waste of money," he said.

But Pam Coley, who has two daughters attending the high school, said she thinks the policy will help a lot of kids stay drug-free.

"The ones that have things to hide don't like it," she said.

Having fun

CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

Tristen Barnett of Oakley and Shayna Rogge participated in a hangman race during the junior rodeo at Old Settlers Weekend in Russell Springs Saturday. The weekend featured the rodeo, a parade, potluck, and cow chip-throwing contest.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY, SEPT. 7
 Middle/grade school vision screening, 8:30 a.m.
 Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous, City Hall basement, 8:30 p.m.
 Wings Upon the Prairie drop-in center, 485 N. Franklin, 5-8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8
 Middle/grade school vision screening, 8:30 a.m.
 Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Montana Mike's, noon
 Wings Upon the Prairie drop-in center, 485 N. Franklin, 5-8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9
 Colby fly-in, Colby Airport
 Celebration on the High Plains, Prairie Museum of Art and History, 5 p.m.
 Wings Upon the Prairie drop-in center, 485 N. Franklin, 1-5 p.m.
 Sixth Street Alcoholics Anonymous, 1275 W. Sixth St., 8:30 p.m.

Thank You!

We want to thank Roger & Sara Herren and Judy Berry for our 50th Wedding Anniversary reception. For all the work and time they spent putting it together. We also wish to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, and their attendance, to make our day a memorable one. God has truly blessed us with many loving family and friends.

Love you all,
Claude & Clea Herren

Faced with a Drinking Problem?
 Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous Can Help
 Meetings are Open to the Public
 City Hall Basement
 Mondays & Thursdays - 8:30 p.m.

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 PG-13 1 hour, 45 min.
 Friday 7:00 & 9:00
 Saturday 4:00 & 7:00 & 9:00
 Sunday 4:00 & 7:00
 Monday - Thursday 7:00

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