

Weather Corner



Tonight — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 54. **Friday** — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a high near 77. **Friday night** — Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy with a low around 55. Southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. **Saturday** — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a high near 70. **Saturday night** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 52. **Sunday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 78. **Temperatures** Wednesday's high, 81 Low this morning, 50 Records for this date, 102 in 1959, 18 in 1898 Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00 September's precipitation, 0.65 A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Briefly

Childbirth classes begin Oct. 5

Citizens Medical Center in Colby will hold childbirth classes from 7 to 10 p.m., each Thursday, Oct. 5, 12, 19 and 26, said Jeanene Brown, RN, MS, coordinator. Future dates include all Thursdays during the months of January, April, July and October in 2007.

Share signup continues

Prairie Land Food (formerly Heartland Share) signup will continue through noon, Saturday, said Gene Griffin, coordinator. Anyone wanting to participate in this month's food shares are encouraged to stop by State Farm Insurance,

904 E. Fourth St. or call Griffin at 460-8640.

Childcare provider training planned

Smart Start Northwest Kansas and Colby Community College Resource and Referral are sponsoring a "For Your Information" orientation for new daycare providers from 7 to 10 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 21 at Colby Community College library basement, room 253. This training is free of charge and open to anyone who is interested in becoming a licensed childcare provider in northwest Kansas. For information or to register for the training call 785-462-3984 ext. 250 or toll free 1-888-634-9350 ext. 250.

Scrapbooking event Saturday

Heartland Christian School is sponsoring a charity scrapbooking event from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, at the school, 1995 W. Fourth St., Colby. To register, call Tonya Winger, coordinator, at 462-3677 or e-mail: twinger@st-tel.net

Chamber plans golf/poker tourney

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a golf and poker tournament with participants able to choose golf, poker or both, said Holly Stephens, executive director. The deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 12.

Records show attorney talked with school board

TOPEKA (AP) — An attorney who sued the State Board of Education over school funding talked to one or more board members at least four times in seven years, records show.

The Topeka Capital-Journal reported Wednesday that attorney Alan Rupe's contacts with the board were documented in billing records. Schools for Fair Funding, which bankrolled the school finance lawsuit, made the records public last month, after the newspaper sued the group.

Typically, attorneys aren't allowed to talk to the parties they're suing, except through those parties' attorneys. And Dan Biles, the

board's attorney, said he was troubled.

But Rupe said his contacts didn't violate ethics rules for attorneys because board members are public officials. Also, he described his contacts as innocent.

Only one board member, Carol Rupe, a Wichita Republican and Alan Rupe's ex-wife, recalled talking to him about the school finance case.

"It's no secret I thought the state board was on the wrong side of this lawsuit," she said.

Alan Rupe is not the only person involved with the lawsuit to face questions about contact with outsiders.

An ethics panel admonished Kansas Supreme Court Justice Lawton Nuss for having a brief luncheon conversation March 1 with two senators about school finance issues. Nuss removed himself from the lawsuit in April.

The lawsuit, filed in 1999, was dismissed in July by the Supreme Court after legislators approved a plan to phase in a \$541 million increase in aid to public schools over three years.

That plan was in addition to \$290 million in increases approved last year, after the court declared that the state wasn't spending enough money on its schools.

Records have shown that Schools

for Fair Funding spent more than \$2.9 million on the litigation, with almost all the money coming from 19 school districts.

"The First Amendment guarantees that our clients, acting through us, have access to their elected government officials," Alan Rupe said.

Rupe documented telephone calls with unnamed board members in August 2002 and February 2005, as well as an e-mail exchange with a board member in February 2005.

Also, on Feb. 27, 2006, Rupe recorded having an "extensive telephone conference" with a state board member.

While Schools for Fair Funding released 2,700 pages of documents

about its activities, those documents were heavily edited to protect what Rupe called the attorney-client relationship.

Rupe billed Schools for Fair Funding \$190 an hour for the conversations.

Biles said he knew Carol Rupe talked to her ex-husband about a variety of issues, possibly even school finance, but thought it was "only around the edges."

"I'll have to admit, I'm not real excited about opposing counsel talking to my clients," Biles said.

Board Chairman Steve Abrams, an Arkansas City Republican, said he didn't know board members were talking with Schools for Fair Funding. He said board members should have told the entire board about any conversations they had.

Alan Rupe said attorneys for Schools for Fair Funding talked at one point to each of the four minority board members. He said he did extensive research beforehand to make sure he didn't run afoul of any attorney ethics rules.

"What we talked about was the state of the lawsuit, where it was," he said.

Challenger faces difficult race to unseat Moran

WICHITA (AP) — Rep. Jerry Moran appears so confident he will keep his 1st District congressional seat that he has not opened a campaign office.

He has not set up a campaign phone line, nor has he hired a campaign manager.

Moran, R-Kansas, has handily retained his seat since first winning it in 1996 after Republican Pat Roberts gave it up to run for the Senate. Moran easily won with 74 percent of the vote, then held onto the job in 1998 with 81 percent of the vote. He faced no major party oppo-

nent in 2000, 2002 or 2004, and was unopposed in this year's primary.

Still, Moran said he is not taking his election chances for granted this year, and anticipates a full-fledged advertising campaign as the election nears.

"There is no election that is in the

bag. I think the mood in the country — and even here in Kansas — is that there is a real concern about what is going on in Washington, D.C. ... The war in Iraq weighs heavily," Moran said.

Doll said he wouldn't have run if he did not believe he had a shot to win.

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 Sunday, Aug. 24

• **Domestic battery:** Christopher Dawn Hughes, 26, of Colby, was arrested at 11:27 p.m. in the 400 West Ash by Colby police.

Hughes was charged with domestic battery and released from jail with a notice to appear in the Thomas County District Court on Tuesday, Sept. 19.

Monday, Aug. 25

• **Bond violations:** Dustin Blake Rumback, 34, of Colby, was arrested at 4:40 p.m. by Thomas County court service officer for violating his bond involving criminal threat and disorderly conduct.

Tuesday, Aug. 26

• **Failure to appear:** Dennis

Allen Clark, 49, of Omaha, Neb., was arrested at 3:04 p.m. by Colby police in the 200 block of North Court.

He was charged with failure to appear on a warrant from Douglas County Nebraska. He also refused extradition.

• **Domestic battery:** Richard Wayne Boyd, 35, of Macksville, was arrested at 1:15 a.m. in the 1900 block of South Range Avenue by Colby police.

He was charged with domestic battery and released on a notice to appear in the Thomas County District Court Tuesday, Sept. 19.

• **Driving under the influence:** Dennis John Kincher, 50, of Oakley, was arrested at 1:45 a.m. by

the Kansas Highway Patrol in Logan County at milepost 60 on U.S. Highway 40. He was charged with driving under the influence and driving while suspended.

• **Suspicious incident:** An individual contacted the sheriff's office at 12:45 p.m. advising of a transient person knocking on their door in the 1100 block of County Road R.

A deputy found the individual in Levant and transported the person to the Thomas County/Sherman County line on old U.S. Highway 24.

• **Alarm:** A door alarm in the 100 block of College Avenue went off at 12:55 a.m. and police were advised that an employee didn't enter the code correctly.

RECOVERY.....

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A message from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Cancer Information Service, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and American Cancer Society.

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Friday 7:00 & 9:35
Saturday 4:00 & 7:00 & 9:35
Sunday 4:00 & 7:00
Monday - Thursday 7:00

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PG-13 1 hour, 45 min.
Friday 7:00 & 9:00
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