

Weather Corner



Lows in 50s; highs in 90s

The forecast
Tonight...Mostly clear with a low in the mid 50s. North-northwest wind between 3 and 8 mph.
Tuesday...Mostly sunny. High in the low 90s. South-southwest wind between 7 and 13 mph.
Tuesday night...Mostly clear with a low in the high 50s. South-southwest wind between 7 and 11 mph.
Wednesday...Mostly sunny with a high in the mid 90s. South-southwest wind between 7 and 11 mph.
Wednesday night...Mostly clear with lows in the mid 50s.
Thursday...Partly cloudy with highs in the low 80s.
Temperatures
 Sunday's high, 79
 Low this morning, 50
 Records for this date, 99 in 1932, 35 in 1912
 Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
 September's precipitation, 0.04
 Soil temperature, 74
Water Terms
 •WaterWatch — Demand for 3 consecutive days exceeds 3.5 million gallons per day.
 •WaterWarning — Demand for 3 consecutive days exceeds 4.0 million gallons per day. City will begin conservation efforts.
 •WaterEmergency — Demand for 3 consecutive days exceeds 4.5 million gallons per day. No outdoor watering allowed along with other conservation efforts.
Water Use
 Sept. 16= Unavailable
The sources:
 A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Briefly

Share delivery Saturday

Heartland Share delivery is Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart School gymnasium. The food menu for September includes: chicken kabobs, ground turkey, deli roast beef (1.5 lbs.), chicken drumsticks, ham steaks, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, Gala apples, oranges, red pears, and chocolate bundt cake. The items are \$18.50 plus two volunteer hours of the participant's choice. If interested in a share, call Gene Griffin, 460-3579.

'Kids For Safety' event planned

The Thomas County Health Department is again offering its "Kids for Safety," from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the Colby Community Building. Highlights of the event include water safety demonstrations, music and other learning experiences. Everyone, young and old, is encouraged to attend, said Juanita Dewey, administrator.

Drama department plans comedy

The Colby Community College drama department will present the comedy *Love Thy Neighbor* on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Nov. 3-5 in the Cultural Arts Center located on campus. Advance tickets will be available at the Campus Bookstore. Tickets will also be available prior to each performance at the door.

EMT class enrollment still open

Kathi Wright, EMS director with the Thomas County Emergency Medical Service, said there is still time to enroll in the EMT class, which will begin Monday, Sept. 26, starting at 6 p.m. at the EMS building 1275 S. Franklin, Colby. The first meeting this week was informational, she said, and no classroom work has started yet. If interested, call 460-4585 for an information packet concerning class dates and times, meeting places, college credit and fees, textbooks and lab equipment needed, and of course the requirements. Financial assistance is available, Wright said.

After Harvest Festival Sept. 27

The social problems class at Colby Community College will sponsor the 37th annual After Harvest Festival, starting at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 27. The festival will be held in the Community Building Little Theater. The event is for all those 55 years and older. Activities include bingo and cards at 3 p.m., followed by dinner at 5:15 p.m. and a dance from 6:30-7:30 p.m. No reservations are required. For transportation or other questions, call Deb Koon, 462-6617.

Old cell phones wanted

Colby Grade School is collecting old cell phones with proceeds going toward the purchase of new playground equip-

ment, said Tami Brown, coordinating the project. Drop-off sites are located at Davons Electronic, 1870 S. Range; the service desk at Dillons, 1605 S. Range; Unice!, 1933 S. Range; Beringer Hardware, 165 W. 4th or at the grade school, 210 N. Grant. Call Brown at 460-5100, ext. 1305.

Booster Club membership begins

The Colby Booster Club is currently having its membership drive and is encouraging business, individuals and families to join. Dues help support all activities supported by the booster club. Costs include: \$10, Colby Booster; \$25, bronze; \$50, silver; and \$100, gold. Checks payable to the CHS Booster Club and mail to: CHS All Sports Booster Club, PO Box 136, Colby, Kan. 67701.

College to offer computer class free

Colby Community College is offering computer and Internet classes for older Americans beginning Thursday, Oct. 6. Classes will be held Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27. The beginner's class will start at 2 p.m. The class for advanced students will begin at 3 p.m. The classes, taught by Larry Koon, will meet in the computer lab located in the Bedker Memorial Complex on the college campus. Students will be providing individual assistance. To register, call Deb Koon at 462-6617.

Hoxie library hours extended

By Jan Katz Ackerman
 Colby Free Press

Hours at the public library in Hoxie are being extended.

According to Cindy Eller, library director, additional operating hours will be added to the business schedule at the library.

"We are excited about the expansion of our hours here at the library," Eller said.

"We hope this will increase the opportunity for after school programs, a place for the children to come and do homework or just hang out after school with friends, as well as a time for those who work or have other obligations during our traditional hours to come utilize the Library."

Effective Monday, Oct. 3, the public library will be open Monday through Thursday each week from 9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Fridays

from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This increase in hours will remain in effect through April 29, at which time hours will return to the summer schedule.

"If we see a marked increase in library usage during these expanded hours of service, the board of trustees will explore the possibility of staying open during the peak usage hours even during the summer months," Eller said.

"This increase in hours is possible once again due to the continued support of our city and county commissioners, our taxpayers, and the support of our patrons who pay membership dues to our Friends of The Library organization who donate books, volunteer their time, and give monetary memorials to support collection development, etcetera, throughout the year.

"With this ongoing support, we are able to have the budget necessary to offer expanded hours of operation," Eller said.

Eller encourages community members to utilize their public library often.

"We have a vast array of services for the public, such as books for recreational reading, as well as for research, computer access, videos, DVD'S, cake pans, patterns, audio books, magazines, photocopying, or just simply a place to sit and relax.

"If we do not have it in our library, we can usually access it through our statewide network of Inter Library Loan.

"Stop in often and check out what the library has for you," she said.

The Sheridan County Library is located at 801 Royal Ave., and the phone number is (785) 675-3102.

Topeka officer jailed for stealing

TOPEKA (AP) — A former Topeka police officer has been sentenced to 16 months in prison for stealing thousands of dollars intended for undercover drug buys and using the money to pay for his gambling habit.

Thomas Pfortmiller, 41, also was ordered Friday to pay restitution, with the amount to be determined later.

The 14-year veteran was placed

on leave and later resigned in 2004 after the department asked the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to look into cases he had handled.

Originally charged with 100 felonies and misdemeanors, Pfortmiller pleaded no contest in July to 50 felonies.

The prosecution said he took more than \$20,000 from the department, claiming it would be used to buy drugs, and filed police reports

claiming that drug buys had occurred.

That led to the issuance of false arrest warrants — and helped foster contempt for the law, the judge who sentenced Pfortmiller said on Friday.

"Major cases have been dismissed, and most shocking, citizens of our community have been set up, accused and warrants issued for their arrest for crimes they did not commit," Shawnee County District Judge Eric Rosen said.

The normal sentence for Pfortmiller would have been probation.

But Steve Karrer, a Shawnee County assistant district attorney, sought a stiffer sentence based on what he contended was Pfortmiller's breach of duty to the community.

Defense attorney Jerry Berger argued against a prison sentence, noting that Pfortmiller is an active member of Gamblers Anonymous and, along with his wife, had started a group to aid spouses of gambling addicts.

Pfortmiller apologized at the sentencing hearing.

"I committed the crimes. I committed them on my own.

"You will never see me in front of this court again," Pfortmiller said at the hearing.

"I'm so sorry for being here."

Fundraising effort



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Chase Moore, Judy Schmidt and Zenaeh Thompson (not pictured) helped serve at the FFA barbecue Friday before the Colby-Oberlin football game at Dennen Field. Proceeds from the barbecue were donated to hurricane relief.

Sunflowers mistaken for marijuana

BEL AIRE (AP) — The police thought they had found marijuana plants growing in a former mayor's back yard, where his wife sometimes entertains members of the senior citizens' group she leads.

Officers took pictures.

They showed them to an assistant district attorney, who took a search warrant application to a judge, who signed it. And when police in this Wichita suburb went back to Harold and Carolyn Smith's house for a closer look, they found ...

Sunflowers.

The couple had grown the plants from seeds given to them by their son, a wildlife biologist.

Kansas is, of course, the Sunflower State — which made the error even more baffling, the Smiths' attorney said.

"That plant on our state flag is not a marijuana plant, but a sunflower,"

said the attorney, Dan Monnat, of Wichita.

Bel Aire Mayor Brian Withrow, an associate professor of criminal justice at Wichita State University, has hired a consultant — a university colleague, Michael Birzer — to look into the Sept. 6 search and the events that led up to it.

On Birzer's list of questions to answer, Withrow said, is the obvious: "How did we make this mistake?"

The Smiths have hired him to do the same thing, Monnat said.

"These are very community-oriented people who have been active in their community affairs for years," he said.

"I think it's probably fair to say they care much less about the idea

of a lawsuit than they do about assuring the citizens of Bel Aire that they have competent police officers who will protect the rights of everyone."

During the search, Monnat said, at least 10 officers went through the Smiths' house, checking drawers and closets and videotaping everything. The tape has not been returned, Monnat said.

Withrow said the plants weren't blooming at the time, but Monnat said some were — and noted that police would have had to drive past many other sunflower plants on their way to the home to search it.

Harold Smith served as mayor from 1991 to 1998, leaving office before serving all of his fourth and final term.

University cuts back on journal subscriptions

LAWRENCE (AP) — As state money for higher education gets harder to come by, the University of Kansas is saving money wherever it can. That includes including cutting back on its subscriptions to scholarly journals, some of which carry annual price tags in the thousands. But some faculty members say the strategy hurts their ability to do research.

"No one can do without them," economics professor Mohamed El-Hodiri said. "They're forcing us to pick and choose."

And if professors can't keep up on the latest research, El-Hodiri said, their students' education will suffer.

But university officials said the cost of subscriptions — which range from a few hundred dollars to \$20,000 or so a year — makes some cuts necessary.



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Pharmacist and PCCA member Jim Hampton and Deanna Feldman and Debbie Owens, representatives from Professional Compounding Centers of America (PCCA) in the Bison Compounding room.

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OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, September 22
 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Colby Community College Student Union Rm# 106

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