

Weather Corner



Warmer and breezy

The forecast

Tonight — Mostly clear with a low around 31. South wind around 10 mph. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 64. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Thursday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 34. North wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Friday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 59. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southeast. **Friday night** — Partly cloudy with a high near 59. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southeast. **Saturday** — Mostly cloudy with a high near 58. **Saturday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 30. **Sunday** — Mostly sunny with a high around 62. **Temperatures**
Monday's high, 54
Tuesday's high, 54
Low this morning, 27
Records for this date, 89 in 1901, -13 in 1920
Precipitation last 24 hours, 0.00
March's precipitation, 0.00
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-8367.

Briefly

Fair Board to meet Thursday

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival; Thomas County extension agent report; bills and financial report; committee reports on the buildings and grounds, rodeo, parade, demolition derby, races, fair book and advertising expenses and income. The meeting is open to the public.

College bus available for Salina

Colby Community College is providing their large bus to take fans to the Colby High School Lady Eagles first game of the 4A State Tournament in Salina Thursday. The bus will leave from the high school parking lot at 4 p.m. and return to Colby after the game. There is no charge to ride the bus. In the event, Colby girls continue to advance in state play, the college bus will be continue to drive to Salina and return each evening. Call the high school office at 460-5300 to sign up.

Mothers of Preschoolers to meet

Mothers of Preschoolers will meet from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday at the Colby United Methodist Church. The presentation will be on community resources for children.

Chamber luncheon Friday

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce luncheon will be at noon Friday at Colby Country Club. The speaker is Jennifer Van Eaton with the American Cancer Society.

Health department closed Friday

Thomas County Health Dept. will be closed this Friday due to continuing education. They will reopen with regular business hours on Monday.

Farm Bureau plans seminar

"The Ten Top Stupid Things Families Do To Break Up Their Business," will be presented at 6:30 p.m., Monday,

March 26, in the Colby High School auditorium. The speaker is Jolene Brown, certified speaking professional, who also is a grain farmer in eastern Iowa. The seminar is free and sponsored by the 10th District of the Kansas Farm Bureau, along with other sponsors. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome to attend.

Help sought for caravan

Participants are sought for the June Antique Tractor Caravan scheduled for June 2. The caravan will start in Bogue, going through Nicodemis to Webster Lake and back to Bogue. If interested, call Foyd and Liz Vanloenen, (785) 421-2604, or write: P.O. Box 10, Bogue, Kan. 67625.

First aid, CPR class scheduled

The Thomas County Red Cross is sponsoring a community first aid course and adult CPR class from 6 to 10 p.m., Tuesday, March 13, in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave. The deadline to register is Thursday. For questions or to register, call 462-7161

Studley church celebrating two milestones on Saturday

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church members will celebrate two milestones on Saturday at their rural church near Studley.

The church members will dedicate the new Family Life Center and celebrate the 120th anniversary of the church at 4 p.m. Tours of the building and a reception will begin at 2 p.m. Studley is located 15 miles

southeast of Hoxie. LeAnn Heskett Simon, chairman of the event, said the construction of the Family Life Center began in 2000.

The center is site of church activities such as receptions, birthday parties, conferences and youth group gatherings. It contains a one-half basketball court, restrooms with showers, and a fully equipped kitchen. "The thing that is most obvious to the Mt. Pleasant congregation is how faithful the Lord has

been in providing funds for this project," Simon said. She said the project, accomplished during a time of drought, was done so by "faithful givers based on God's guidance."

When the project was voted on by church leaders in April 1986, it was done so on the premise that no money would be borrowed and no pledges would be enforced.

"This church and Family Life Center were built as monies were

available and is completely paid for," Simon said.

"Praise the Lord. Granted, many volunteer hours were put into completing our Family Life Center, but what better way to serve the Lord than building a place that is used in worshipping him."

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church is led by Pastor Jeff Ruckman, who joined the staff as associate pastor in July 2005.

Ruckman became interim pastor

in September 2006, following full-time pastor Leroy Herder leaving for a position in Hugoton. Simon said despite the church's rural location, attendance is steady.

"Even though we are way out in the country our membership stands at 348 members, with 170 to 180 in attendance most any Sunday," she said.

"What we want to remember as we dedicate this addition to our church is this project is yet another milestone in our 120 year history and it is far from the ultimate destination and that great things happen when and where the Lord leads," Simon said.

"This is the Lord's doing, it is marvelous in our eyes."

Thomas County, others off drought warning list

Though out of the woods when it comes to drought, Thomas County still isn't off the governor's drought list. The snowstorms in western Kansas, which caused widespread damage and economic losses, also provided much-needed moisture.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius has updated county drought stages, removing many counties from the drought warning declaration. Fifty-

seven counties have been downgraded from a Drought Warning to a Drought Watch, leaving only three counties under a warning.

Despite these changes, Sebelius urged homeowners to take precautions to prevent fires.

"Here in Kansas, we know we can never take the weather for granted. Routine safety measures, such as keeping a buffer between

buildings and brush and checking with local officials regarding burn conditions will help us reduce fire damage and prevent wildfires," she said.

Stream flow, which provides a measure for drought conditions, has improved since fall. Only 20 percent of measured streams had below normal stream flow in late February, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Last November nearly two-thirds of the streams were below normal.

The changes in drought status were recommended to the Governor by Tracy Streeter, director of the Kansas Water Office and chair of the Governor's Drought Response Team. The change in drought status has been made via Executive Order 07-04, which can be found at <http://www.governor.ks.gov/executive/Orders/default.htm>.

For information, see the Kansas Drought Report on the Kansas Water Office web site at <http://www.kwo.org>.

Counties still under drought warning are Barber, Harper and Sumner.

Counties downgraded to Drought Watch status are: Barton, Butler, Chase, Chautauqua, Cheyenne, Cowley, Clark, Clay, Cloud, Comanche, Decatur, Dickinson, Elk, Ellis, Ellsworth, Geary, Graham, Gove, Greeley, Greenwood, Harvey, Jewell, Kingman, Kiowa, Lane, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, McPherson, Mitchell, Morris, Ness, Norton, Osborne, Ottawa, Phillips, Pratt, Rawlins, Reno, Republic, Rice, Riley, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Saline, Scott, Sedgwick, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Stafford, Thomas, Trego, Wallace, Washington, and Wichita.

Be sure to VOTE April 3rd!

Vote for **Jim Smith** For Mayor

Political ad paid for by Citizens for Mayor Committee.

Costs at recreational lake skyrocketing

JETMORE (AP) — Nearly two years after voters in four counties approved new taxes to finance a recreational lake, they're being asked if the southwest Kansas project should be called off.

Horse Thief Reservoir — a 450-acre lake and 1,100-acre camping, hiking and recreational park — car-

ried an initial estimated pricetag of \$15.3 million.

But the estimate has jumped 46 percent, to \$22.4 million, triggering a state law that requires a public hearing when a project's expected cost rises at least 20 percent.

The hearing will be held March 29 in Jetmore, at the offices of the

Pawnee Watershed District. Residents of Hodgeman, Finney, Ford and Gray counties will have a chance to speak.

Based on public comments, the board of the Horse Thief Reservoir Benefit District will then decide to move ahead with the project, scrap it or put the issue to a vote.

22nd Annual Oakley Area Chamber of Commerce Consumer Extravaganza

Home & Garden Show

March 10 & 11 • Logan County 4-H Bldg. • Oakley, KS

Sat.: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Sun.: Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Come see what these businesses have to offer!

\$300 to be given away!
Must register at the show for your chance to win!!

Concessions by Weaver's BBQ ~ Free Popcorn
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Come See me for all your Pampered Chef needs!

Fick Fossil & History Museum
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invites you to stop by the Oakley Home and Garden Show to sign up for the Community Calendar!!

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