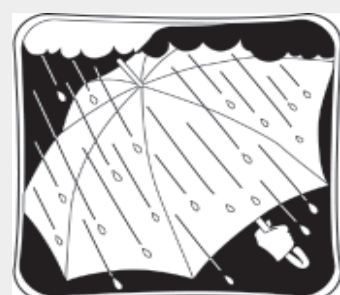


Weather Corner



More rain

The forecast
Tonight — A 20 percent chance of showers before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy with a low around 36. Breezy with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 64. North wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Thursday night** — A 20 percent chance of showers after 1 a.m. Increasing clouds with a low around 42. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west. **Friday** — Mostly cloudy with a high near 68. North wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Friday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 41. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 78. **Saturday night** — Clear with a low around 46. **Sunday** — Sunny with a high near 80.
Temperatures
 Monday's high, 67
 Tuesday's high, 56
 Low this morning, 38
 Records for this date,
 Precipitation last 24 hours, 0.20
 April's precipitation, 3.01
 A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-8367.

Art featured at museum

Now open at the Prairie Museum of Art and History is an art exhibit drawn from the museum's collection that features many local artists that have spent most if not all of their lives in Northwest Kansas. The exhibit features many different types of paintings and drawings from artists, past and present that live in our area. The artists in this show are: Betty Springler, Eldon Van Campen, B. V. Dimmitt, Lily Plummer, Betty M. Wheaton Cox, Regna Reese, Margaret Denneler, Erma Depe, Griggs Hamill, Olive Shriver, Othelia Miller, Marjorie Lee Brown, Twila Fern, Hagler Roesch, Mabel Epard Boyer, Chas. A Jones, Josephine L. Reed, Alice Sible Harrison, Marlene (Miller) Carpenter. Visit or call the Prairie Museum of Art and History at 1905 S. Franklin, at 460-4590 for more details. Area Art: Celebrating Artists from the Region will be open for viewing from April 24, until May 31. Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 5 a.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Briefly

"Look, Lunch and Learn" planned

Thomas County Academy, the Colby School District's charter school, is holding a "Look, Learn and Lunch" at the school from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday. Come look at the classroom environment, learn about projects and presentations and eat a light lunch. For information, call 460-5075.

Spots available for field trip

There are still a few openings available for the "Down Under" trip sponsored by Pioneer Memorial Library. The trip will include tours of the tunnels of Ellinwood, Kansas and the brand-new Kansas Underground Salt Museum. The trip is scheduled for Saturday, May 5 and is open to Thomas County middle school students (grades 6-8) for an enrollment fee of \$25. Stop in the library to enroll or call 460-4470 for more information.

Square dance Saturday

The Golden Buckle Square Dance group is planning a

dance starting at 8 p.m., Saturday, at the Colby Community Building. Anyone interested in square dancing is invited.

Day of Prayer May 3

The Thomas County Ministerial Alliance invites everyone to observe National Day of Prayer at noon Thursday, May 3, in front of the Thomas County courthouse. A proclamation from Gov. Kathleen Sebelius will be read followed by opportunities for individual prayers. The service will conclude no later than 12:30 p.m. A praise and prayer rally is also planned from 7 to 8 p.m. that day at the Colby Community Building Little Theater.

Remote control car races Sunday

First Baptist Church of Colby, 615 W. Webster, is holding remote control car races Sunday at the church from 2 to 5 p.m. Young people are invited to attend and cars will be provided for those who do not have one. For questions, call Kent Higerd, 462-3440.

Cub Scout meeting Monday

The Colby Cub Scout Pack 140 monthly pack meeting is at 6 p.m., Monday, at Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin. Boys in kindergarten through fourth grade are welcome to attend and receive information about scouting. For questions, call Jan Barnum, (785) 462-6503.

Endowment Foundation plans meeting

The Colby Community College Endowment Foundation annual meeting is set for 6 p.m., Monday, May 14 in the Robert Burnett Student Union on campus. For questions, call Foundation Director Nick Wells, (785) 460-4684.

Jazz concert scheduled

Colby Community College will host an "An Evening of Jazz" at 7:30 p.m., Thursday at the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center on college campus. The concert will include contemporary and traditional jazz music. For questions, call 462-3984.

Cottonwood Ranch holding sheep dog trial in May

By Jan Katz Ackerman
 Colby Free Press

Sheep dog trial enthusiasts will have a chance to watch or participate in the eighth annual competition hosted by Cottonwood Ranch on May 5 and 6. Starting at 8 a.m. and running through early evening both days, spectators will watch dogs and their handlers herd sheep in a pasture at

the 1800s English sheep ranch which became a state historical site in 1982.

Handlers from South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Texas and Kansas are expected to participate in the event which is sanctioned by the American Border Collie Association. Ed Matke of Ogalla will judge dogs and handlers during timed events during which dogs must herd a

small group of sheep from a distant point in the pasture to a pen near the judge.

Cottonwood Ranch is located on U.S. Highway 24 one-half mile west of Studley. The sheep dog trials are co-sponsored by the State Historical Society and the Friends of the Cottonwood Ranch. During the trials, the ranch's buildings and house will be open to the public. Each year the Friends of Cotton-

wood Ranch host two major activities, the sheep dog trials and a holiday open house in December, as a way to promote the preservation, interpretation, history of the site and early settlers of northwest Kansas. The non-profit organization supports the ranch through supplemental funding, volunteer services, public relations assistance, community involvement and educational programming.

Food vendors will be on hand during the morning and early afternoon hours to serve meals and treats.

Vendors will set up near the ranch house which was originally owned by John Fenton "Fent" Pratt and his wife, Jennie.

For more information about the ranch or sheep dog trials contact curator Don Rowilson at the ranch at (785) 627-5866.

U.S. Highway 83 resurfacing part of annual maintenance

Work is now underway to pave a portion of U.S. Highway 83 Highway from the U.S. Highway 24 junction south about eight miles, said Kristen Brands of Norton, public affairs officer for the District Three Kansas Department of Transportation office.

This construction project falls under an annual program the state's transportation department administers in order to maintain its state highway system.

The section of U.S. Highway 83 will receive a one inch overlay with APAC Kansas, Inc. Shears, of

Hays, as the prime contractor in charge of the project.

Construction crews began the milling and overlay process last week with pilot cars carrying motorists through the project.

The traveling public can expect delays of 15 minutes or less while

the work is in progress, and should exercise caution when driving through any road construction work zone.

The total cost estimate of the road work is \$836,630.44.

Work should be complete, weather permitting, by the first

week of May.

For questions regarding this project or any other project, call Kansas Department of Transportation, Area Four Construction Manager Roy Meier in Oakley at (785) 672-4985 or Brands at 785-877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org.

Questions about hospital, university med center result in audit

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — An audit of both the University of Kansas Medical Center and a separate hospital sharing its Kansas City, Kan., campus was initiated Tuesday by a legislative committee after accusations flew about their operations.

The underlying source of tension is a plan by the Medical Center, home to the state-funded medical school, to affiliate with the St. Luke's system, which is based in Kansas City, Mo., and operates 11 hospitals. Some legislators worry that the deal will take doctors away from Kansas.

Those lawmakers also worry the deal would hurt the University of Kansas Hospital, which shares the Medical Center's campus.

The hospital and the Medical Center are negotiating over the affiliation, which would permit Medical Center residents to work in St. Luke's institutions.

House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, a critic of the affiliation, sought an audit of the Medical Center to determine whether it has financial problems that caused it to pursue the affiliation.

He also asked whether the Medical Center had made financial or other commitments to its staff that it couldn't meet.

Not only did Rep. Peggy Mast, R-

Emporia, the chairwoman of the 10-member committee that oversees state audits, take up Neufeld's request, she told auditors to start working on part of it.

That led Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka, to seek an audit of the Kansas hospital to see whether it is fulfilling its legal duties, and to examine the hospital's purchase of a computer records system and a possible severance package for its outgoing chief executive officer.

When the committee hashed out the issues Tuesday, it ordered auditors to examine all those questions. Hensley accused Mast of politicizing the committee's work, something she disputed, and some members were left wondering about lingering hard feelings over the affiliation.

"This is all kind of an 'Alice in Wonderland' controversy to me," said Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, R-Independence, a committee member. "I don't understand why there are such entrenched battle lines."

The committee's wrangling came a day after Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, a supporter of the affiliation, vetoed a provision in a \$12.3 billion spending bill placing restrictions on the affiliation.

She and other supporters believe the affiliation will make the Kansas City area a center of biosciences and cancer research.

Kansas hospital officials have worried that St. Luke's will lure away doctors and, eventually, entire programs.

During the committee's meeting, Mast said there are questions about the Medical Center's finances and

whether it has made \$13 million to \$16 million in commitments to its staff that it can't fund.

But David Adkins, a former senator who is now the Medical Center's vice chancellor for external affairs, said such questions assume "a premise that is not allowed under the state system."

He said any multiyear commitment to doctors, nurses or scholars acknowledges

the uncertainty of future funding in a public institution.

He said the Medical Center has increased income from clinical care and attracted more federal grants. When state dollars don't keep up with inflation, he said, it seeks private contributions.

"We are required to have a balanced budget," he said. "We can't go in the hole."

KXXX The Ride
790 AM 100.3 FM
 is proud to present Nashville Recording Artist,
Daryle Singletary
Friday, April 27th
Colby Community Building, Colby
7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 pm)

I Let Her Lie
Too Much Fun
Amen Kind Of Love
That's Why I Sing this Way

Listen to 790 KXXX and 100.3 the Ride for ticket information. Tickets \$20.00 at the door or \$5.00 with a discount coupon.



The public is invited to a reception honoring

Don Kready

2007 Honorary Associate Degree Recipient

Thursday, April 26
Colby Community College
CCC Student Union, Room 108
Beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Join us as we honor Don Kready for his commitment to Colby, Colby Community College and the citizens of northwest Kansas.