

**Weather Corner**



**Tonight...**Partly cloudy. Lows around 19. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the southwest after midnight.

**Tuesday...**Mostly sunny. Not as cool. Highs in the upper 50s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Tuesday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows around 16. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Wednesday...**Partly sunny. Much colder. Highs in the mid 20s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Wednesday night...**Mostly cloudy. Lows around 18.

**Thursday...**Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light rain or light snow. Highs in the mid 30s.

**Thursday night...**Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light snow. Lows in the lower 20s.

**Friday and Friday night...**Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. Lows in the mid 20s.

**Saturday and Saturday night...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of light rain and light snow. Highs in the mid 40s. Lows in the lower 20s.

**Sunday . . .** Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 40s.

Sunday's low, high: 19, 40.  
Saturday's low, high: 25, 56.  
Friday's low, high: 19, 46.

# Ceremony celebrates girl's stage in life

By Linda Schneider  
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All Hispanic girls look forward to this day. For most, their parents have been planning the day since their birth. It is the "Quinceanera," the coming out party for a 15-year-old girl.

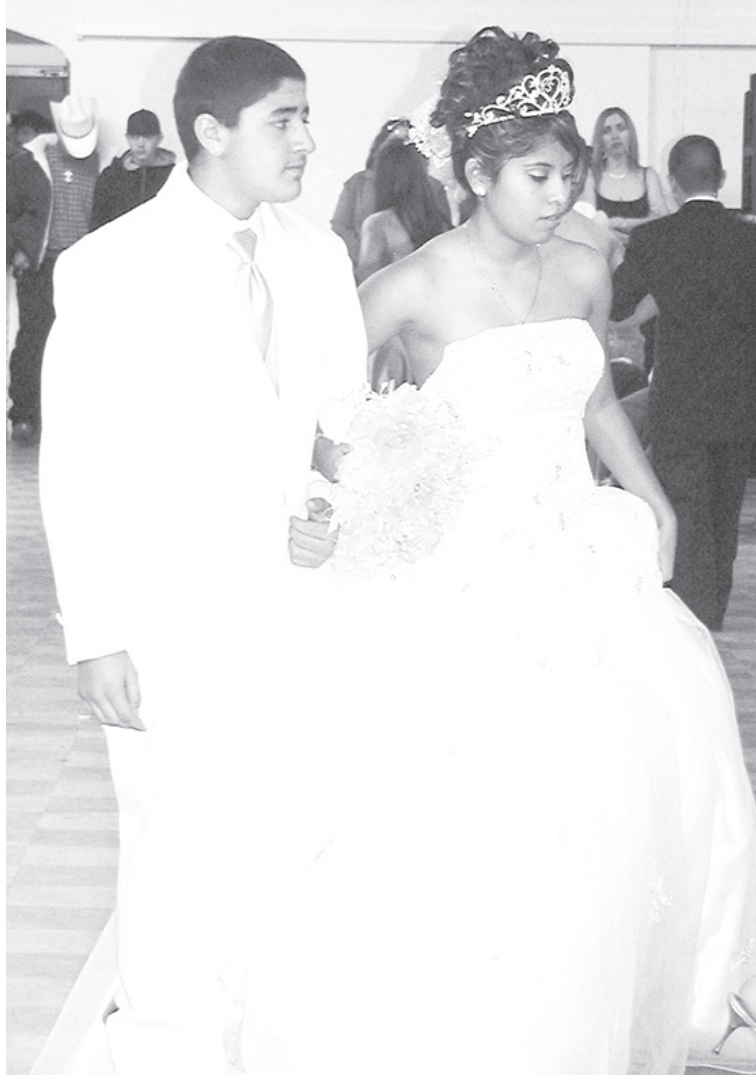
The Quinceanera is a ceremony that the Hispanic community brings from Mexico to the United States which celebrates a young girl's journey from childhood to maturity. On Saturday, friends and family were invited to celebrate the transition with Cintia Navarro and her family in Bird City.

In the weeks before her party, there were many preparations. While most of the planning was done by Cintia's parents, Ramon and Maxima Navarro, many relatives were earnestly involved with providing special gifts, helping with food preparations, and helping with expenses.

The Quinceanera celebration starts with a Catholic Mass and ends with a dance. Nevertheless, it is more than a celebration; it is traditional and every gift she receives will have some way of saying she is turning 15 and is no longer a child.

The Catholic Mass was the renewal of her baptismal and confirmation. The priest blessed her forthcoming adult life which included the continuation of her dedication to the church. Following mass, Cintia and her court went to the American Legion hall for the reception and dance.

Cintia chose her court from her closest friends and consists of seven young girls called damas



Cintia Navarro and Joe Aquirre left the dance floor to join the guests and continue with the festivities. Navarro was celebrating her Quinceanera, her 15th birthday.

BIRD CITY TIMES/Linda Schneider

and six young men called chabamlán, and Joe Aquirre, her escort was dressed in a white suit. In-

cluding Cintia, there were 15 in the group and they were all dressed elegantly in evening dresses and

suits with ties.

After the dinner, the celebration continued with members of her family giving her items to represent her passage to maturity. There was a necklace given to her by her Uncle and Aunt Aguirre; a tiara; a ring to symbolize the circle of life given to her by her Uncle and Aunt Ramirez; a doll to represent the last of the things of a child; and the changing of the shoes.

The ceremony of the changing of the shoes was done by her father, Señor Navarro, and he changes her flat shoes to her first high heels. This tradition has changed over the years, since young girls are wearing heels sooner; but its symbolism was still part of the ceremony.

After all the gifts were given and shoes changed, Cintia and her court danced a waltz called "Mariposas," which means "Butterflies." The first dance was reserved for

her father, then her escort, then all the young men in her court. After her first dance, Cintia left the floor and the rest of the night was filled with music from a live band and much dancing.

During the evening she was called, Quinceanera Cintia Yanet Navarro. However, after the party she will be addressed as Señorita Cintia Yanet Navarro.

"I feel a little different right now, but I expect to feel more different from now on," said Cintia. Her mother, Señora Navarro, will continue to have talks with her daughter about purity, marriage and children.

Señorita Navarro expects to be more concerned with growing into a mature woman of strength and letting go her childhood games, and she carries with her the gifts to remind her of the day she made that transition.

## Goodland School Board to have garage sale

By Pat Schiefen  
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The Goodland School Board decided Monday to do some housecleaning and sell stored items the district no longer uses, ranging from football jerseys to pianos.

Members agreed to ask the site councils at each school to help put on a districtwide garage sale for a share of the money in either April or May, depending on the weather.

"Little kids might want the jerseys," said Superintendent Shelly Angelos.

She said they need the storage space for seasonal articles now kept on the elementary school stages. The fire marshal is always wanting them to thin things down, she said.

Angelos asked the board if it was all right for the Northwest Kansas Technical College to set up a display in the lobby during parent-teacher conferences at

Grant Junior High. She said the school wants to let the students know about options for career training.

The board thought it would be okay.

North Elementary Principal Jim Mull said the kindergarten screening will be Tuesday and Wednesday at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church. He said expects next year's kindergarten to be between 55 and 60.

"We have had a pretty good response," Mull said. "We plan to call parents of prospective students if they haven't made appointments for the screening."

Board President Dick Short said that the technical college was planning to start on its roof repairs.

He said the college had been talking to a vocational school in Liberal about a merger, but the college here decided there were too many differences between the two schools for it to work.

## Kansas can't avoid national carbon debate

TOPEKA (AP) — Some might shy away from it, but Kansas legislators can't avoid the national debate over global warming and greenhouse gas emissions.

Leaders of the Republican majorities in both houses want to guarantee that Sunflower Electric Power Corp. can build two coal-fired power plants in southwest Kansas. The Senate passed a bill last week, and the House expects to take final action on its own measure Tuesday.

The \$3.6 billion project has been blocked by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' administration, but some fellow Democrats have broken with her. The Senate's bill passed with a strong, bipartisan majority and supporters of Sunflower's project are hoping for the same in the House.

But Kansans aren't the only participants. Officials from other states, national environmental groups and even Americans for Tax Reform have weighed in. Congressman Henry Waxman, a California Democrat who is chairman of an oversight committee, singled out Sunflower's project for criticism. State senators contemplated how many coal-fired plants will be built in China as they debated their bill.

"I think lots of people are watching nationally," said Rep. Tom Sloan, a Lawrence Republican who serves on the House Energy and Utilities Committee. "Kansas has become a poster child for both sides. I mean, somehow, the fate of the country and the fate of the world seems to be residing in Kansas."

Legislators generally have avoided such grand assessments to focus on the perceived benefits of the project to the state's economy

or its perceived detriments to the state's environment.

But the debate never was destined to stay within the state's borders.

To some critics, the project seems oversized. It and a sister utility, Midwest Energy Inc., both based in Hays, serve about 500,000 customers. Sunflower's plans call for two, 700-megawatt coal-fired plants outside Holcomb, in Finney County, and the 1,400 megawatts of new generating capacity could meet the peak demands of 700,000 households, according to one state estimate.

It's a project of regional interest. Sunflower is partners with two other cooperatives, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Inc. of Westminster, Colo., and Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, in Amarillo, Texas. They'd initially claim most of the new generating capacity.

Spokesman Lee Boughie said with power demands rising in Tri-State's service territories, the company has no generating capacity on the eastern side of the Rockies. Even if Sunflower builds its plants, Tri-State may have to build its own, just north of U.S. 50, about four miles west of the Kansas border.

"The baseload power that keeps the lights on, 24 hours a day, in eastern Colorado, is largely coming from the western slope of Colorado or Wyoming," he said. "Our system is out of balance."

The size of Sunflower's project also grabbed the attention of national groups like the Sierra Club, Environmental Defense and Earthjustice, even though dozens of new coal-plants have been planned by utilities. Also, the attorneys general of California,

New York and six other states told Kansas officials that approving the plants would undercut their states' efforts to control greenhouse gas emissions.

National environmental groups cheered when Rod Bremby, secretary of health and environment, denied an air quality permit for Sunflower in October, citing concerns about the plants' potential CO2 emissions.

They continued to watch for the Legislature's response. The leader of the Sierra Club's national anti-coal campaign suggested that legislation earlier this year would make Kansas "the ashtray of the Midwest."

When legislators started talking about imposing the state's first rules on CO2, along with a carbon tax for utilities that didn't comply, Grover Norquist, Americans for

Tax Reform's president, came to testify in opposition.

Those CO2 rules would have made Kansas among a handful of states attempting to impose emissions standards in the absence of federal rules. Some legislators were nervous, and both the House and Senate utilities committees rejected the idea.

"Let's leave this alone at this time," Rep. Forrest Knox, an Altoona Republican, said during the House committee's debate.

Waxman jumped into the debate last week with a letter to federal officials who guarantee loans to rural electric cooperatives and whose approval Sunflower obtained to take on additional debt. He described Sunflower's project as risky and demanded to know whether those officials had studied the risks.

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