

Weather Corner



Tonight...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the upper 50s. North winds 10 to 15 mph in the evening becoming light.

Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s. Northeast winds around 10 mph shifting to the east in the afternoon. Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 15 to 20 mph. Gusts up to 30 mph in the afternoon. Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

Thursday and Thursday night...Mostly cloudy. Breezy. A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s. Lows around 60.

Friday...Partly sunny. Breezy. A slight chance of thunderstorms in the morning...Then a chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 80s. Chance of thunderstorms 40 percent. Friday night...Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. Sunday's low, high: 51, 92. Saturday's low, high: 42, 81. Friday's low, high: 45, 75.



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

All in good fun, Colby High senior Ethan Stover and several of his classmates cut loose near the end of Sunday's graduation ceremony at the Colby Community Building by popping balloons, shooting party streamers and blowing water bubbles.

Oberlin priest praying for family hit by storm

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Father Henry Saw Lone stands at the altar of Sacred Heart Church in Oberlin and prays for his family in Myanmar.

He prays for their welfare without knowing if they are homeless, sick, hungry or even alive in the the Far East nation, the former British colony of Burma.

Father Saw Lone is from Karen, one of four states hardest hit in the early morning hours of May 3 by Cyclone Nargis, a category 4 hurricane packing winds of 120 mph. The priest has been in Oberlin, ministering to the Catholic parishes here and in Leoville and Selden since July 2006. The three years before that, he served at the cathedral in Salina. He was ordained a priest in Myanmar in 1994.

In Norton, Father Vincent Thu Laing of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church also prays for his family, but with the assurance that they are safe.

Father Thu Laing is from the Delta area, one of the hardest hit sections of the country, but while there has been damage to his parents' and brothers' and sisters' homes and property, everyone is fine, he said, during an interview Monday.

News from Myanmar has been sketchy, but it is believed that more than 10,000 people are dead and another 100,000 missing.

The military junta which runs the country has been reluctant to allow foreign aid workers in. At first, according to news reports, the government seized all aid, saying that it would distribute the supplies. However in the last few days, with pressure from the United Nations, help is slowly flowing into the mostly rural, agrarian country.

Father Saw Lone said that he occasionally talks to his family on the telephone but that with electrical power out and outside journalists mostly banned from the county, it is impossible to find out

what's happening.

Both his parents are dead, he said, but as of Sunday, there was no word from his two sisters, brother, 15 nieces and nephews and numerous aunts and uncles.

He says he has been listening to the British Broadcasting Corp. broadcasts and surfing the Internet for news on the area, which is mostly rural.

His sister Bernedetta is a teacher and her husband is a rice farmer, he said. His sister Angela is a housewife and her husband is unemployed. His brother Johnny runs an oriental version of a convenience store out of his home.

Father Saw Lone said that his oldest niece is in college and wants to become a Catholic nun. The youngest of his nieces and nephews are about 3.

Even before the cyclone, he said, it was hard to write to them because it takes months for letters

to get through and any presents such as clothing or food items just never show up.

"It's just very hard," he said.

Anything sent to his family has to go with someone traveling to Burma.

Five Burmese priests serve churches in the Salina Diocese, said Arvilla Juenemann, parish administrator for Leoville and Selden. To help them and other foreign-born priests and their families, the parishioners in Leoville have set up an international fund. This money is available to help in Burma as soon as Bishop Paul Coakley decides how best it can be delivered, she said.

Anyone wanting to help can send a donation to Immaculate Conception Parish, Box 57, Selden, Kan., 67757. Donations should be marked as for the International Fun, Mrs. Juenemann said.

Graduate wrecks car

By Jan Katz Ackerman
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A Hoxie teen received minor injuries when he wrecked his car the morning following his high school graduation.

Quinn Aumiller, 18, was west-bound seven miles east of Colby on U. S. Highway 24 at 2:30 a.m. Sunday, May 11 when he lost control of the 2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee he was driving.

"He went into a southbound ditch, hit a field entrance, became airborne and came to rest in the south ditch," Undersheriff Allen Marcum said Tuesday afternoon.

Aumiller graduated from Hoxie High School May 10. Marcum said it is not known whether Aumiller was wearing his seat belt at the time of the accident.

"(Aumiller) received a cut on the bridge of his nose," Marcum said. "He was treated at Citizens Medical Center and released."

Aumiller was cited with three offenses.

"We have recommended to the Thomas County Attorney (Andrea Wyrick) the charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, transporting an open container and minor in possession," Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn said.

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Cowboy high school tennis programs end

By Pat Schiefen
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The Goodland School Board voted 4-2 to discontinue the girls and boys tennis program for the 2009-10 school year.

Board members Dick Short and John Hendrich voted against the action.

The board did continue tennis for next year as events were already scheduled in the fall and some in the spring. The reason for the suggestion to discontinue of

tennis was due to low participation numbers, said Superintendent Shelley Angelos. In the fall of 2003, 13 girls were out for tennis and last fall seven were out. Eight boys were out in the spring of 2004 and four were out this spring.

The board decided to look at individual sports as they ended their seasons next year.

Limiting the number of sports might make the other more competitive, said board member Chuck Wilkens.

Goodland studies future

By Pat Schiefen
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A task force studying Goodland School District buildings recommended closing all but two or three of the existing schools, or even building a single new school to serve the county.

"USD 352 needs to operate with fewer buildings," said spokesman Stan Cebula, a Sherman County farmer.

The group recommended closing and selling the junior high and

one grade school, at the least.

Without estimates of costs, he said, the group could only make suggestions, adding that another panel might tackle how much each alternative would cost. Those included:

- Building a new "K-12" school or expanding the current high school to house all grades.

- Building on to North Elementary, where there is room to expand, to handle kindergarten to sixth grade and to the high school to handle seventh to 12th.

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Please call 785.694.2236 or visit the school web page at usd314.k12.ks.us for more information. Enrollment will be held in August. Watch this newspaper for more information.

DAWGS

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