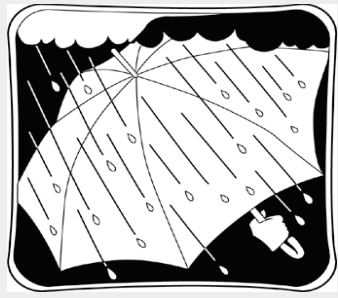


Weather Corner



Tonight... Mostly cloudy. Warmer...Breezy. Isolated thunderstorms after midnight. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows in the mid 50s. South winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Thursday... Partly sunny. Warmer...Breezy. A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 15 to 25 mph.

Thursday night... Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows around 60. South winds 15 to 25 mph shifting to the southwest 10 to 15 mph after midnight.

Friday... Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s. Northwest winds around 10 mph shifting to the north in the afternoon.

Friday night... Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s. Northeast winds around 10 mph.

Saturday... Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 80s.

Saturday night... Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s.

Sunday and Sunday night... Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms.

More than 130 receive degrees from Tech College

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland-Star News
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A sea of blue caps and gowns filled the Max Jones Fieldhouse on Friday as more than 130 students received associate degrees or technical certificates at the Northwest Kansas Technical College graduation.

Toby Hill of Joes, Colo., who graduated with an Associate in Applied Science degree from the carpentry department, was named Student of the Year.

Candidates from other departments were Anthony Banman of Ulysses, automotive technology; Heather Simmons of Las Animas, Colo., business technology; Freddy Resendiz Sanchez of Garden City, collision repair; Jesse Miller of Selden, communications technology; Tyler Biernacki of La Crosse, computer graphics technology; Laura Berning of Leoti, cosmetology; Dirk Vapenik of Wauneta, diesel technology; Nathan Simmons of La Junta, Colo., electrical technology; Clinton Hansen of Phillipsburg, electronics and computer technology; Matthew Isley of LaCrosse, engineering technology; Francisco A. "Tony" Escarcega of Ingalls, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration; Tonya Knapp of Bird City, medical assistant; Matthew Nothnagel of McCook, Neb., telecommunications network analyst; and Larry Dwain Dent of Wiley, Colo., welding.

Graduates who earned membership in the National Technical Honor Society are Cynthia Salmons and Heather Simmons, busi-



SHARON CORCORAN/The Goodland Star-News
Jaelynn Andrews of Colby was joined by her son Deagan, 3, as she left the Northwest Kansas Technical College graduation Friday. She graduated from the medical assistant program.

ness technology; Jeremy Steimel, Miguel Hernandez and Nathan Simmons, electrical technology; Skylor Flaska, Jonathan Hawkins and Isley, engineering technology;

Mindy Cooper, Sharon Lander and Lillian Sigala-Medina, medical assistant; Nothnagel; and Dent.

Governor criticized for controversial photos

TOPEKA (AP)- Gov. Kathleen Sebelius was put on the defensive Wednesday by the release of photos showing her shaking hands with abortion provider Dr. George Tiller during an event last year at her official residence.

The anti-abortion group Operation Rescue, which published the photos on its Web site, called the April 9, 2007 event a "lavish secret party" for Tiller, his staff and several other abortion providers. But Sebelius' office said the doctor made the highest bid at a political group's fundraising auction to win the right to have the reception at Cedar Crest.

Tiller was under investigation by the attorney general's office at the time over allegations that his Wichita clinic had performed illegal late-term abortions. He now faces 19 related misdemeanor charges.

Sebelius has positioned herself successfully as a Democratic moderate in a Republican state and has been mentioned as a potential running mate for Barack Obama, the party's likely presidential nominee.

She's also been a strong supporter of abortion rights and has repeatedly vetoed legislation sought by anti-abortion groups.

Earlier this month, the Roman Catholic archbishop for northeast Kansas publicly called on the governor, who is Catholic, to refrain from Communion until she repudiates her stance and past actions.

She immediately drew criticism over the reception. House Speaker

Melvin Neufeld, an Ingalls Republican who opposes abortion, called the event "unacceptable," and state GOP Chairman Kris Kobach, labeled it "disgraceful."

"Sebelius has sunk to a new low," Kobach said.

Operation Rescue published 13 photos from the event on its Web site.

President Troy Newman said the group obtained them from someone who attended, whom he declined to identify.

Six photos show Sebelius standing next to a person identified as Tiller, and two of those photos show them shaking hands. Sebelius spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran later confirmed that it was Tiller and that the reception had occurred.

Three photos show Sebelius holding a red T-shirt commemorating a "Trifecta 2006," referring to her re-election that year and the election of a Democratic lieutenant governor and attorney general.

Corcoran said the reception had been offered as a prize at an earlier fundraising auction for the Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus.

"Governor Sebelius donates auction items like a dinner or reception to organizations whose causes she supports," Corcoran said.

"We do not control who purchases it."

Newman and other abortion opponents scoffed at the explanation because the women's caucus ad-

vocates electing women who support abortion rights.

A telephone message left at the women's caucus offices in Kansas City, Mo., was not returned. An attorney for Tiller declined comment, and Julie Burkhart, the chief executive officer of ProKanDo, an abortion rights political action committee Tiller formed in 2002, did not return telephone messages.

Tiller is among a few U.S. physicians who performs late-term abortions, and abortion opponents protest regularly outside his clinic.

State ethics commission data shows Sebelius received \$12,450 from Tiller, his wife or his medical practice from April 1994 through September 2001, when she was running for and serving as insurance commissioner.

The last contribution came while she also was raising money for a potential run for governor in 2002 but before she'd officially kicked off her campaign. She's not received any contributions directly from Tiller or ProKanDo since then.

In late June 2007 — less than three months after reception at the governor's residence — the attorney general's office filed the misdemeanor charges against Tiller in

Sedgwick County.

Those charges allege Tiller failed to obtain a second opinion for some late-term abortions from an independent physician, as required by state law. Many abortion opponents believe he should face more serious charges.

"Now we have the photographic evidence that there is an extremely close relationship between the governor and the abortion industry in Kansas," Newman said.

Rumors about an event for Tiller and his staff at Cedar Crest have circulated among abortion opponents for weeks. Conservative commentator Robert Novak said in his Monday column that Sebelius had invited Tiller and his staff to a party at the residence, labeling her "the national pro-choice poster girl."

In April, a year after the event, Operation Rescue filed open records requests with the governor's office, seeking documents about any events at which meals were served at Cedar Crest in March and April 2007.

Earlier this month, The Associated Press requested copies of the governor's schedule and a schedule of events at Cedar Crest, as well as any e-mails between Sebelius and several staff members and Tiller or Burkhart.

State hit hard by twisters

WICHITA (AP)- Nearly 90 tornadoes were reported in Kansas as of Monday, in a rough weather week that also included storms with large hail and record rainfall.

"It's been kind of overwhelming," said Larry Ruthi, meteorologist in charge of the Dodge City branch of the National Weather Service. "On Friday evening, we had five (large tornadoes) on the ground at the same time. ... It's pretty amazing."

Four people are believed to have died and several more were reported injured in the storms, officials said.

"We just had a constant barrage of storms, firing up along

all these different boundaries," said Chance Hayes, warning coordination meteorologist at the Wichita branch of the National Weather Service. "Typically this time of year they're going to move through pretty quickly. But we just had one round after another."

On Wednesday, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius declared an emergency in 62 counties affected by the storms that began May 22.

According to preliminary data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Storm Prediction Center, 87 tornadoes were reported in Kansas on Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

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	5pm	Kids Stick Horse Rodeo - Trade Show
	8pm	Rodeo
	10pm	Dance: Powder River Band
June 8	10:45am	Cowboy Church Service
	12:30pm	Kids Stick Horse Rodeo - Trade Show
	2pm	Rodeo

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11:30 a.m. Basketball Free Throw Contest (gr. 3, 4, 5 and gr. 6, 7, 8)
1:00 p.m. Kiddie Tractor Pull (ages 5-6, 7-8, 9-10)

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