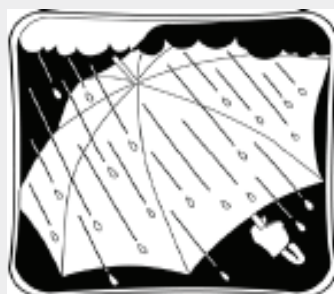


Weather Corner



Tonight: Partly cloudy with patchy fog expected. Lows in the 50s and humidity 95 percent. Winds will be south at 10 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny and patchy fog. Highs in the upper 70s with winds from the south at 10 to 20 mph.

Tuesday night: Clear with lows in the upper 50s and winds from the south at 10-15 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny and breezy with highs in the low 80s and winds from the south at 10 to 20 mph. Later in the day, winds are expected to increase to 25 to 30 mph.

Wednesday night: Mostly cloudy with lows in the 60s.

The extended forecast for Thursday through Saturday is for highs in the low 80s, mostly cloudy, and light winds.

The Average Water Usage for Friday, Saturday and Sunday: 1,721,000 gallons

Three consecutive days over 3.5 million gallons will mean a water watch;

Three consecutive days over 4.0 million gallons will mean a water warning and possible restrictions;

Three consecutive days over 4.5 million gallons will be a water emergency and require restrictions in watering.

Current temperatures are available by calling (785) 460-8367.

Coffeyville kindergarten class held in nursing home

COFFEYVILLE (AP) — A new kindergarten classroom in southeastern Kansas will be located inside a nursing home.

The classes in the Coffeyville school district will start Aug. 25 at Windsor Place nursing home as part of a program called Age to Age.

State and local officials attended a ceremony on Friday marking of the program. The class space was colored brightly and made where three residential rooms were previously located.

Officials said the children could help with the home's biggest challenges of boredom, loneliness and helplessness of the residents.

The home will lose an estimated \$300,000 in annual income

by removing the three residential rooms, but officials said the company is committed to quality not quantity.

Sherri Chittum, who will be teaching the 20 children whose families volunteered to participate in the program along with a teachers aide, said there are already planned activities scheduled between the kindergartners and the residents.

School board president Helen Ellerman said the school district has already had programs in conjunction with the nursing home and the classroom.

Gayle Doll, from Kansas State University, said she will be conducting a yearlong study of the program to see if it really does have a positive effect on the residents.

If so, she said they hope to replicate it in other communities.

District Superintendent Robert Morton is working with Wichita State University on a similar study to determine the impact on the kindergarten students.

A similar program in Jenks, Okla., provided the original inspiration for Coffeyville's program.

Kansas Board of Education member Jana Shaver said one of the board's goals is for good school-community connection and the Age to Age program is a perfect example of such a connection.

Budget problems continuing

TOPEKA (AP) — The state's looming budget problems are giving an unsettling edge to what educators recently described as positive news about Kansas' public schools.

One report to the State Board of Education last week said graduating Kansas high school seniors keep scoring better than the national average on the ACT college entrance exam. Another one said 94 percent of Kansas school districts and the state's poorest schools saw sufficient improvement in student scores on standardized reading and math tests.

The federal No Child Left Behind law requires all students to be proficient in reading and math by 2014, and the targets for sufficient progress keep rising.

Educators argue schools aren't slipping even as the rules become tougher.

But the state also has pumped a lot of new money into those schools in the past four years. Its aid for the current school is 39 percent higher than it was during the 2004-05 school year.

That's where heartburn arises. The national economic slump has caught up with Kansas, and legislative leaders anticipate tough budget decisions next year. They could be forced to rethink commitments on school funding.

"The resources that have been put in have made all the difference in the world," Education Commissioner Alexs Posny said. "We would not be where we're at."

Aid to public schools, the most expensive item in the budget, amounts to \$3.2 billion during the current school year, or \$892 million more than the state spent four years ago.

The Kansas Supreme Court forced the increases with rulings in a lawsuit filed by parents and administrators in the Dodge City and Salina school districts.

The court said the state wasn't providing a suitable education for all children, something required by its constitution.

Of course, there's still a debate over whether reports like the ones last week vindicate the position of the lawsuit's plaintiffs. Some skeptics wonder whether, with so much new money going into public schools, taxpayers have a right to expect dramatic improvements, not just a lack of backsliding.

"I'm sure we're disappointed the results aren't more dramatic," said House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, an Ingalls Republican.

"We're looking for dramatic increases, because of what we've already spent, in the future because the system should start producing a better product over time."

Colby artists met this month

By Marj Brown

High Plains Art Club

When the members of Colby's High Plains Art Club met at my home for their annual salad luncheon on Tuesday, Aug. 12, they had "gone green." Each person brought something they made from recycled materials. The display consisted of: a bird house made from a plastic jug; an old back brush converted to a lotion applicator; an old saw blade with a pheasant painted on it; a candle holder fashioned from the glass light bulb covers from a discarded ceiling fan; a "Gone to Wall-Mart" sign painted on an old piece of wood; a cane made from a tree limb; and another bird house made from a woman's old straw hat. Visitors at the luncheon were artist, John Scott of Hoxie and Rosanne Dougherty from Colby's Prairie Museum of Art and History.

John Scott was there to discuss the plans for his, "Portraits in Oil Workshop," to be sponsored by the High Plains Art Club on February 20 and 21 at the Colby Community Building. Rosanne Dougherty discussed the Prairie Museum's, "Sunflower Art Affair," to be held on Saturday, Sept. 20.

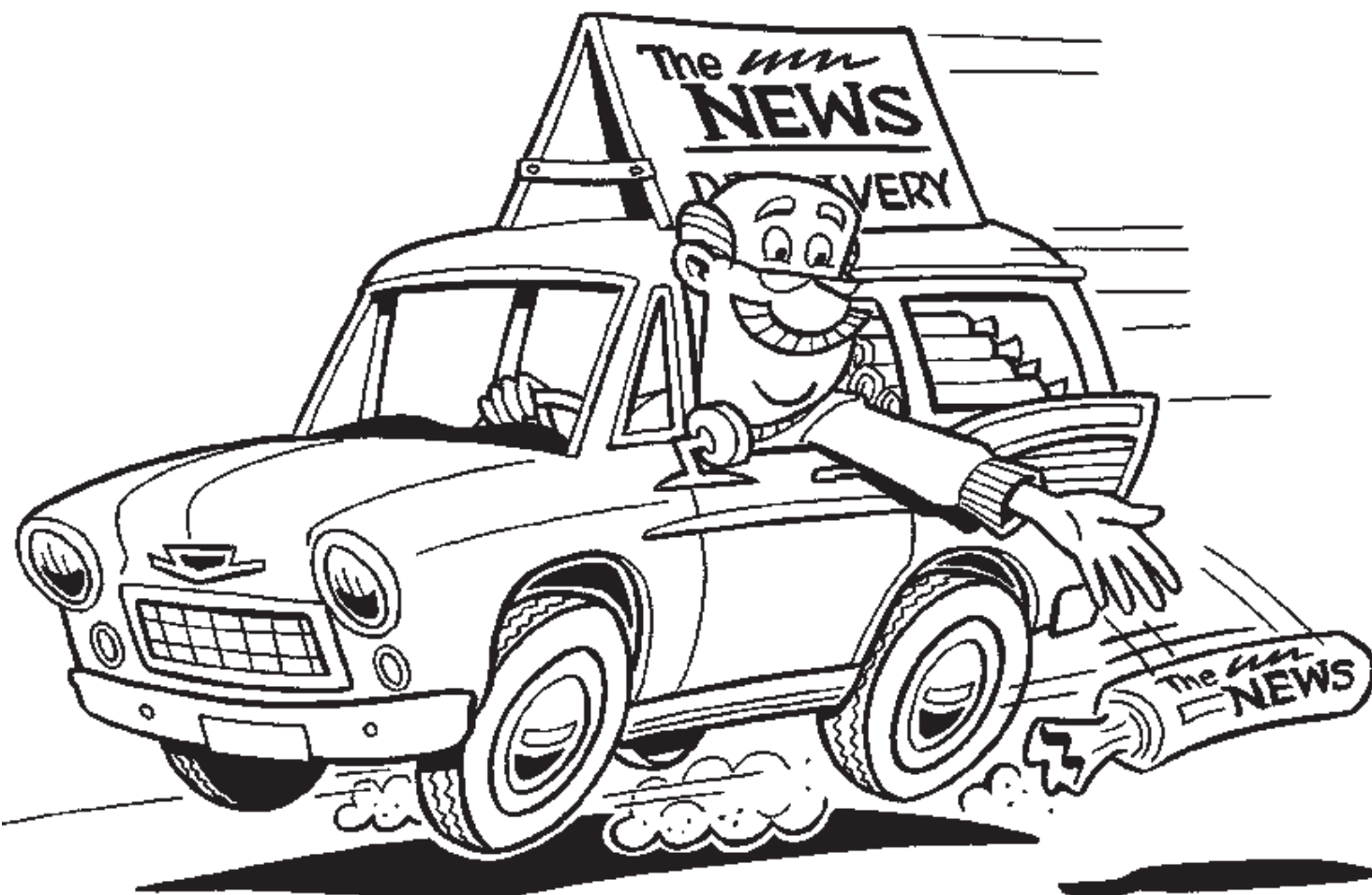
She said this year's program will be more of a craft day and that she had already lined up some very outstanding craft instructors for the event. She mentioned a "Scherenschnitte" workshop to be instructed by Peg Frahm. This is a type of paper cutting craft. Art club president, Marlene Carpenter, will be there to teach paper gift-box decorating, and Rosanne hopes also to have someone teach gourd painting, and Batik art. The price of these workshops will depend on the cost of supplies.

From Sept. 1 to Oct. 16, the museum will feature a traveling exhibit of the work by members of the Kansas Art Quilters, an organization of quilt artists and other interested persons who are closely associated with the art quilt community.

This will be a collection of colorful quilt fabric and fiber creations.

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