

Weather
Corner

National Weather Service

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 16. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Thursday: A 50 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 27. Northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Thursday Night: A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 14. East wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 39. Breezy, with a south wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 23.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 56.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26.

Monday: High, 45; Low 22
Tuesday: High, 78; Low 23
Precip: Monday 0.00 inches
Tuesday 0.00 inches
Month: 0.00 inches
Year: 20.62 inches
Normal: 20.34 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Golden Plains scholars compete

MEGAN ZODROW

The Golden Plains junior varsity scholar bowl team placed fifth at the Wheatland/Grinnell meet on November 24 in Grainfield. pictured are Randi Cressler, Trey Schwarz and Lucas Phillips. Avery Spresser, Megan Zodrow and Viri Beltran competed but are not pictured.

Orchestra concert
scheduled for Sunday

The Pride of the Plains Orchestra will begin its year of performances at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, with a “Celebrating the Season” concert in the Frahm Theatre at Colby Community College.

The orchestra will open with “Overture Chorale Prelude” and “Concerto Grosso,” followed by “Christmas at the Movies.” There will also be “Silent Night,” “Sleigh Ride,” “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” and a traditional Christmas sing along.

Directing this year’s performance is Burlington High School Band Director Andrew Salvador.

Admission will be by Friends of the Orchestra membership or tickets are available at the door for \$6 for adults and \$3 for seniors and children up to 12.

Christmas cookies will be served.

Orchestra members for the concert will be Donna Engel; Kathy Spencer; Mary Beth, Kendra and Josiah Akens; Megan and Kristi Gay; Mary Beth Myers; Jan Wolf; Andrew Peterson; David Younger; Haley Kistler; Sharon Kriss; Leona Dickman; Chelle Shoemaker; Danielle Pettibone; Birkley Barnes; Eileen Jones; Nathaniel Ekberg; Carol McGuire; Rianna Melton; Leanna Larmer; Bruce Frahm; Bob Kelly; Jonathan Bosserman; Steve Golden; and Mary Shoaff.

Booking Log

Booked into the Thomas County jail:

- Amanda Renee Hoover, 22, Colby, Nov. 26, expired registration, no proof of insurance, driving while suspended, Gove County Sheriff, released same day on notice to appear.
- Mark Alan Roberts, 49, Ellis, Nov. 28, transporting open container, Thomas County Sheriff, released same day on notice to appear.

Water bill may go to landowners

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change this reality,” Confer wrote in his brief.

To support their case, the landowners cited comments made by Sen. LeRoy Loudon of Ellsworth, chairman of the legislative committee that helped pass the law.

The law, Loudon said in 2007, “was strictly focused and drafted ... to solve the problems that are going on in the Republican River area.”

Attorneys for the landowners also refer to comments made by David Cookson with the Attorney General’s office that “no Legislature in its right mind would ever enter into a compact again in this day and age.”

The money from property taxes assessed under the law was to be spent on measures to help the state comply with the water-use compact, including buying water from farmers to send to Kansas via the Republican River.

The law passed in 2007 at the same time Kansas officials were complaining of Nebraska’s overuse of Republican River water and lack of a plan to comply with the three-state compact in the future. Colorado is also part of the Republican River compact.

In 2005 and 2006, Nebraska used billions of gallons more than allowed under the compact, prompting Kansas to demand more than \$72 million and the shutdown of wells that irrigate nearly half of the 1.2 million acres in Nebraska’s portion of the river basin.

The two states failed to resolve the dispute, and the issue is now in arbitration. If that fails, Kansas officials have said they would take it back to the U.S. Supreme Court, which issued a decree in 2003 that governs use of Republican River water.

Should the Nebraska Supreme Court reverse the lower court’s ruling that LB701 gave special, unconstitutional privileges to the Republican basin NRD’s, the property tax authority could still be in jeopardy.

A lawsuit filed recently poses another threat to the 2007 water law. It argues that another tax authorized by the law — a per-acre tax on irrigated land — is unconstitutional.

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