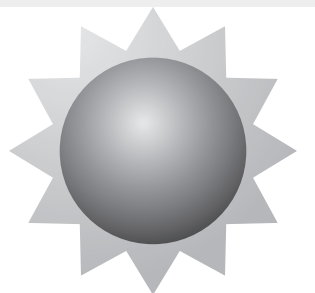


Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Scattered flurries before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 14. South wind around 10 mph becoming west.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 52. West wind around 10 mph.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49. Breezy, with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 21.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 52.
Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 23.
M.L.King Day: Sunny, with a high near 57.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 24.
Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 60.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 25.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 56.
Wednesday: High, 39; Low 08
 Precip: Wed. 0.09 inches
 Month: 0.09 inches
 Year: 0.09 inches
 Normal: 0.48 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)

Cowgirl gives up crown

From "RODEO," Page 1

Church. She said she enjoyed the sermons by Pastor Jerry Vincent.

"His sermons were always straightforward and easy to apply to real life," she said.

She graduated from Colby Community College in 2007 with an Associate of Science degree in agribusiness and an Associate of Arts in communications.

Wilson said she enjoys riding and training horses, raising registered Welsh Corgi puppies, basketball and all kinds of farm and ranch work.

She was crowned Miss Rodeo America on Dec. 8, 2007, in Las Vegas. There were contestants from 27 states in the pageant, she said.

The first event she attended as queen was the Wrangler National Rodeo in Las Vegas.

"It's the Super Bowl of rodeos," said Wilson, adding that she carried the Wrangler flag in the opening ceremony every night.

The national event features 15 contests that each go 10 rounds, she said, with a sellout crowd each night. She presented each of the 15 world champions with a belt buckle.

She attended the Wrangler Nationals for the second time at the end of her term and got to watch her boyfriend, Justin McDaniel, become the world champion in bareback riding. The finals came down to the 15 best riders in the United States, Wilson said, and McDaniel was ranked 10th going into the event.

The life of a rodeo queen is busy; Wilson said she was only home for 25 days last year. She attended more than 100 rodeos.

But life on the road had its perks. Wilson has fond memories about visiting places such as Hawaii and Florida.

"In Florida, I got to see the ocean. I learned to boogie board and got to ride an alligator," she said, "and in Hawaii I was taught to surf and I got to swim with the dolphins."

While some places may stick out in her memory more than others,



Amy Wilson, Miss Rodeo America, smiled on her horse while carrying Old Glory at a rodeo in Bakersfield, Calif., last year.

Wilson said she had a great time on every trip.

"Everywhere I went became my new favorite place," she added.

But being a rodeo queen isn't all fun and games. Wilson had lots of responsibilities. She said her duties included riding in with the American flag at some events, helping out in rodeo competitions, meeting with sponsors and signing autographs.

She even got to compete in a special rodeo event. At a rodeo event in Abbeyville, Kan., Wilson got to compete in a special breakaway roping competition. She teamed up with a local junior rodeo cowgirl to take on two local high school girls. Wilson said her team won.

Wilson said another one of her responsibilities was to go to hospitals and nursing homes to take the sport to people the rodeo couldn't reach.

"I tried to educate them about the sport and its important western heritage," Wilson said.

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association came to Colby at the end of July last year. Wilson got a standing ovation when she was introduced to the hometown crowd.

"It was a very special moment," she said.

Now that she is no longer a queen, Wilson says she is ready to start competing at the rodeo again. She said her favorites are breakaway roping and barrel racing.

County workers get 4 percent raise

From "COUNTY," Page 1

Mahan; Local Emergency Management Committee chairman; Dr. Darren Matchell, coroner; and Larry Jumper, household hazardous waste collection and landfill supervisor.

Fair board members: Mark Anderson, Mark Bredmeier, Darell Dibble, Nancy Rundel, Bill Shields, Stan Strange, Dawnelle Umberger, Cynthia Bieberle, Tom Chain, Audrey Hines, Schrock, Brad Skolout and Kathy Wright.

McMahan asked all elected officials to attend a Homeland Security exercise conducted by the northwest regional director with the Kansas Department of Emergency Management on Tuesday, Jan. 27.

McMahan said the Emergency Operation Center is complete and all equipment is up and working. She said the 2008 Regional Council Grant from the Department of Homeland Security will be used to install news radios in the operations center, dispatch center and the transfer ambulance.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that Brewster marshal Mike Schultz has been in contact with former County Attorney Andrea Wyrick about fuel charges being made on credit cards. The owners are saying the use of their card was unauthorized and have refused to pay the costs. The fuel costs and the loss of fuel has been going back on the owner of the businesses, Harms said. Schultz

said he was disappointed the county attorney had not made any attempt to get back to him or offered any guidance and legal assistance.

- Asked Brent Merriman, who works for the sheriff's department, to look at the county attorney's electronic equipment, to record all serial and model numbers and give his opinion about what's worth keeping.

- Agreed that McMahan could hire Gary Walker as her assistant to be paid from the Emergency Management Performance Grant for up to 500 hours a year. If the grant is terminated, then job will no longer exist.

- Approved an agreement with Development Services of Northwest Kansas based in Hays.

- Named Ray T. (Jack) Duncan as Kingery Township treasurer for a four-year term. He replaced Jon Starns, who resigned effective Jan. 5.

- Agreed that Commissioners Byron Sowers, Ken Christiansen and Paul Steele and Harms will attend a Collaborative Wind Energy meeting on Wednesday in Oakley.

- Approved a \$68,000 proposal with R&S Digital Services for Geographical Information System training and mapping services.

- Approved a grant application to the Kansas Department of Transportation to extend the public transportation assistance project from July 1 to June 30, 2010. The project will include a new 13-passenger mini-bus.

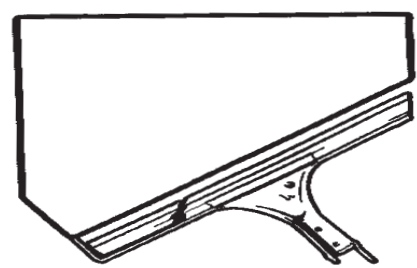
Shower, cards asked for 90th

The family of Genevive Keller will honor her with an open house and card shower on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009, for her 90th birthday.

The event will be from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Colby Care Center, 105 E. College Drive.

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