

Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 61. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 78. Southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 95. Calm wind becoming south between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 65.

Monday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 97.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 65.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 96.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 65.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 93.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 93.

Thursday: High, 90; Low 62
Precip: Thursday 0.00 inches
Month: 3.16 inches
Year: 13.31 inches
Normal: 9.94 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise Saturday 6:17 a.m.
Sunset Saturday 9:14 p.m.
Sunrise Sunday 6:18 a.m.
Sunset Sunday 9:15 p.m.
Sunrise Monday 6:18 a.m.
Sunset Monday 9:15 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

It's the NUMBER ONE cancer killer.

NO MORE EXCUSES. NO MORE LUNG CANCER.

lungcanceralliance.org

Dropping water table causes concern among experts

From "WATER," Page 1

Eventually, the state all but stopped giving out new well permits.

"Development was stopped in 1984 or 1985," he said, "and in 97 percent of the district there are no new water rights."

New acre feet have leveled out since 1986, and now the water supply is not declining as fast. An acre foot of water is equal to one acre of land being covered with a foot of water.

"The main issue in 1977 was to get the tailwater stopped," he said.

District 4, one of five in the state, covers all of Thomas, Sherman and Sheridan counties and parts of seven others: Decatur, Cheyenne,

Rawlins, Norton, Graham, Logan and Gove.

Bossert said the counties set hydrologic boundaries in 1976, and they had to have at least 50 feet of water in underground sources to manage. Since then, the district has seen good years and bad years.

In 1993, he said, there was plenty of rain, and the area experienced a 27-inch rise in the groundwater in Thomas County, and an 18-inch average over the entire district.

"When it rains and the wells don't pump," he said, "we see some recharge. It happened again in 1994, when we measured a foot-and-a-half increase."

Overall, though, the water table is still dropping. From 1996 to 2006, Bossert said, statistics show

an overall decline of four-tenths of a foot, and some areas show as much as a foot and a half. Now state officials would like to reduce the overall drain on the aquifer by buying some water rights and retiring them.

"There is a new program in the works to set aside water rights," Bossert said. "The program is a voluntary set-aside, and right now we have 10 wells that participate It will take big bucks and several years to finally set aside enough wells to save the groundwater."

All water users, including the cities and major industries, are members of the water district, he said, and Colby is an eligible voter in the district because it owns water rights. However, an over-

whelming 98 percent of the water pumped in the district is used for irrigation.

"We see some recharge that comes from snow, and rivers can also contribute, when it rains," Bossert said, "and even when it doesn't rain, there is some recharge."

Bossert said the area depends mostly on water from the Ogallala aquifer, which underlies most of the area.

"It is sort of like money in the bank," he said. "In 1940 we started out with a full account, and now we're starting to overdraw."

"We're fortunate we're not in a river basin, which is an alluvial water system," he said. "In an alluvial system, when the river basin loses water, the only solution

is to shut off wells."

In Colorado two years ago, 440 irrigation wells were shut off in May, because they were in an alluvial water system. Kansas officials demanded more water in the Platte River Basin, and Colorado had no other choice, but to shut down the wells. A similar dispute is occurring between Kansas and Nebraska with the Republican River water.

Even deep wells in the Ogallala can run dry, though, despite the district's best efforts.

"We have about 80 feet of water left in the district," Bossert said, "and I have heard it conjectured that it should be 100 feet. Right now, we have a 16 percent average depletion, but some areas are already history."

Farm Service taking county committee nominations now

Nominations for candidates for U.S. Farm Service Agency's county committee began Monday and continue through Monday, Aug. 3, with elections in the fall.

Acting State Director Jack Salava said he encourages all farmers to participate in the process

by nominating a candidate by the deadline.

To be eligible, a candidate must be part of a program administered by the agency, be eligible to vote in the county committee election, and live in the area where he or she is a candidate.

Farmers may nominate themselves, and organizations representing minorities and women can nominate candidates. Candidates have to sign a form, available at county offices, or on-line at www.fsa.usda.gov, then click on "newsroom," then "county committee

elections." These must be post-marked or received in the county office by close of business on Aug. 3.

County committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation, emergency, commodity price support loan and other agency programs. Members serve a three-year term.

Ballots will be mailed to farmers beginning Friday, Nov. 6. They are due back to the county office either via mail or in person by Friday, Dec. 7. Committee members and alternates take office Jan. 10.

For information, call the county office at (785) 462-7671.

Hoxie company offers green heating

Doug Holzmeister of Woofter Pump and Well Inc. in Hoxie has been accredited by the International Ground Source Heat Pump Association to install and maintain ground-source heat pump systems.

Installation trainees like Holzmeister learn about the design and installation of ground-source heat exchangers, which are the basis of the system. During the winter, water or an anti-freeze solution is circulated through buried pipes, collecting heat from the earth and bringing it back into the building. During

the summer, the system cools the building by reversing itself and collecting heat from the building and transporting it into the earth.

In addition to heating and cooling, ground-source systems also create free hot water in the summer and substantial hot water savings in the winter.

These systems are perfect for homes, apartment complexes, businesses, school and more, Holzmeister said.

Parasailing raises rural safety issues

From "SAFETY," Page 1

said there is no maintained and supervised four-wheeler or dirt-bike track in the county, so are also safety concerns with riders going fast or jumping.

Taylor said he encourages parents to keep a close eye on kids who are four-wheeling - and keep them off the county roads.

"Parents have the right to say

no," he added.

The department stops people riding four-wheelers on the roads, Taylor said. Any four-wheeler driving on any public road, even while simply crossing it, must be licensed and have proper headlights and turn signals. Riders must have permission from the landowner to operate four-wheelers on private property. Taylor said deputies find many repeat of-

fenders of these laws.

Taylor suggests that anyone on a four-wheeler, especially kids, needs to wear safety gear, make sure they have the landowner's permission and make sure they have a way to get to the area without driving on public roads. The same plan should apply to anyone riding dirt bikes, scooters or even skate boards, he said.

YOU RIGHTFULLY EARNED IT. NOW RIGHTFULLY KEEP IT.

Looking to keep more of your income and cut your taxes? Then tax-free municipal bonds* may be for you.

*Bonds may be subject to state, local or the alternative minimum tax.

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

Darryl G Henry
Financial Advisor
485 North Court
Colby, KS 67701
785-462-8605

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

707 Grant Atwood, KS 67730
(785) 626-3211

Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dr. Curtis, Cardiology will not come in June	1 Cardiac Rehab	2 Cardiac Rehab	3 Diabetic Clinic Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	4 Cardiac Rehab	5 MRI's Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	6 Cardiac Rehab
7 Cardiac Rehab	8 Cardiac Rehab	9 Cardiac Rehab	10 Dr. Frankum Surgery Brandi Ihrig Dietician Diabetic Clinic Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	11 Cardiac Rehab	12 MRI's Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	13 Cardiac Rehab
14 Cardiac Rehab	15 Bone Density Cardiac Rehab	16 Cardiac Rehab	17 Diabetic Clinic Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	18 Dr. Reeves Podiatry Dr. Saba Orthopedics Cardiac Rehab	19 MRI's Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	20 Cardiac Rehab
21 Cardiac Rehab	22 Dr. Rubinowitz Oncology Cardiac Rehab	23 Dr. Miller Cardiology	24 Mammograms Diabetic Clinic Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	25 Cardiac Rehab	26 MRI's Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	27 Cardiac Rehab
28 Cardiac Rehab	29 Cardiac Rehab	30 Cardiac Rehab	<p>flag day June 14</p>			

Celebrate FATHER'S DAY
Sunday, June 21

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A VISITING PHYSICIAN, PLEASE CALL (785)626-3211
Cheryl Banister, RN
Specialty Clinic Director

18 Meadow Lake Golf Course & Lounge

FATHER/SON/DAUGHTER GOLF TOURNAMENT
June 21st, 2009
Father's Day
Registration 8:30 • S.G. Start 9:00
9 Holes-Scotch
\$30.00 Per Team
(please sign-up and list the age group)
Lunch Included

MEADOW LAKE
GOLF COURSE & RESTAURANT

785-460-6443
1085 E Golf Club Rd
Colby

Announcing New Summer Hours!!!
Beginning June 15, 2009

Restaurant Monday - Saturday • 5 pm - 10:30 pm
Bar Hours Monday - Thursday • 5 pm - Midnight
Friday and Saturday • 5 pm - 2 am

City Limits Summer Salad Selections

- **MEDITERRANEAN CHIX SALAD** - A distinctive mediterranean salad that brings the feel of the Island to the Kansas Heartland
- **HEART OF THE ORIENT** - A lightly marinated flat iron steak topped with a honey mustard ginger dressing.
- **PEPPERED CHIX WITH STRAWBERRY SALSA** - A delicious chix breast topped with fresh strawberry salsa and a sweet poppy seed dressing.
- **CARIBBEAN SHRIMP SALAD** - Jerk seasoned and sauteed shrimp and pineapple bring a blend of tropic heat and summer sweet.

A Taste of Fort Collins!

NEW BELGIUM BREWERY
• Blue Paddle
• Sunshine Wheat
• 1554

O'DELL'S BREWERY
• 5 Barrel Pale Ale

CITY LIMITS BAR & GRILL

2227 S. Range • Colby, KS • 785-462-6565