

## Weather Corner



**National Weather Service**  
**Tonight:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 61. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Thursday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a high near 91. Calm wind becoming east between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south.  
**Friday:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 85. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Friday Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.  
**Saturday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a high near 86.  
**Saturday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 63.  
**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 91.  
**Monday:** High, 90; Low 63  
**Tuesday:** High, 93; Low 65  
**Precip:** Monday 0.70 inches  
 Tuesday 0.03 inches  
**Month:** 2.75 inches  
**Year:** 16.59 inches  
**Normal:** 13.76 inches  
 (K-State Experiment Station)

**Colby Water Use**  
 Monday 1,847,000 gal.  
 Tuesday 1,625,000 gal.  
 (Colby Public Works)

**Sunrise and Sunset**  
 Thursday 6:31 a.m. 9:09 p.m.  
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

# Pickin' on the Plains draws diverse regional acts

From "FESTIVAL," Page 1

performing is meeting new people. Booth, a balladeer and song writer, has performed at churches, festivals and night clubs over the years.

Brandon and Blake McLemore are also part of the bluegrass band Driven, which will be making its official debut at the festival. The musicians have shared the stage with well-known acts including Rhonda Vincent, Charlie Daniels and the Issacs.

The McLemore family will be the festival's opening act, from 6 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday. The group also will play from 7 to 7:40 p.m. on Saturday and from 1:55 to 2:25 p.m. on Sunday.

Driven will play from 4:05 to 4:45 p.m. on Saturday and again from 9:30 to 10:10 p.m. that night.

Booth will play on Friday from 6:35 to 7:05 p.m. and on Saturday he and a few friends will perform from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

The festival will be highlighted by the Kenny and Amanda Smith Band, who will be performing from 10:15 to 11 p.m. on Friday

## Bluegrass festival goes three days

Here's the schedule of events for Pickin' on the Plains festival:

**Friday, July 17:** 6 p.m., the McLemore's; 6:35 p.m., Larry Booth; 7:15 p.m., Sappa Strings; 7:55 p.m., the New Old Timers; 8:35 p.m., the Martins; 9:25 p.m., Sons and Brothers; 10:15 p.m., Kenny and Amanda Smith Band.

**Saturday, July 18:** 9:30 a.m., open stage; 11:30 a.m., Larry Booth; 12:05 p.m., Sappa Strings; 12:45 p.m., the Martins; 1:35 p.m., Ozark Alliance; 2:25 p.m., Sons and

Brothers; 3:15 p.m., New Old Timers; 4:05 p.m., Driven; 4:55 p.m., Kenny and Amanda Smith; 6:10 p.m., Ozark Alliance; 7 p.m., McLemores; 7:50 p.m., the Martins; 8:40 p.m., Sons and Brothers; 9:30 p.m., Driven; 10:20 p.m., Kenny and Amanda Smith.

**Sunday July 19:** 9:30 a.m., Cowboy Church and gospel sing; 11:10 a.m., Sappa Strings; 12:05 p.m., Driven; 1 p.m. Ozark Alliance; 1:55 p.m., McLemores.

### Saturday Workshops

11 a.m.: 4-H building: lead/rhythm guitar, Jake Workman, Dale Martin, Alex Vaughn. Shed: fiddle - Jimmy and Jordan Vincent.

Noon: 4-H building: mandolin, Jenny Vaughn and Joe Wolking. Shed: banjo, Jimmy Campbell, Dennis Vaughn, Suzie McLemore.

1 p.m.: 4-H building: band, Sons and Brothers;

2 p.m.: 4-H building: bass, Blake McLemore. Shed: fingerpick guitar, J.F. Stover.

and from 10:20 to 11 p.m. on Saturday. The pair sings a mixture of gospel and bluegrass. They won the International Bluegrass Music Association's Emerging Artist of Year award in 2003 and Kenny is a two-time International Bluegrass Music Association's Guitarist of the Year winner. The group also got a Gospel Music Association Dove Awards nomination in 2008.

Other bands scheduled on stage include the Ozark Alliance, Sappa

Strings, Sons and Brothers, the Martins and the New Old Timers.

The Martins, another family band from Jefferson City, Mo., have a hard-driving bluegrass style. The band has won several group individual awards over the years. The band has five members, father Elvin, who plays the bass; Dale, guitar; Janice, banjo; Larita, dobro; and Jeana, fiddle.

They are six-time Society for Preservation of Bluegrass of America Instrumental Group of

the year winners and placed first in the international band championship in 2007.

Dale, the guitar player and lead singer, won the 2009 Guitar Player of the Year award. Janice was named Banjo Performer of the Year in 2006, 2007 and 2009. Larita, won the Dobro Performer of the Year award in 2007 and 2009.

The New Old Timers are a celtic and bluegrass band from Hill City. The group plays traditional and "newgrass" styles. They are

responsible for the "Blue Grass in the Park" event in Hill City each August.

Wayne and Millie Lauritsen make up the Sappa Strings. The pair, from Gem, now live in Woodland Park, Colo. Wayne plays the guitar and sings cowboy ballads while Millie plays the autoharp and dobro.

Sons and Brothers, a five-piece acoustic Americana group from Westcliffe, Colo., has performed all over the world, including England, Scotland and Wales. The band of brothers comprises Johnny, Neil, Aaron, Joe, Mike and Fred Wolking. They lost one their members in October, when Frank Wolking died of cancer. The band plays gospel, swing, bluegrass and "westgrass."

The Ozark Alliance, a bluegrass band from Salem, Mo., began performing in 2002. The group includes mom Robin, dad Dennis, Alex (18), Jenny (16) and Allison (5) Vaughn. The band's music features instruments including the five-string banjo, acoustic bass, mandolin, guitar and fiddle. They placed first out of 13 bands at the National Single Mic Championship in Branson, Mo., in 2008.

# President's insurance plan passes Senate health panel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate health committee cast a milestone vote Wednesday to approve legislation expanding insurance coverage to nearly all Americans, becoming the first congressional panel to act on President Barack Obama's top domestic priority.

The 13-10 party line vote advanced a \$600 billion measure that would require individuals to get health insurance and employers to contribute to the cost. The government would provide financial assistance with premiums for individuals and families making up to four times the federal poverty level, or about \$88,000 for a family of four. The health committee legislation is but one piece of broader Senate legislation that's still under development.

"This time we've produced legislation that by and large I think the American people want," said Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., who stood in for committee chairman Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts. Kennedy, who's made health care legislation a lifelong priority, is being treated for brain cancer.

But ranking Republican Sen. Mike Enzi of Wyoming argued that the bill would break Obama's promises by adding to the deficit.

Obama himself was driving the action, scheduling a Rose Garden statement to reiterate that a bill will get done and focus on the role of nurses in any overhaul. It marked the third straight day the president has kept up a full-court press on health care.

On Tuesday, House Democratic leaders pledged to meet the president's goal of health care legislation before their August break, offering a \$1.5 trillion plan that for the first time would make health care a right and a responsibility for all Americans. Left to pick up most of the tab were medical providers, employers and the wealthy.

"We cannot allow this issue to be delayed. We cannot put it off again," Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce committee, said Tuesday. "We, quite frankly, cannot go home for a recess unless the House and the Senate both pass bills to reform and restructure our health care system."

In the Senate, Majority Leader Harry Reid said he wanted floor debate to begin a week from Monday. With the Senate Finance Committee still struggling to reach consensus, that timetable could slip. Even so, it underscored a renewed sense of urgency.

# County landfill pit needs a larger cell

From "COUNTY," Page 1

\$26,356 from the county last year, the entire amount taken in from liquor tax last year.

"We have arbitrarily designated the money to your group each year, and realize we have not seen or heard from you," Steel said, "and that's not a very good way to spend tax dollars."

Wacker apologized for the past year's absence of contact, saying she had been here only a year. She said the money is spent on addiction treatment for people who can't afford it, and that she could have a report in 30 days.

"But we are doing budgets now," Steele said, "and we need a report next week."

Wacker said she could have a report ready for them for next week's meeting.

Eric Heath, a representative from Oneok, a gas supply company out of Tulsa, met with the commissioners to tell them the gas price should be a little better than last year.

He said there is a good supply and does not see an urgency right now to hedge the price for the winter's fuel. In the next 45 days, he said, the commissioners might want to look at it again. Oneok is one of the suppliers to Midwest Energy. The availability of choosing a supplier came about several years ago through de-regulation of fuel. They will also hear a proposal from Seminole, another supplier, next week.

The commissioners adjourned at 10 a.m. to spend the rest of the meeting time working informally on the 2010 budget.

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