

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 101. North wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. East wind of 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 98. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, low around 67.
 Friday: High, 87; Low 55
 Saturday: High, 84; Low 60
 Sunday: High, 100; Low 62
 Precip: Friday 0.00 inches
 Saturday 0.00 inches
 Sunday 0.00 inches
 Month: 0.00 inches
 Year: 16.84 inches
 Normal: 16.41 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
 Tuesday 6:47 a.m. 8:53 p.m.
 Wednesday 6:48 a.m. 8:52 p.m.
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)
Colby Water Use
 Friday - Sunday 2,012,000 gal.
 (Colby Public Works)

Some area corn fields a total loss due to July storms

From "DAMAGE," Page 1

ground," he said. "The wheat damage earlier this summer was small compared to the damage to fall crops, and the acreage not hit by hail is getting smaller and smaller."
 "A storm went through Rawlins County again this past Friday and Saturday, and a week ago Monday, Gove County got hit again, too. It seems to have gone both east and west and from north to south, with the Mingo area being at the crosshairs of the storms."
 Inman said any residual chemicals left in the ground should be gone in time to plant damaged crop ground to wheat in the fall. Atrazine would be the worst, if there was an application of more than one pound, he said, but if it was under a pound to the acre, it should be OK.
 "This crop could not have been hit at a

worse time than when it's in the tassel," said Randy Wilson, of the Farm Credit lending office. "It's too late in the season for a second crop such as sunflowers, and now it's a wait-and-see situation."
 "A lot of the corn was Round Up-ready corn," he added, "so depending on what chemicals are in the ground will determine whether or not the field can be planted to wheat in a couple of months or if it will have to wait until next spring to try for another corn crop."
 Jon Friesen, who farms near Mingo and has his acreage spread out over more than one area, said he has already worked up one quarter, and said two circles look really bad.
 "The rest, I will have to leave and see if it can make 50 bushels," he said with a chuckle. "Crop insurance is sort like national health insurance, probably not worth

the paper its written on. The government says if its green, it is still considered a plant and has the capability of making an ear, so we'll have to leave it, but we'll wait and see what it can do."
 "Some of the stalk inside the stalk is brown, and I don't see how its going to hold an ear to maturity. I've been hit three times this year, but I guess it was sort of my turn. We'll be back though. I can't plant anything else, because I'm triple stacked on chemical, so there's no choice but to wait and try again next year."
 "Insurance is usually a fairly good safety net for farmers," said Larry Maxwell, of Farm Management Services. "The government has moved in their position regarding disaster payments, and federal crop insurance, and has pretty much gone to multi-peril insurance, with the grower finding his own source for insurance."

Crop insurance at its best, however, is complex. With straight hail insurance, loss is figured on a percentage basis, but with multiperil, the grower has to decide what options he will take to determine how he will be paid for his loss. And that may not happen until after the corn is harvested, wherever there's enough crop left to warrant pulling a combine into the field.
 Rural counties in the High Plains, which includes Thomas County have been considered to be in a safety zone from the recession, but in spite of the fact that there is still some good corn in the county, the loss of so many acres of wheat, and now corn, is bound to take a pretty big bite out of the economy here.
 Farmers are a fairly resilient bunch, though, and most of them believe that "this is a good country for next year."

Leadership class visits Thomas, Sherman County organizations

By Tom Betz
 nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Forty members of the Leadership Kansas class were in Colby on Wednesday to learn about issues in northwest Kansas.
 The class started in Colby and went to Goodland on Thursday before returning to Colby that evening. One of the sessions on Thursday afternoon was a discussion about Sherman County efforts at government unification presented by Trevor Linton, chairman of the Government Services Alliance Committee under Shine On Sherman County.
 The class spent time at the Goodland Regional Medical Center, where the members

learned about the advances in telemedicine and other programs the hospital is working on to improve health care.
 The class split into two sections, and each one was bussed out to the National Weather Service office, where Chief Meteorologist Scott Mentzer gave a presentation about the office and how the service operates.
 He answered questions from the class about how technology has improved forecasting, and how the service uses models to forecast the weather over several days.
 The class members got to see how the office works. Meteorologist Kelly James showed them the layout and answered ques-

tions.
 She was asked if the forecasts are getting better and if the service tracks its success.
 James said the forecast are getting better with the help of newer technology, so there is less human guesswork. Forecasters track the results of what was put out to see where they might improve, she said.
 Meteorologist Jeremy Martin showed the second group a new system the service has for tornadoes and how the office can work with law enforcement and emergency planners to put out warnings.
 Helping with the class was former Leadership Kansas member Brenda McCants of Goodland.

County workers to train on software

From "COUNTY," Page 1

one of the offices. A bid from McKee was approved for the job, for \$2,700 for one unit that will serve two rooms.
 • Approved the purchase of two computers for the Emergency Preparedness office out of the capital

outlay fund.
 • Heard from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment that the landfill passed its inspection, had no violations, and complies with state regulations.
 • Discussed finding more office space for the county attorney's services personnel.

Trego County court to try Gove murder case

WAKEENEY (AP) — The trial of David A. Stevenson, who is charged with killing his 85-year-old father is scheduled to begin with potential jurors being taken to Trego County.
 Gove County residents will be transported to Wakeeneey Monday for jury selection.
 Stevenson pleaded not guilty to

the March 13, 2008, death of his father, Walter Stevenson.
 The trial has been moved because the courthouse in Gove was considered too small.
 The death initially was believed to be a farm accident, after Walter Stevenson's body was found wedged between the bed of a truck and its frame.

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