

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy; low around 67. East northeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming south.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 95. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Tuesday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy; low around 64. Breezy; south southeast wind 10 to 20 mph becoming west southwest. Wind gusts as high as 30 mph.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. Breezy, with a north northeast wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 61.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 91.
Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65.
Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 95.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 64.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 94.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 62.

Friday: High, 85; Low 62
Saturday: High, 94; Low 64
Sunday: High, 98; Low 63
Precip: Friday 0.00 inches
Saturday 0.00 inches
Sunday Trace
Month: 2.73 inches
Year: 10.29 inches
Normal: 9.94 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Tuesday 6:18 a.m. 9:15 p.m.
Wednesday 6:18 a.m. 9:15 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)
Colby Water Use
Friday - Sunday 2,193,000 gal.
(Colby Public Works)

Department to test roads this week

This week, the Kansas Department of Transportation will be conducting pavement evaluation tests on parts of K-161, K-25, and U.S. 24 in Cheyenne, Rawlins, and Thomas counties, using a pilot car to control traffic.
These annual tests measure the quality of the pavement, said Kristen Brands, district manager of public affairs. Work will be done in four-mile segments. Drivers can expect a delay of 15 minutes or less.
For questions, contact Brands at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org.

City to collect on Embark loans

From "LOANS," Page 1

\$15 million in 2009 and ended with \$14 million. He said the city made all its debt payments on time and had a clean report on the compliance part of the audit.

• Heard Councilman Dave Voss question the amount of overtime hours used by firefighters over a two weeks in May. Armstrong said firefighters received \$2,605.22 for doing 109 hours of overtime from May 17 to May 31.

"We need to be careful we don't break the bank in overtime," Voss said.

Fire Chief Bob McLemore said that it was a busy two weeks for the department. They had three calls at the Quality Inn, two days of training in confined space and trench rescue, eight hours of hazardous materials training and rescue extrication training (helping people escape from wrecked cars).

The department responded to a fire at the Quality Inn on May 17, he said, then went back two days later to deal with a smoldering hot spot in the attic. Firemen returned to the motel on May 23 when smoke was reported. McLemore said the ventilator fan motor had burned up, but there was no fire. Assistant fire chief Sean Hankin said they department responded to a roll over incident on the Interstate 70 during the two weeks.

McLemore said extrication training took place May 18 and trench rescue on May 19. The confined spaces training was on May 20 and the hazardous materials refresher on May 21 and 22. Armstrong noted that it's cheaper to have the training done in town

rather than sending people out to be trained.

• Approved a variance for the Housing Authority to allow a storm shelter on the corner of Cherry Street and Mission Ridge Avenue. A ramp will extend an additional five feet in the side yard abutting the Mission Ridge and will have a 3 1/2-foot fence along the edge, said Armstrong.

• Agreed to notify the county and all businesses in the Bosselman addition that the city wants to add the recently built Hampton Inn to the Tax Increment Finance District established when Bosselman's Truckstop was annexed by the city. The district now includes two lots: Bosselman's Truckstop and Wendy's.

Tax money from the lots is to be used to rebuild and pave Willow Drive from Stephens Drive to Country Club Drive. Armstrong said a letter is being sent to all property owners, the county and the district about a public hearing on Tuesday, July 20.

• Approved a special permit for Colby Community College to install a two-kilowatt wind turbine on campus slightly north of the Bedker Building. This is part of the Wind for Schools project being run through the Wind Application Center at Kansas State University.

Barry Kaaz, dean of external affairs at the college, said the turbine could be put up in July. Kaaz said grade schools and high schools from northwest Kansas will be able to take field trips to see the turbine. He said students can learn how a small wind turbine runs, what it can be used for and how to measure its productivity.

Group gets money for city walking trails

From "TRAILS," Page 1

Evans said a landscape architect from Salina is working on a plan and will incorporate ideas from citizens here who will be visiting other towns with walking trails before the actual plan is laid out.

The foundation said the project aims to reduce risks for chronic disease and increase physical activity among Thomas County residents. This grant will pay the landscape architect to develop a trail plan, pay for travel to investigate other trails in Kansas, and provide meeting supplies, exercise equipment and an electronic people counter.

Evans and Mosier said that the goal of the MAC is to have a place that is geared toward families to offer activities for the entire family, both inside and outside. They said priority is to be as "green" as possible, to use products made in Kansas and to use recycled materials wherever possible. A matching cash grant will pay for trees, and landscaping.

Another project the coalition has undertaken is the community garden. A 2,400-square-foot plot for the garden was provided by the Kansas State University research

station. Others donated tools, hoses and cash to get the garden started.

Orvella Romine told coalition members that the community garden team will begin picking produce on Tuesday. The cold-weather veggies are ready, she said, and last week they harvested fresh cauliflower. She said they have pledged 25 percent of the produce to the Genesis-Thomas County food bank, with the remainder of the produce going to those who have joined in the project.

"We're working really hard to be successful," said Romine, "because we were told that if it doesn't work, they will have to plow it under next year."

Diann Gerstner, county extension agent, will conduct three cooking classes during the summer to show gardeners how to prepare some of the produce. Times will be announced.

The coalition is always looking for organizations to join. Their focus is on building a healthy, connected community, according to the group's mission statement. Anyone who wants to become a member should call the Regional Prevention Center at (785) 460-8177.

Small 'tornado' forms here

From "TORNADO," Page 1

moved northeast through Kansas from Tribune to Phillipsburg, bringing with them heavy rains, high winds, hail and several tornadoes.

Most of reports to the weather service came from Logan and Gove counties, according to the service's storm report. The Gove County sheriff's office reported a funnel cloud with a disturbance on the ground directly beneath it at 5:50 p.m. near Monument Rock. Spotters and storm chasers noted several more funnels at the same location later in the evening. A tornado was also reported at the south end of Logan County.

Parts of Gove County got as much as 1.26 inches of rain. At 7:15, a weather spotter reported 5 inches of water running over U.S. 83 near the Smoky Hill River at Elkader and many roads were flooded near Russell Springs. Spotters reported hail up to 1 inch in diameter northwest of Leoti and south of the town of Gove.

The service is predicting highs in the 80s and 90s today and the rest of the week, with possible severe thunderstorms tonight and Tuesday night.



KRISTI MANN/Thomas County Clerk's Office
This small funnel, which National Weather Service experts say may have been a large dust devil or "gustnado," formed for a few seconds at the leading edge of a thunderstorm over a field south of Colby on Sunday.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table with columns for Tuesday Evening June 22, 2010, listing various TV channels and their programs from 7:00 to 11:30 PM.

Table with columns for Wednesday Evening June 23, 2010, listing various TV channels and their programs from 7:00 to 11:30 PM.

BREWSTER CARRIER advertisement with details on work schedule (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday), sign bonus, and contact information (155 W. 5th Street, 785-462-3963).