

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly before 7 p.m. Cloudy during the early evening, then gradual clearing...

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 61. Breezy, with a west wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.
Tuesday Night: Areas of frost after midnight. Otherwise, mostly clear, with a low around 31. West wind around 15 mph.

Wednesday: Areas of frost before 10 a.m. Otherwise, sunny, with a high near 59. Breezy, with a west wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Wednesday Night: Wide-spread frost after 11 p.m. Otherwise, clear and breezy, with a low around 26.

Thursday: Widespread frost before 9 a.m. Otherwise, sunny, with a high near 64.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 34.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 71.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 41.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 73.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 38.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 68.

Friday: High, 69; Low 45

Saturday: High, 66; Low 39

Sunday: High, 76; Low 42

Precip: Friday 0.04 inches

Saturday 0.00 inches

Sunday 0.00 inches

Month: 0.22 inches

Year: 17.88 inches

Normal: 19.19 inches

(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset

Tuesday 8:06 a.m. 6:50 p.m.

Wednesday 8:07 a.m. 6:49 p.m.

(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Schools get accredited by state

From "SCHOOLS," Page 1

set goals that the school has to meet to become accredited.

In other business:

Colby High School student Jake Thompson appeared before the board, asking that mid-season cheerleading tryouts be held. Thompson said he is interested in being a male cheerleader.

"I want to be a male cheerleader to get scholarships in this field," he said, "and to show others that it's OK to be different."

Thompson noted that mid-season tryouts have been held in the past. High school Principal Larry Gabel said the team is currently full, and although one girl quit, an alternate was brought in to replace her. Gabel said the dance team also did not hold mid-season tryouts this year.

The board agreed to put a review of activity tryout policies on the next agenda. In the meantime, board President Janice Frahm said the district doesn't discriminate by gender in activities like cheerleading and encouraged Thompson to try out for the team next year.

Superintendent Terrel Harrison said there has been no petition against the board's capital outlay resolution, and so it will not go to the voters. In light of that, she said, the district is going ahead with the first year of the five-year capital outlay plan. First year purchases include a chiller and network up-

grades for the high school.

The board approved the forensics team to attend nationals if they qualify. Gabel said two or three students would probably qualify, and since Kansas' national qualifier will be held in Colby, he felt it wouldn't be fair to keep them from making the trip. Gabel said the students will pay their own way.

Gabel reported that the high school only had 57 percent participation in parent-teacher conferences. Gabel said he thought the low participation was probably due to harvest and more parents checking up on their students day-to-day using PowerSchool, where they can keep track of a student's assignments and progress.

Grade school Principal Lance Krannawitter said he had 96 percent attendance, with the remaining parents scheduling appointments later. Middle school Principal Rob Ross said he had 72 percent participation. Ross said he also thinks more parents are utilizing the district's web site.

"I know for a fact that when it's down, we get a lot of calls," he said. "but it's great, I love that aspect of it."

Ross said the middle school is adding a test for eighth graders, the Explore Test, which is from the ACT bank of tests. The test covers math, reading, science and English. Wieland said the high school is adding the PLAN test, a pre-ACT test, for sophomores.

Business booming for manufacturer

From "BUSINESS," Page 1

for tree spades. That was the only push he needed. The invitation to build soon gave birth to Road Runer Manufacturing.

"I'm not an artist" he said, "everything is straight lines, but if it's on the trailer, then I want it to look like it's supposed to be there."

When drought hit many parts of the country and pod trailer demand slowed, Skolout, through his ingenuity, began to put his hand to other trailer designs and came up with what he does today - building trailers used in the farming industry.

He came up with four different kinds, two designs of combine trailers, two sizes of farm fuel trailers that hold 600 or 750 gallons, a triple-axle sprayer trailer to transport field sprayers, combine header trailers, and 15 models of pod trailers with a choice of eight different configurations. He said the header trailers are for other equipment companies who put their own logo on them - John Deere, Ro-Gator, Ag-Co and others. In addition to all of that, he landed the job of building all the pod trailers for Big John, the world's largest manufacturer of tree spades.

And it doesn't stop there. New this year to the company is the Bradley Tree Spade, his own design. The prototype is presently being successfully used by his

father-in-law at Blue Ribbon Tree Farm.

Up until 2009, Skolout worked out of his shop building on the farm north of Levant, but with big trucks pulling in and out of the farmstead it appeared it could create a safety hazard, so he pursued a different location for his business. He erected a 200 x 60 foot manufacturing facility at the west side of Levant in 2009 - with room to grow.

To accomplish the manufacture of five trailers in five days, he and two certified welders literally keep their noses to the grindstone. He says he's too busy to deal directly with the customer, so does his part of the business transactions through dealers throughout the country. His trailers are now being used in 38 states and two foreign countries, Canada and Nigeria.

When asked if he ever imagined the business would take off this big and this fast, he said, "It does sort of surprise me sometimes, but I guess I'm too busy to even think about it."

For a change of scenery, he operates the family farm, is a member of the Thomas County Fair Board, is a trap shooter, and is an active member of Trinity Lutheran church in Colby.

He and his wife Marie have a five-year-old daughter, Samantha, and a son, Tucker, who is three.

Skolout said his goal is to someday have 15 to 20 employees, and

to be cranking out a semi trailer every day. It won't be a surprise when that day comes.

Candidate says finish line in sight

From "CANDIDATE," Page 1

over federal initiatives that are contrary to Kansas traditions. The new comprehensive health care law, he said, has a lot of people worried, not because of what's in it, but because of the expansion of federal power that comes along with it.

The Environmental Protection Agency is another source of concern, Schmidt said, because of the difficulty it has caused for the Sunflower Electric coal plant in Holcomb. Republican leaders have been successful in blocking cap and trade legislation, he said, so the White House has turned to the agency to create new regulations.

Schmidt said he is interested in making sure the attorney general's department is run professionally.

"The attorney general is a constitutional officer, he's elected, and there's a good reason for that," he said. "People expect a capable, responsible person in that position."

The attorney general has to set priorities for the agency and

work with local law enforcement, he said, but he or she also has to understand how to build coalitions around reasonable proposals. Schmidt said his time in the legislature would serve him well, in 2006 he was a sponsor of the Kansas version of Jessica's Law, which created harsher penalties for child molesters.

"That's one of the things I will remember into my old age," he said. "I'm very proud of that."

Schmidt also helped pass the Sheriff Matt Samuels Chemical Control Act, which makes some methamphetamine ingredients harder to get. Schmidt said he was able to get broad support for these laws - the Samuels Act passed the senate unanimously.

"Most public safety laws are bipartisan," he said.

Schmidt said he also served on the agriculture committee at the time of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. After the attacks, he said, the committee helped lay the ground work for protecting the nation's food supply, making a crime out of endangering farms.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Tuesday Evening October 26, 2010

Table with 11 columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, etc.) listing programs like 'Dancing With Stars', 'The Good Wife', etc.

Wednesday Evening October 27, 2010

Table with 11 columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, etc.) listing programs like 'Middle', 'Survivor: Nicaragua', etc.

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