

Weather



National Weather Service

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 65. North wind around 5 mph becoming south.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 92. East wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65. East wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 84. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 84.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 62.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 87.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 62.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 89.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 90.

Wednesday: High, 90; Low 62
Precip: Wednesday None
Month: 2.88 inches
Year: 20.38 inches
Normal: 16.36 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
Friday 7:00 a.m. 8:35 p.m.
Moon: waning 70 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Colby Water Use
Wednesday 2,112,000 gal.
(Colby Public Works)

Commissioners approve budget

From "BUDGET," Page 1

would continue working with Sheriff Taylor to solve the draining problems.

In other business:

• Applebury wanted to clarify discussions at last week's meeting concerning the commissioner's decision to hire Earth Works rather than him to carry out the new lawn care bid for the county. He was not present at that meeting but wanted to clarify a quote printed in an article published in the Colby Free Press on Aug. 10.

The quote referred to discussions made about Applebury having the lowest bid.

Chairman Christiansen said the commissioners not only wanted to hire an affordable candidate, but also looked at who they

thought would do the best job based on the provided bid.

Commissioners did not ask for supplemental experience or improvement ideas in the bidding process. However, Rob Stithem of Earth Works gave input on his bid and added ideas he had about landscaping. He also reminded commissioners about his first-hand experience working on county sprinkler systems.

Applebury said he is capable of landscaping improvements and working on sprinkler systems as well. Commissioners gave their appreciation to Applebury for being present at the meeting and ensured his proposal would be on file for future use.

• Commissioners received an invitation from the City of Colby to attend their weekly

meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 16. Commissioner Sowers agreed to attend; Commissioner Steele will alternate. The agenda includes discussion about rainwater runoff at the fairgrounds. When rainwater pools and accumulates in the racetrack, it is pumped out of the track and onto the street.

• As in years past, it was agreed to again provide \$25 vouchers for flu shots for the upcoming Thomas County Wellness Fair.

• An architect will give a presentation at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 31, at the Law Enforcement Training Center on Franklin Avenue. He was involved in the recent building improvements at Citizens Medical Center, designed a new jail in Omaha, Neb., and may be of assistance in possible building projects in Colby.

High school gym ready for first day

From "GYM," Page 1

bel said.

"We tried to see if we could dry it out," he said. "But the water damage was too large and mold was discovered underneath the floor."

When the mold was found, safety precautions had to be taken. The whole floor had to be stripped and a new floor had to be laid down.

"We couldn't just remove the section that was affected the most, the water damage had affected the whole gym floor," Gabel said.

After it was clear that the floor had to be removed and a new one had to be put in its place, nearly all activities in the gym were hindered and contractors got to work.

It took three weeks to remove and replace the floor and another couple of weeks

for the finish to dry, he said.

"It was actually very interesting to watch the floor being replaced," Gabel said. "It had to be taken out in sections and there was concrete underneath it."

On top of the concrete, he said, there was plywood and it looked almost like a "floating floor" because it wasn't attached to anything. After the floor was in place, a machine that resembled a lawnmower was used to shoot the nails into the floor.

"We tried to make the new floor identical to the old one," Gabel said. "The eagle and all the markers are in the same exact spot that they were before."

Even though the new floor is almost an exact match to the old gym floor, a new layer of finish gives the court a shiny and fresh look, he said.

Petitions out to save Bonny Lake

From "PETITIONS," Page 1

She said the second main issue is not to shut down any more irrigation wells in northeast Colorado. She said Colorado has already taken 30,000 acres out of irrigation, and farmers don't want to shut down any more with the already poor economy. Colorado is building a pipeline to deliver water to the Republican River in Kansas, but it will not be completed until next year.

The main sticking point apparently is the annual evaporation from Bonny, and Hase has an idea that might give both Colorado and Kansas a reason to save the lake. She said the idea would be to have Kansas own the water in the lake and Colorado would own the land and both states could operate the park with people from Kansas being able to use their Kansas State Park permits at Bonny.

"Eastern Colorado and western Kansas communities can benefit from the economic boom of a thriving reservoir," Hase said. "When Bonny is full it brings in 260,000 visitors and translates to \$9 million of economic revenue flowing through the area in the form of gas, food, liquor, camping supplies, etc. This does not factor in the revenue the park, state, counties, etc. will see in the form of park passes, licenses, camping fees, leases, jobs, the list goes on and on."

Hase has been in contact with Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, and has gotten positive feedback from Alexandra Davis of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.

"The primary message I have received is both states are interested in saving Bonny Reservoir, however," she said, "until there is a doable solution for compact compliance, saving Bonny is

a dead end. Because of the hydrology of the Republican River Basin and the delayed depletions caused by well pumping, compact compliance options are limited. On Kansas' side, they just want their water, period. Colorado needs to provide it under the compact. However, they do not want to see Bonny Reservoir drained and there is a huge communication breakdown, because they don't understand what the specifics are as to why Colorado is choosing this solution."

The final piece came from Bud Mekelburg who belongs to a group that represents the three states interests in the Republican River. It had come to the group's attention this spring the Kansas Water Commission was planning to build some type of reservoir/water retention area on the South Fork on the Kansas side. The three-state group had written a letter to the Kansas Water Commission in April and questioned the reasoning for such a reservoir, Hase said.

In addition to the written petitions around the area, Hase started an online petition that supports the two-state cooperative solution. She is hoping people will sign the petitions and send messages of support to Kansas Gov. Brownback and Colorado Gov. Hickenlooper.

"We need to show those leaders we want to save Bonny," she said.

The group's information can be found on Facebook at Eastern Colorado Irrigation/Water Issues. The web site for the online petition is www.ipetitions.com/petition/savebonny.

Bonny Reservoir was created by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as a flood control project following the 1935 flood on the Republican River that killed more than 100 people and devastated an area from northwest Kansas into Nebraska.

Renewable energy could bring in new jobs

From "ENERGY," Page 1

sas Corporation Commissioner, a representative of the Southwest Power Pool, chairman of the Kansas Electric Transmission Authority, representatives of utilities building high-voltage transmission lines in Kansas and other stakeholders in wind and energy transmission.

Most power-purchase agreements are long term, many up to 20 years, said Mark Lawlor, with Clean Line, a company proposing to build a high voltage DC current line across the state. At the same time, federal production tax credits - which could expire next year - are mak-

ing the cost of production very cheap, allowing wind energy in Kansas to become some of the cheapest energy now produced.

Building an updated transmission grid is a very costly and complex process, the governor said, "and it needs to be a shared one."

He said parties working in Kansas, including the transmission line developers and regulators, as well as members of the seven-state Southwest Power Pool, which have authorized the cost of line development to be spread across utility users within all states in the pool, "which is critically important to getting lines at a cost we can afford."

Briefly

Church has free supplies

The Colby Wesleyan Church has free basic school supplies available. For information, call the church office at 462-8391.

Music boosters selling pocket calendars

The Colby Music Booster Club has pocket school calendars available for sale. The calendars can be obtained by contacting any public school music teacher. Cost is \$5, with proceeds benefiting the school music programs. For information, call Jill Nickols at 460-5200 or Joey Nickols at 460-5300.

Senator cancels listening tour stops

Sen. Jerry Moran has canceled his stops in Wallace and Greeley counties - originally scheduled for Friday - so he can attend the funeral of a Kansas soldier recently killed in Afghanistan. The two events will be rescheduled. For information, call (202) 224-7784.

Premium checks for fair entries available

Premium checks from the Thomas County Free Fair are available now at the county extension office, 350 S. Range Ave. For information, call 460-4582.

Finish hunter education at class this Friday

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism will hold a hunter education course Friday at Colby Community College. The course is a wrap-up session to the online testing, which students must complete prior to the course. Anyone interested must pre-register by calling 462-7602, 462-3367 or 462-7793.

Students raising money to go to conference

Lynnsey Elling and Hayden Reinert will hold a spaghetti lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church basement to raise money to attend the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. in September. For information, call James Elling at 443-0783.

Gem Lions planning hog roast Wednesday

The Gem Lions Club will hold its annual Hog Roast from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Gem Community Building. Donations will be accepted toward improving the community. There will be music, a horseshoe throwing tournament, and a drawing for eight processed and packaged hog halves. Anyone can enter for \$5 each and each ticket has eight chances to win.

Brewster library plans hot dog feed

The Brewster Library and Museum will hold a hot dog and watermelon feed at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, at Hunter Hall Park. Donations will be accepted to go to the library and museum. For information, call Betty Wolf at (785) 694-2401.



Saturday Evening August 20, 2011

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels and programs.

We Celebrate Hometown Life

Table listing hometown stories with columns for show names and descriptions.

Sunday Evening August 21, 2011

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels and programs.