

Weather



National Weather Service Tonight: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy during the early evening, then becoming cloudy, with a low around 47. Southeast wind around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Tuesday: A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 70. South wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Tuesday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northeast 5 to 10 mph after midnight.

Wednesday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 71. East wind 5 to 15 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.

Thursday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 67.

Thursday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49.

Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny; high near 68.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 47.

Saturday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 66.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 42.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 69.

Friday: High, 59; Low 25
Saturday: High, 60; Low 34
Sunday: High, 66; Low 32
Precip: Friday None
Saturday None
Sunday None
Month: 0.14 inches
Year: 2.03 inches
Normal: 7.21 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Tuesday 6:38 a.m. 8:44 p.m.
Moon: waning, 5 percent
Wednesday 6:37 a.m. 8:45 p.m.
Moon: waning, 2 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

County fights chickens

From "COUNTY," Page 1

the release of the black-footed ferret in Logan County.

"With the coordination, we've put a hurt on them," she said. "We've put a big hurt on them."

The service has plans to list as many as 900 species as threatened, including the prairie gray fox, Ellis said.

Jim Ludouph, an area farmer, came to the meeting while the conservation issue was being discussed.

Ludouph has almost been put out of business by the black-footed-ferret release, he said, because his land is surrounded by the animals. Prairie dogs, one of their favorite foods, have been digging under his crops,

turning a third of his land into bare ground in some areas.

Sowers was especially keen to stop seeing these species from spreading and getting protection from the federal government. Steele asked him what action he wanted to take.

"To get rid of the prairie dogs and the ferrets and the prairie chickens," he replied.

Trooper wins safety award

From "AWARD," Page 1

The program involves taking surveys of how many students wear their seat belts. Those who don't get caught without a seat belt are entered in a drawing each month for a prize chosen by kids in the program, he said. They usually choose gift cards or electronics.

Trooper Hileman said he signed up for the program when he transferred back to Troop D - which covers northwestern Kansas - about five years ago.

"They basically run the program," Hileman said of the kids.

He gave the students credit for getting their friends to wear seat belts, saying that parents he met told him their kids were all buckled up, had even gotten them to do the same. In one year, he said, the proportion of kids at Colby High School who buckled up went from 49 percent to 83 per-

cent.

Hileman helped start the program in three schools in 2013 alone. He said it is now in Colby, Oakley, Hill City, Oberlin, Hays and Norton high schools, and he is planning on getting it started in Rooks, Russell, Smith and Osbourne counties this year.

"We've seen it across the state, saved a lot of teen's lives," Hileman said, adding that teens are more likely than any other age group to die in crashes from not wearing seat belts.

He said the program started in Crawford County, where the sheriff saw an unusually high rate of rollover accidents and deaths among kids in his county.

Since then, Hileman said, "every one of the rollovers he worked, the kids were buckled up, and they walked away."

There was one exception, he said, where a teenager was badly injured, but still lived.

Kansas near end of education bills

From "KANSAS," Page 1

a January ruling from a three-judge panel in Shawnee County District Court that the Kansas system for funding public schools is unconstitutional. The judges are ordering the state to

comply with current school finance laws, which would result in an increase of at least \$440 million in state spending.

The lawsuit, brought by attorneys representing school districts and parents, was filed in 2010. The attorneys met un-

successfully for two days with attorneys representing the state in hopes of reaching a mediated settlement. The Kansas Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case on Oct. 8 and a ruling is possible before the start of the 2014 session next January.

Soddy records online at museum

From "SODDY," Page 1

lic access, but we still have about three more boxes that haven't yet been opened."

Griffin said the records were collected by Verney A. Kear, founder and president of the Sod House Society of America and the Sod Town Museum. Born Aug. 21, 1897, and raised in a sod house, Kear lived in a two-room soddie until he was 26, helped build several sod houses and even taught school in one.

Believing that the industrious pioneers who lived in sod houses should be honored and recognized, Kear organized and incorporated the Sons and Daughters of the Soddies society and admitted its first members on Aug. 21, 1955. Anyone who was born in, lived in, taught or attended school or church services, doctored, nursed or conducted religious rites in a sod house, part-sod house or dugout, was invited to join.

For \$1, or \$1.35 by mail, members received a certificate (see attached photo) and were encouraged to submit letters and photos describing their sod-house experiences. By 1961, the society had over 14,000 members, with at least one member living in each of the 50 states and in each province of Canada. When the society dissolved, it had about 25,000 members.

Those records now serve as a foundation for historical and genealogical research for scholars

and family members across the U.S. and abroad. "The benefits of offering this comprehensive database to the public is tremendous," said Griffin. "It will provide family members and professional historians all over the world with excellent resources on the sod-house era and pioneering the High Plains. Many of the records are completed surveys and documentation on sod houses and family history."

Upon Kear's death, said Donna Lamm of Colby, the society became a corporation and was then served by a board including Gary Cooper, Paul Steele, June Epard, Vernon Englehardt and Ron Thiel, to name a few.

A great nephew of Kear, Thiel became an important advocate for the society and took a special interest in Kear's Sod Town near Colby. He helped to gather over 500 authentic stories and pictures from 1954 until his death in 2008. His support of the Prairie Museum continues through a charitable trust memorializing him and his mother Ervil (Angell) Thiel.

"Efforts to establish an online database of the records simply would not be possible without support from the charitable trust," said museum Director Sue Taylor.

For information, call Griffin at (785) 460-4590. Go to prairiemuseum.org or contact Taylor for information about the museum at the same number or by e-mail, prairiem@st-tel.net.

Briefly

The deadline for Briefly is noon the day before. Items submitted in the morning will be set up for the next edition. The deadline for Monday's paper is noon Friday.

Clinic collecting pet food for animal shelter

Swartz Veterinary Hospital, 1775 W. Fourth St. in Colby, is accepting pet food donations to help the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter in Goodland mark National Pet Week this week. Help them feed a friend. For information, call Doris Helin at 460-1078.

Master Gardeners reschedule their classes

Because of the snow earlier this month, the Thomas County Master Gardeners have rescheduled several sessions on gardening. At 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Thomas County Extension Office in the county Office Complex on Range Avenue (enter from the south door), John Beckman, Scott County Extension agent, will give tips and tricks for growing great tomatoes. Julie Niehage, Golden Prairie District Extension agent, will talk about the Top 40 Annuals for Kansas. For information, call the Extension Office at 460-4582.

City plans spring cleanup for this week

Colby's 2013 Spring Cleanup runs through Friday, offering homeowners a chance to spruce up their yards and have the city remove items that are boxed and bagged, weigh less than 50 pounds and placed at the curb. Call the Public Works office at 460-4410 to schedule a pickup before noon Friday. This is for residential customers only.

Spring concert will be Tuesday at college

Colby Community College's free spring music concert will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Cultural Arts Center, featuring the concert and stage bands, concert choir and Sunflower Singers. For information, call vocal instructor Randy Berls at 460-5520 or instrumental music director Tony Schroer at 460-5519.

Diabetes class being offered at hospital

Citizens Medical Center will begin a month-long weekly series of free classes on diabetes, "Journey for Control," from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in the hospital's conference room. Topic for the session will be "On the Road to Better Managing Your Diabetes," on what diabetes is, common myths, blood glucose and insulin, and managing diabetes with healthy eating, activity and medicine. Register by calling Jeanene Brown at 460-4850.

Smart Start offering car-seat safety checks

Smart Start Northwest Kansas plans a drop-in car-seat check from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday. Come see if your child is ready for a bigger seat and check for recalls, out-of-date seats or bad installation from at 460 N. Garfield. Replacement seats are available to those who meet guidelines. Seat-check appointments can be scheduled Monday through Friday by calling Denise Singer at 465-9103.

Bike to School Day set for Wednesday

Wednesday will be Colby's second annual Bike to School Day. All students are encouraged to ride their bikes to school. For information, contact Megan Carmichael with the Thomas County Healthy Communities Coalition at 460-8177.

Farm Credit to hold Business After 5

Come congratulate Larry Maxwell on his retirement and Randy Wilson, new president of Farm Credit of Western Kansas, at a Business After Five event from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at 1190 S. Range. For information, call Cathy Hawk at 462-6714.

Signup for Little League Football is Friday

Colby Little League Football will hold an information and registration meeting from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Commons at Colby High School for kids who will be in third through sixth grades. Bring your child to be sized for a jersey. Anyone new to the league should bring a photocopy of the child's birth certificate and insurance information. If you have questions, are interested in coaching or are not able to attend, call Amy Wildeman at 460-7815.

Event to raise money for cancer victim

A spaghetti benefit for Danielle Wolf, who is fighting cancer, will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Colby American Legion Hall. An auction and dance with deejay Chris Wassemiller will follow. Donations will be taken for dinner; dance tickets are \$10 at the door, or send a donation to S&T Communication, Box 345, Colby, Kan., 67701. For information, call Deanna Mallory at 443-2767.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS



Wednesday Evening May 8, 2013

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 like KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, etc.

American Profile We Celebrate Hometown Life Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper. Table with columns for show names and descriptions.

Tuesday Evening May 7, 2013

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 like KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, etc.