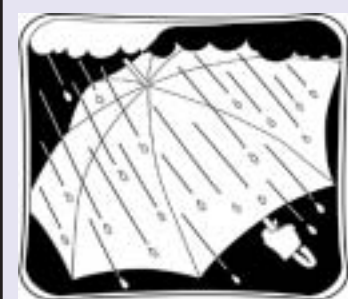


Weather Corner



Tonight...Breezy. Partly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the upper 40s. South winds 5 to 10 mph with gusts to 25 mph increasing to east 15 to 25 mph after midnight.

Tuesday...Strong winds. 80 percent chance of rain. Highs in the mid 50s. North winds 20 to 30 mph increasing to 35 to 50 mph in the afternoon. **Tuesday night...**Very windy. 80 percent chance for rain showers. Lows in the mid 30s. North winds 30 to 40 mph.

Wednesday...Windy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain in the morning. Highs in the upper 50s to near 60. North winds 25 to 35 mph with gusts to 50 mph.

The numbers
Sunday's high, 75
Low this morning, 32
Records for this date, 89 in 1929 and 12 in 1977
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
Precipitation for month to date: 0.00
Snowfall for month to date: 0.00
Soil temperature, 50

The sources:
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

State Briefs

Voters expected to add gay marriage ban to constitution

TOPEKA (AP)—Opponents of gay marriage are pitting themselves against gay and lesbian activists as Kansas voters prepare to decide Tuesday whether to become the 18th state to add a ban to the state constitution.

Those who support the gay marriage ban have financial support from a national group and help from Sen. Sam Brownback. They argue an amendment is necessary to prevent a court in Kansas from invalidating state law.

Supporters are a little nervous about turnout, and Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh has declined to predict how many Kansans will go to the polls. Without the amendment on the ballot, participation would be light, with only municipal elections and scattered local questions.

Long-planned memorial to Korean War to be dedicated

LAWRENCE (AP)—After 30 years of talk, a memorial commemorating the Korean War is complete and will be dedicated later this month at the University of Kansas.

Not far from memorials to both world wars and the Vietnam War, a 7-foot-tall sculpture was installed Friday on the campus showing four intertwined cranes with a bird representing each of four countries that had a major role in the war: the United States, China, North Korea and South Korea. The cranes symbolize spirituality, peace and happiness.

The 400-pound copper sculpture, called "Korean Cranes Rising," was made by university design professor Jon Havener.

Briefly

Colby council meets Tuesday

The Colby City Council will hold its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday in council chambers. Items on the agenda include the annual report of Pioneer Memorial Library; approval of final documents for one of Colby's wells along with transmission bid for Midlands Contracting; authorization to solicit bids for hydraulic articulating aerial device for the electric company and discussion on spring clean up. For questions or an agenda, call 460-4410.

Spaghetti fund raiser scheduled

The Colby Community Building will be the site of a spaghetti fund raiser on Sunday, April 3 for Kristin Rathbun, the daughter of Fred and Marvia Miller of Colby, who is battling cancer. The spaghetti lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will include salad, bread and dessert in addition to spaghetti. A free will offering will be appreciated.

School board meeting today

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. tonight in the

board room of the Administration Building.

Items on the agenda include a public hearing on the republished general fund budget; approval of the consent agenda; administrative reports; the budget; bids for a new Suburban/Expedition; approval of the republished 2004-2005 budget; emergency substitute license; setting the date for the end of year staff gathering; Kansas Association of School Board spring regional meeting and dues; part-time senior schedules; Thomas County strategic planning committee; house construction project and if needed, personnel issues. The meeting is open to the public.

Preschool enrollment Tuesday

An enrollment-open house for the 2005-06 school year at Puddle Duck Preschool, 520 W. 5th, Colby, will be held Tuesday, from 4 to 6 p.m. Puddle Duck preschool is for 3 to 5 year-old children. For information, call Amy Jennings, director, at 460-2603.

'Bowl for Kids Sake' still needs teams

The Thomas County Big Brothers Big Sisters group will

be participating in the "Bowl for Kids Sake," Saturday and Sunday at the Colby Bowl and Fun Center, 1175 S. Range. Teams consisting of four to five people are still forming for the event. Questions, call 460-9125.

After school program continues

An after school program is being held from 4-5:30 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday until the end of April at the Colby Community Building. Snacks and activities are provided and the event is free.

The program is being sponsored by the Thomas County Interagency Coalition. For information or to register, call the Regional Prevention Center at 462-8152 or the Colby Recreation Department at 460-4440.

Knights schedule pancake feed

The Knights of Columbus are planning a pancake and sausage feed, Saturday, April 9, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the basement of the Sacred Heart Church, 1065 W. 5th, Colby. The feed is a free-will donation and all proceeds will go to the Thomas County Amusement Association.

Workshop teaches others to be leaders

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

OAKLEY — Two northwest Kansas leaders for the past two days have helped train others to be leaders in their own communities.

Leilani Thomas, Leadership Thomas County facilitator, and Roger Hrabec, Rooks County Economic Development director, on Wednesday and Thursday presented a workshop at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley.

Providing knowledge about becoming leaders to people who will return to their hometowns, Thomas and Hrabec instructed nearly 30 people. Training materials were based off those developed by the Kansas Health Foundation as part of its Kansas Community Leadership Initiative.

"This is a program that the Western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance is doing to promote leadership in western Kansas. The training is to train the trainer, and the students will be qualified to facilitate the leadership program in their own communities," Logan County Development Director Fred Jones said.

The mission of the Kansas Health

Foundation is to improve the health of all Kansans by nurturing leaders who then take the knowledge they've gained to train others and about mobilization of communities and transformation of organizations.

It is also about building and sustaining philanthropic resources among Kansas communities.

During the morning session at the workshop on Thursday, Thomas and Hrabec had their students study a model built out of Lego toys and duplicate that model.

The individuals were grouped in units of about six people, and each unit was required to devise a way to build their own model like the one on a table in another room. While each person could move about to go study the model, no one was allowed to touch or draw the model while looking at it.

Once confident about a plan of construction, the unit of people discussed how to build a model at their own table.

Supplies including drawing paper and pencils were given to the unit to plan their process.

"Right now they are learning how they think, and (Leilani and I) are looking at their different learning



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Leilani Thomas and Roger Hrabec oversee the construction of a model as part of a leadership training workshop which took place in Oakley on Wednesday and Thursday. Logan County Development Director Fred Jones, third from left, was one of the individuals who participated in the workshop.

styles," Hrabec said..

"This process will allow those with leadership skills to step up, and they'll be more analytical, while others will kind of fade to the background."

The process taught during the two-day workshop in Oakley is being taught across a 52-county region of the Alliance.

"I think we have here a group of people from western Kansas who do not have leadership programs in

their own communities. After these sessions, they will be able to go back to their homes and share their knowledge," Thomas said.

While Thomas and Hrabec were intent on getting the training pro-

cess across to their students, they were enjoying the process as well.

"It's fun to think about a group of adults sitting around a set of toys to learn leadership, but it's a great way to have them think," Thomas said.

One council race contested

Colby council members featured

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Of the four Colby City Council wards, only one race has two challengers vying for the position in Ward II, which will be vacated by John Breckenkamp in April. Mitch Beims and Josh Faber are both competing for the Ward II seat with Mark Beringer (Ward IV) and Phil De Young (Ward I), both incumbents, are running unopposed.

Eugene Wieland in Ward III decided not to re-run for another term and Tim Hutfles has filed for the seat.

In the contested race, Beims said he believes that the city needs to continue promoting growth while providing quality services to the people of Colby.

When asked why he is running, Beims said he wants to be a part of the city's government.

"I am interested in government and very interested in making Colby a better place to live," he said.

He is a graduate of Colby Community College and received his bachelor's degree from Kansas State University. In addition, Beims said he will have a master's degree in educational administration from Fort Hays State University in May.

He and his wife, Cortney, have one child, Braden, 2 years old, and they have lived in Ward II for five years.

"I would appreciate your vote on Tuesday," he said.

Faber said he decided to run for council because, he too, believes Colby is a good place to raise a family. He said he would also like to see

economic development continue and not just in the retail sector, but something where people can make a living.

Faber, who owns his own remodeling and construction business, said he remembered how difficult it was to move back to the area (from Wisconsin) because of the job market.

Born in Colby and raised on a farm north of Brewster, he and his wife, Ronda, have three sons: John, 9; Aaron, 7; and Mark 5.

He is a member of the Church of Christ and serves on its board and is the basketball coach for the Heartland Christian School girls team (6th through 10th grade).

Although running uncontested, Tim Hutfles, said he was running for the council in order to be of more service to his community. Born and raised in Colby, he graduated from Colby High School, Colby College



Mitch Beims

Josh Faber

and Wichita State University with a degree in secondary education.

He and his wife, Amy, who is a

See "COUNCIL," page 5

Faced with a Drinking Problem?
Perhaps
Alcoholics Anonymous Can Help
Meetings are Open to the Public
City Hall Basement
Mondays & Thursdays - 8:30 p.m.

I would appreciate your VOTE Tuesday, April 5



CINDY BLACK

Colby Community College
Board Trustee

*Community volunteer dedicated
to make a difference!*

Paid for by Cindy Black

American Profile

Celebrating Hometown Life

(available in trade area only)

See American Profile Magazine in today's issue of the

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"Neighbors helping neighbors"

THIS AD:

**Celebrate
Week of the Young Child**
April 3-9, 2005



Children's Opportunities-Our Responsibilities

The week of the Young Child is an annual event that celebrates the importance of young children and families in our communities. During this week we focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. Express your appreciation to the following agencies:

*Area childcare providers
*Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center
*Colby Community College Resource & Referral
*Local Public Libraries
*Area Preschools
*Headstart
*Parents as Teachers

Sponsored by: Smart Start NW Kansas

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be on printer)**

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