

Weather Corner



90s track to continue

**Tonight...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.  
**Tuesday...**Partly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 90s. East winds up to 10 mph.  
**Tuesday night...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the lower 60s. East winds 5 to 10 mph.  
**Wednesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s. East winds up to 5 mph.  
**Thursday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s.  
**The numbers**  
Sunday's high, 91  
Low this morning, 65  
Records for this date, 110 in 1954 and 46 in 1905  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
Month's precipitation, 1.42  
Soil temperature, 82  
**Water Data**  
WaterWatch — Demand for 3 consecutive days exceeds 3.5 million gallons per day.  
WaterWarning — Demand for 3 consecutive days exceeds 4.0 million gallons per day. City will begin conservation efforts.  
WaterEmergency — Demand for 3 consecutive days exceeds 4.5 million gallons per day. No outdoor watering allowed along with other conservation efforts.  
Water July 7 = 2,368,900 gallons  
**The sources:**  
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Court says kiss violated state's sex law

TOPEKA (AP) — A teacher who “French kisses” a student over the age of 16 still has committed an illegal sex act under state law, the Kansas Court of Appeals ruled Friday.  
Last year, the state’s sexual relations law was amended to make it a felony for school employees to have sexual contact with students ages 16 and 17. Prior to that, sex abuse laws in Kansas had applied only to victims under the age of 16.  
The appeals court said Friday that French kissing constitutes the felony act of “lewd fondling or touching” between a school employee and a student from the same school.  
The court ruled on the appeal of Lori Lynn Stout, 32, a former teacher and coach at Wellington High School in south-central Kansas. She had been found guilty by a Sumner County jury of unlawful sexual relations.  
The case involved her relationship with a 16-year-old female student.  
According to court documents, the student initiated a French kiss while staying overnight at Stout’s home, but Stout resisted. The two later kissed again, records show.  
Both the girl and Stout denied any other type of sexual contact, and each said she had no interest in pursuing a sexual relationship, the court acknowledged.  
But based on the circumstances of the case, the judges supported the jury’s earlier finding.  
“A French kiss or tongue kiss is indisputably a touching; moreover, it is a touching that is not necessarily innocent, dependent upon the circumstances,” the court said.  
“Given the weight of authorities acknowledging that such kissing can be intimate sexual contact, we decline to hold as a matter of law that such contact cannot be lewd touching.”  
The court did, however, grant Stout a new trial because the jury had received improper instructions.

Briefly

Extension office plans open house

The Thomas County Extension office in Colby will hold an open house from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, and also on Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the west wing of the office complex, 350 S. Range Ave. The open house will showcase the celebration of 4-Hers over the last 100 years. There will also be activities and presentations by all the agents with lots of fun and educational opportunities for both young and old. On Thursday, children will be able to make bottle rockets starting at 5:30 p.m., and then learn how to make microwave biscuit bubble bread and strawberry smoothies at 6 p.m. Starting at 6:30, get all your tips for tree and lawn care; finally get your updated report on the local and regional wheat plots. Staff members at the extension office are encouraging everyone to drop and and take this time to meet the new staff, receive door prizes, and enjoy homemade refreshments.

Reservations near for After 5 event

The High Plains After 5 Club is inviting everyone to its “Fun At the Malt Shop” dinner party from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 12, at the Colonial Steakhouse in Oakley. Reservations and cancellations are due no later than Sunday, July

10, by calling either Gloria Mattix at (785) 460-2705 or e-mailing Teri Adams at: biohw@st-tel.net. The High Plains After 5 Club is affiliated with the Christian Women’s Club.

SRS office to begin move Tuesday

The Colby Social and Rehabilitation Office will be closed Tuesday, July 12 and Wednesday, July 13. They will be open in their new location at 1135 S. Country Club Drive, Suite 1, Colby, on July 14. If anyone needs to report child/adult abuse, neglect or exploitation, call 1-800-264-3798 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. After hours, weekends and holidays, call 1-800-922-5330 or your local law enforcement. If you need assistance with food stamps, medical, vocational rehabilitation or child care please call (785) 543-5258. The office apologizes for any inconvenience.

La Leche meetings continue

La Leche League of Northwest Kansas will have a local meeting series on breastfeeding information, from 3 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 10 and August 7, at First Presbyterian Church meeting room, 515 W. 4th, Colby. The July Sunday meeting will be on advantages of breastfeeding and the beginning weeks. The August meeting will be on avoiding difficulties

and on nutrition/weaning. All interested parents-to-be, parents with nursing babies, and support people are welcome to these informal meetings. Call Connie Davis, (785) 460-7188, for questions or general information on breastfeeding.

Five-year reunion forms available

For those planning to attend Colby’s All School five-year reunion, but have lost their registration forms or didn’t receive on, they can pick forms up from Sharon Bieker at F & M Bank, 240 W. 4th St., Colby. Also registration information can be obtained by going online at <http://www.eaglesalumni.org>.

Queen/princess contestants sought

The Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess contest is seeking contestants for the 2005 pageant on Monday, July 25 in Colby. For those interested in the queen competition, the age range is 16-23. For the princess contestants, age range is from 12 to 15. Junior princesses from 8 to 11 years old are also eligible. A trophy saddle will be awarded to queen along with belt buckles and crowns for all winners. Contestants will be judged in horsemanship, interview, speech and modeling. For questions or an entry form, call (785) 586-2228.

Taking it in



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Jennifer, Calley and Caitlin Burr relaxed in the shade during the McLemore Family performance Thursday at the Picnic in the Park. The weekly event runs each Thursday at noon through the month of July at Fike Park. Bring your lawn chair, blanket, sack lunch and enjoy. Jan Barnum is this week’s entertainer.

Interest in ethanol plants grows in southwest Kansas

LIBERAL (AP) — The large number of cattle in southwest Kansas makes it a prime area for ethanol production, according to a consultant hired to study the feasibility of an ethanol plant in Seward County.

Ed Stahl, of BBI International, told a group of ethanol supporters Thursday that his company believes an area from Garden City to the Texas panhandle could easily support five to seven projects to create ethanol, a fuel additive.

He forecast that a plant that produced 50 million gallons of ethanol a year could generate annual pretax earnings of \$8.38 million, while a 100-million-gallon plant could generate \$18.03 million.

Stahl said cattle make a ready market for distillers grain, a feed that is one of the byproducts of ethanol production.

The positive report has members of the Liberal Ethanol Steering Committee excited about bringing a plant to the area.

“I think the numbers speak for themselves,” said Nick Hatcher, who leads the Liberal group.

Hatcher said the steering committee — made up of ranchers, farmers, bankers, businessmen and others from Seward County — will meet again to decide the next step.

The specific timing of any project “depends on the equity drive we put together,” he said.

The group isn’t the only one interested in ethanol. A St. Louis-based firm announced last month that it plans to build a plant near Ulysses to generate 100 million gallons per year, perhaps starting this fall. Kearny County officials are studying the feasibility of building a plant there.

“Practically speaking, BBI thinks the area, Garden City to Hereford, Texas, can easily sustain five, six, seven projects just based on the amount of cattle alone,” said Stahl. Hereford is in the Texas Panhandle.

Ethanol is made from corn or sorghum. With cattle close, the distillers grain can be shipped to buyers wet, saving on the substantial cost of drying it.

When ethanol producers have to ship distillers grain long distances, they must dry it first so it won’t spoil.

“The market for distillers grain is self-evident and should be exploited at every possible turn,” Stahl said.

Although interest in ethanol is growing, Stahl said the biggest hindrance to such projects is lack of equity from investors. Bankers will lend up to 60 percent of the money required to build a plant, with the rest coming from equity.

“There are a lot of projects that get started, and they just can’t get the money to close,” Stahl said. “

Special floor covering used in Oakley building

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

OAKLEY — An international floor covering system is being laid in the new activity center at an Oakley church.

Sean Celmer, Independence Mo., last week started laying a revolutionary composite floor covering in the Impact Center at Oakley’s Community Church. A vinyl composite with a rubber foam backing, Celmer is one of five installers in the Untied States laying Taraflex flooring.

“Taraflex is made in France and has a 40-year guarantee. It’s the only floor covering which passes safety specifications for the National Board of Education,” Celmer said.

He said Congress has safety specifications before it, which if passed, will allow United States schools replacing current floor covering in gymnasiums, weight rooms and similar activity-based student sites to use Taraflex.

Winner of a world-wide competition, Celmer laid the same flooring in the practice facility of the Seattle Supersonics, and the same surface material is now covering the athletic area of the regulation sized

basketball and volleyball court at the Impact Center.

Laying 4-foot 11-inch wide strips 84-feet long, Celmer will be ready to paint basketball and volleyball stripes on the floor next week when he finishes.

The process was delayed one week when the last roll of flooring, which was damaged in shipment, had to be replaced.

“I’ll use a two-part epoxy paint to paint the lines. It’s made by Nova Manufacturing and it’s a nice paint because you double coat everything,” Celmer said.

Working alone, Celmer said he was trained by developers from the French company who traveled to the United States to teach him to install the flooring.

“I’ve got it down to a science and I’m the only person in the United States who does it by myself. I can do a floor like this one in four days, where it takes other guys working in a two-man team a week to do it.

“I won the world award for installing for the Parkville Athletic Center in Parkville, Missouri. It was four gyms in one building with a running track around it,” Celmer said.



Picnic In The Park

Bring your lunch and lawn chair and enjoy the musical talent of....

Jan Barnum



Thursday, July 14th  
12:00 noon  
Fike Park

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