

Weather Corner



Might see some showers

The forecast
Tonight...Mostly cloudy. Chance of thunderstorms and shower activity after midnight. Areas of fog after midnight. Lows in the lower 60s. East winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent.

Tuesday...Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 80s. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph. **Tuesday night...**Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the mid 60s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. **Wednesday...**Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the 80s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Temperatures
Thursday's, 97
Low this morning, 63
Records for this date, 105 in 1986 and 45 in 1960
Precipitation past 24 hours t 8 a.m. today, 0.00
August's precipitation, 1.40
Soil temperature, 81

Water Terms
•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 Use
August 18 = 2,171,600 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.

Briefly

Picnic Tuesday for music students

Band and vocal students, along with their parents, are invited to attend a Colby Music Booster Club picnic, Tuesday, starting at 6:30 p.m. in Fike Park. Club members said hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided, but those attending are asked to bring a favorite salad or dessert and table service.

Girl Scout registration planned

Girl Scout registration will be from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday at the Girl Scout Center (Basement of Puddle Duck Preschool). Girls from kindergarten through high school can come registered. Even if they have never been in Girl Scouts before they can join. If girls aren't what Girl Scouts are all about there will be activities for Daisy (Kindergarten), Brownies (first, second and third) and Juniors (fourth, fifth and sixth) the night of registration so you can see first hand what Girl Scouts learn and do. Leaders will be there to answer questions for all levels Daisies through Senior Scouts. For more information, call Penny Cline at 785-460-2929 after 4:30 p.m..

Childcare provider course planned

Smart Start Northwest Kansas and Colby Community

College Resource and Referral are sponsoring an information session Thursday, Sept. 8, from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Colby College Library basement room 253. The session is open to anyone who is interested in becoming a licensed childcare provider. There is no fee for the session. For questions or to register, call 1(888) 634-9350, ext. 250.

Pre-plant wheat school scheduled

A pre-plant wheat school, sponsored by the Thomas County Extension Office and Sunflower Extension Office in Goodland, is scheduled at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 30, in the Brewster Community Church. Agronomists, fertility specialists and a plant pathologist will talk on related topics involving wheat, and free hamburgers will be served during their talk. For questions, call either extension office. In Thomas County, call 460-4582 and in Sherman County, call 899-4880.

'Fill the Boot' for MDA nearing

Around the Labor Day Weekend, Colby firefighters are again participating in the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association's "Fill the Boot" campaign as a way to raise money for medical services and research programs to fight MDA. In Colby, firefighters will be located at major intersections in town holding their boots so that motorists can give their dollars and change to support this cause, said Rick

Dickman, assistant fire chief in Colby. "Please take a moment to drop some cash into a boot when you see your area firefighters out on the streets," he said. More details will appear in future editions of the *Free Press*.

Donations sought for church auction

Plans are underway for this year's Sacred Heart Parish/School annual benefit auction with the theme, "South of the Border." As in year's past, Sacred Heart officials will reach out to the business community asking for whatever support they can provide. Anyone interested in giving cash, items or service, is encouraged to stop by the church office, 585 N. French, Colby, Kan. 67701 and fill out an auction donation form. The auction date will be Saturday, Oct. 15, at the TN Building. For questions or information, call 462-2179.

EMT classes planned in September

Thomas County Emergency Medical Service is sponsoring an EMT Class starting at 6 p.m., Monday, Sept 12, at the Thomas County EMS building, 1275 S. Franklin, Colby. Interested individuals can call 460-4585 for an information packet concerning class dates and times, meeting places, college credit and fees, textbooks and labe equipment needed, and of course the requirements. Financial assistance is available, said Kathi Wright, EMS director.

Both sides give their version of alleged rudeness

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

OAKLEY — An Oakley man who tired to help a blind man price a car tag has filed a complaint

against the treasurer in Logan County.

Curtis Crouse didn't like how he was treated by Logan County Treasurer Kay Marcy when he tried to

help Jerry Kruse price a car tag last week. Crouse works through Living Independently in Northwest Kansas, Colby, as a caregiver for Kruse, who is legally blind.

"She was very rude to us. We weren't having any problem until she butted in and instead of staying and arguing with her, we left. We went back when she wasn't there and we didn't have any problem," Crouse said.

He said he was trying to find out how much a tag and taxes would cost for a vehicle Kruse was considering being from Oklahoma to Kansas. While Kruse can not legally drive the car himself, he can legally own a car and have a caregiver drive it for him.

Marcy said Thursday afternoon she tried to explain to Crouse and Kruse they didn't bring the correct documentation to her office when they tried to find out about the costs.

"There was a situation where we could not bring up a record on (Kruse) on the computer and get information about a vehicle he owned. We were unable to find the record, and he came back in later to give us information," Marcy said.

She said the two men wanted her to call an outside source for the information which was needed, but she refused to make the call.

"I don't make long distance calls (for people) to their financial officers and he was upset," Marcy said.

After leaving Marcy's office, Crouse and Kruse went to the office of Logan County Clerk Pat

Schippers and told her they wanted to file a formal complaint against Marcy.

"I don't have any official forms for such an instance, so I typed up a paragraph for them so sign," Schippers said.

The document says Crouse and Kruse believe Marcy was rude to them when they attempted to "conduct business in the county treasurer's office."

"I hope it gets put in her file and I hope people think about it when it's time to re-elect her," Crouse said.

Marcy said only about 1 percent of her patrons are not happy with the service they receive from her office.

"I don't like it, but we can't get vehicle information without proof of insurance. When I took office I swore I'd abide by the laws of the state of Kansas and that's what I do," she said.

Marcy said she talked to Logan County Commissioners Carl Ulrich, Nick Scott and Doug Mackley and advised them of the situation and that Crouse and Kruse had filed the complaint against her. As fellow elected officials, the commissioners have no jurisdiction over Marcy.

"I don't feel like I did anything wrong. Maybe I could have said (what I did) in a different way, but that's the situation," Marcy said.

Pre-Relay activity



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Volunteers worked Friday to fix luminaries before the beginning of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life at Colby's Dennen Field. More than 700 luminaries were lit that night in honor of cancer survivors and victims.

Medicaid expenses next challenge at Topeka

By CARL MANNING

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — Somewhere between savings and suffering lies a solution to the state's problem with runaway Medicaid costs. At least, that's what Kansas lawmakers are hoping.

Over the past decade, the state-federal health care program for low-income Kansans has grown to where it's like an elephant in a living room — it just can't be ignored.

"Right now, Medicaid is growing by leaps and bounds, with no end in sight," said Senate President Steve Morris. "You have more people coming on to the rolls, and the cost of medical expenses is going up."

Medicaid currently spends \$1.7 billion for medical care and nursing facilities. A decade ago, that number was \$678.1 million. Of the \$1.7 billion, the state pays \$580.3 million.

With in-home services for the physically and developmentally disabled and children who have se-

vere emotional disorders, total spending climbs to \$2.2 billion.

Legislators are wrestling with increased costs of state government but remain loath to raise taxes. That anti-tax sentiment certainly won't diminish during the election-year legislative session that cranks up Jan. 9.

There's not a lot of wiggle room. The state already has some of the most stringent eligibility requirements in the nation; 45 states are more generous than Kansas when it comes to Medicaid coverage for adults, and 25 are more generous with benefits for children.

"Medicaid is not a generous program in terms of who can receive services," said Bob Day, director of the Division of Health Policy and Finance, which oversees the program. "We aren't a state that has a lot of fluff in the program in terms of who we cover."

Day said Medicaid enrollment is higher than ever, expecting to have between 270,000 and 300,000 re-

cipients over the next year. The greatest increase in numbers has been among children, but the biggest costs are for the aged and disabled.

"The aged and disabled population makes up about 20 percent of Medicaid and they use 60 to 70 percent of the expenditures," Day said.

Legislative leaders want to avoid doing more harm than good.

"When we're talking about changes, we're not talking about changing eligibility but decreasing the amount of increases in spending we have seen," said Morris, R-Hugoton. "It will be difficult to trim very many benefits, but that's not to say we can't take a look and see how we can do things more efficiently."

Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt is chairman of a Medicaid study committee that will begin

hearings next month. Rising costs are a problem that probably won't be resolved in a single legislative session, but the committee is a start.

"There are limitations in federal law as to what our options are and limitations in terms of public expectations as to what our options are," said Schmidt, R-Independence. "We have a fairly narrow field in which to run, but our job is to see what choices we can make to get a handle on these skyrocketing costs."

Not part of the plan are images of any needy Kansan being booted out of Medicaid and being forced to fix a broken arm with cardboard and duct tape.

"I don't think you will find much interest in Kansas in denying people health care," Schmidt said. "I don't think those approaches are likely to

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