

Weather Corner



Lows in 50s, highs near 90

Tonight...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 7 p.m. Lows in the high 50s. South southeast wind between 8 and 15 mph. **Friday...**Partly cloudy with highs in the mid-80s. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 7 a.m. South wind 8 to 18 mph with gusts up to 30 mph. **Friday night...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 7 p.m. Lows in the low 60s. South wind between 10 and 20 mph with gusts up to 30 mph. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy with highs in the low 90s. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Saturday night...**Mostly clear with lows in the low 60s. **Sunday...**Mostly sunny and breezy with highs in the low 90s.

Temperatures
Wednesday's high, 75
Low this morning, 46
Records for this date, 105 in 1911 and 40 in 1908
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
August's precipitation, 3.03
Soil temperature, 75
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
Aug. 30 = 2,170,600 gallons
Aug. 31 = (not available)

Briefly

No newspaper Monday

The Colby Free Press will not publish a Monday, Sept. 5, newspaper in observance of Labor Day, said Pat Schiefen, interim publisher. However, a newspaper will be delivered on Tuesday. The office will also be closed Monday, and reopen Tuesday at its regular time of 8 a.m.

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 requirments. Financial assistance is available, said Kathi Wright, EMS director.

Share signup next week

Heartland Share signup for September will begin on Monday and continue through Friday, Sept. 9, at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. 4th, Colby. The order will go in Monday, Sept. 12 and delivery will be Saturday, Sept. 24. For questions, call 460-3579.

County offices closed Monday

The Thomas County courts, all county offices to include the health department will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5, for the Labor Day weekend, said Shelly Harms, clerk. The county landfill will be closed Sunday and Monday.

Page City reunion begins Friday

The Page City Alumni School Reunion will be held on Friday, Sept. 2 and Saturday, Sept. 3 at the Colby Community Building. Activities begin Friday at 7 p.m. with a time for visiting and snacks. On Saturday, events start at 11:30 a.m. with a potluck at noon and a program following the meal. Most activities will conclude by 5 p.m. Drinks and table service will be provided at the potluck. All Page City graduates, attendees, and any one in the community is encouraged to attend. All are welcome. For questions, call Sharon Stramel, (785) 460-3706.

College announces pool hours

Fall semester hours at the Colby Community College swimming pool will be as follows: Lap swimming will be Monday-Friday from 5-7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Open swimming will be held Monday and Wednesday from 4-7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 4-8 p.m., Friday from 4-6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1-5 p.m. During the first hour of lap swimming (5-6 a.m.) only lap swimming will be permitted. From 6-7 a.m., the pool will be divided with 3 lanes reserved for lap swimmers and the remainder to be used by exercise swimmers. For other questions, comments, call Kipp Nelson at 462-3984, ext. 304.

Gaither video Sunday

Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine, is sponsoring a Gaither Video concert starting at 6 p.m., Sunday. The featured video is "A Texas Homecoming," and open to everyone.

Single group schedules Friday dance

Dances will once again be held for single people in Colby with the first planned this Friday, said Carolyn Miller, one of the organizers.

Originally, Swing N Country was the scheduled entertainment, but that has been changed. Off Limits will provide music at 8 p.m. to midnight at the City Limits Convention Center. Prior to the featured dance, line dancing lessons are being offered at 7 p.m. at the same location. For questions, call Miller, 460-6896.

Methodist Mission auction nears

The Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin, is sponsoring a mission auction on Sunday, Sept. 18, with dinner and silent auction at noon followed by the live auction at 12:30 p.m.

All proceeds will go to benefit mission work and items for the auction are still being accepted. For questions or to find out how to donate an item, call 462-6503.

Transit van for Colby residents only

The Thomas County transit van is available to all people in Colby, said Shelly Harms, county clerk. Operating from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, Colby residents needing to use this service can call 460-2901.

The transit van driver, Ed Dean, is not qualified to transport patients to Citizens Medical Center or any other hospital facility. For questions about the transit van, either call the service number or the county clerk's office, 460-4500.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press



'Fill the Boot' a success

LEFT: Sukey Idol of Colby (right) donated money last weekend to Greg Swob, Colby firefighter, who was one of 28 volunteers collecting for the Muscular Dystrophy Association's "Fill the Boot" campaign. **ABOVE:** Volunteer Joey Unruh, 7, the son of Todd and Chris Unruh, decked out in firefighter clothing, did his part by bringing in grocery carts at the Dillons parking lot. His dad said Joey has been in charge of carts during the campaign for about three years. Rick Dickman, assistant fire chief, said the drive netted \$1,940, which was up from last year's \$1,880. All proceeds will go to the Ark Valley Chapter in Wichita, but will come back to the Colby area to pay for braces, camp and helping local families.

Russell Springs to host cow chip contest

By JAN KATZ ACKERMAN

Colby Free Press
RUSSELL SPRINGS — Cow chip throwers will loosen up their arms for the Kansas State Cow Chip Throwing contest Sunday in Russell Springs.

Joy Rogge, curator of the Butterfield Trail Museum, said the tiny town of Russell Springs will overflow for Sunday's Old Settlers Picnic.

Russell Springs is located 42 miles south of Colby and 32 miles

southwest of Oakley on U.S. Highway 25. Rogge said a church service will open the Old Settlers' event at 8 a.m.

"We'll have registration of Old Settlers at 9 a.m.," Rogge said. "a parade at 10 a.m. and the cow chip

throwing contest at 11 a.m."

"There will be a free hamburger feed at noon, and a program featuring Buffalo Bill, portrayed by Kirk Shapland of Dighton," Rogge said. For information, call Rogge at the museum at (785) 751-4242.

Some state campgrounds soggy from rains

WICHITA (AP) — Recent storms near Wichita could wind up putting a damper on some Labor Day weekend plans.

Some campgrounds at El Dorado and Fall River state parks will be closed, and campers who decide to stay at the ones that are open will

deal with wet grounds.

"We've got a lot of flooding," said Casey Smithson, manager of El Dorado State Park. "At this current time, the park here is probably 65 percent operational."

Smithson said he hopes about 85 percent of the park's 1,100 camps

ites will be available for use over Labor Day weekend. Grounds "are going to be pretty soggy," Smithson said, meaning campers will need to "have a little bit of tolerance."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is releasing 4,000 cubic feet of water per second to reduce the

swollen El Dorado Lake, which received nearly 10 inches of rain last week.

Boat ramps at Fall River and the Cassner Creek utilities camping area are under water, but some people should still be able to get in the water.

Sixteen natural gas leaks uncovered in central Kansas

LYONS (AP) — Crews in central Kansas are fixing at least 16 potentially explosive natural gas leaks that were uncovered near a school and a hospital, city officials in Lyons said.

The Lyons City Council held a special meeting Tuesday night to approve up to \$350,000 to repair the leaks and replace old pipes, some near Lyons Middle School and Rice County District No. 1 Hospital.

Lyons City Administrator John Sweet said the problem isn't concentrated in a single area. Since Aug. 22, Kansas City, Mo.-based Aquila Inc. has found 16 class-one leaks near various Lyons buildings. Pipeline safety officials said the class-one designation is based on the concentration of natural gas found at a location. A 90 percent concentration of gas was found by the hospital. The explosive limit is

4.5 percent, according to the Kansas Corporation Commission.

"This is a serious issue," Sweet said. Officials have recruited repair teams from Iola and Winfield and expect the survey and repairs to

continue for a month. Lyons owns a gas distribution system that includes more than 28 miles of gas line. Leo Haynos, pipeline safety chief for the KCC, said only 2 miles of pipe have been surveyed so far.



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Darlene Hatfield

is retiring after 29 years at

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in Colby.

Come by and wish her well on

Friday, Sept. 2

2-4 p.m.

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