

Weather Corner



Showers and storms likely

The forecast
Tonight... Showers and thunderstorms likely after 7 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a low in the low 60s. South southeast wind 10 to 15 mph. **Wednesday** — Showers and thunderstorms likely before 7 a.m. Partly cloudy with highs in the high 80s. South southeast wind 7 to 14 mph. **Wednesday night** — A 40 percent chance of thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy with lows in the high 50s. South wind between 9 and 13 mph. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 90. south wind between 7 and 9 mph.

Temperatures
Monday's high, 91
Low this morning, 60
Records for this date, 105 in 1931 and 39 in 1956
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
September's precipitation, 0.00
Soil temperature, 72

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
Sept. 2, 3, 4 and 5 average was 2,314,600 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.

State's relief efforts take many forms

WAMEGO (AP) — Those who think “The Wizard of Oz” is the story of a Kansas farm girl singing about rainbows and skipping down a yellow brick road in red slippers should think again.

There’s a lot more to the world of Munchkins and witches than most people realize, as a trip through the Wizard of Oz Museum in this rural town shows.

The fascination for all things Oz goes back more than a century but was boosted by the 1939 movie classic.

Oz festivals are scattered around the country, including one here in October. Oz collectables are big business.

Scores of Web sites are devoted to Oz, and there’s even the International Wizard of Oz Club. As just about any Kansan knows, mention the state beyond its borders and there always seems to be some obligatory Oz reference, such as: “I don’t think we’re in Kansas anymore.”

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.

Routine screening and prompt treatment can reduce deaths from breast and cervical cancer.

call to see if you qualify for a free screening

early detection works

620-275-5302
www.preventionworkskansas.com

A message from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Cancer Information Service, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and American Cancer Society.

Briefly

Enrollment set for after school

The Thomas County Interagency Coalition in conjunction with area businesses and organizations is conducting an after school program for students in third, fourth and fifth grades, said Kim Chain, regional prevention center. The purpose of the after school program is to provide a safe place for children to go after school where trained adults provide healthy snacks and constructive activities. The program will run Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, starting Monday, Sept. 12 and continuing through Thursday, Nov. 17, at the Colby Community Building. Transportation from Colby Grade School to the community building will be provided by the Colby School District; however, parents must pick their child up from the community building at 5:15 p.m. For questions or to enroll, call Chain at 460-8177.

Hospital auxiliary recycle sale near

The Citizens Medical Center Auxiliary is sponsoring a recycle sale, 7:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 17, at 545 Woofter Ave. All holiday decorations and miscellaneous items in good condition are being accepted for the sale, but no clothing is needed. Donations may be left at 545 Woofter on Thursday, Sept. 15, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday, Sept. 16, from 10 a.m. to noon and again from 5 to 8 p.m. All proceeds will go toward hospital improvements. For questions,

call Carolyn Miller, 462-6896 or 462-7777 or (785) 443-1584.

Leadership project Wednesday

This year’s Leadership Thomas County class project will take place from 8:15 to 11 a.m. at Colby High School Wednesday. “Motorcycle Mary” will be talking to seniors about budgeting and other issues.

‘Kids For Safety’ event planned

The Thomas County Health Department is again offering its “Kids for Safety,” from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the Colby Community Building. Highlights of the event include water safety demonstrations, music and other learning experiences. Everyone, young and old, is encouraged to attend, said Juanita Dewey, administrator. More details will appear in a later edition of the *Free Press*.

Orchestra to begin rehearsals

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra begins its 25th season with rehearsals planned from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Monday, Sept. 12, in the Colby High School band room. All musicians are invited to join the orchestra, said Sharon Kriss, one of the members. Musicians span a wide range of vocations and ages (middle school to retirees) from communities throughout

northwest Kansas and northeast Colorado, she said. “Our repertoire ranges from classical to pop,” Kriss said. “No auditions are required,” she said, “only a love of music and commitment to this community service.” For questions, call Kriss at 460-2800 or Mary Shoaff, 462-2391.

Chorus rehearses every Tuesday

The Hi-Plains Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines holds rehearsals every Tuesday at 7:30 pm. at the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave. All female singers are encouraged to attend anytime. Larry Patterson of Norton is the director.

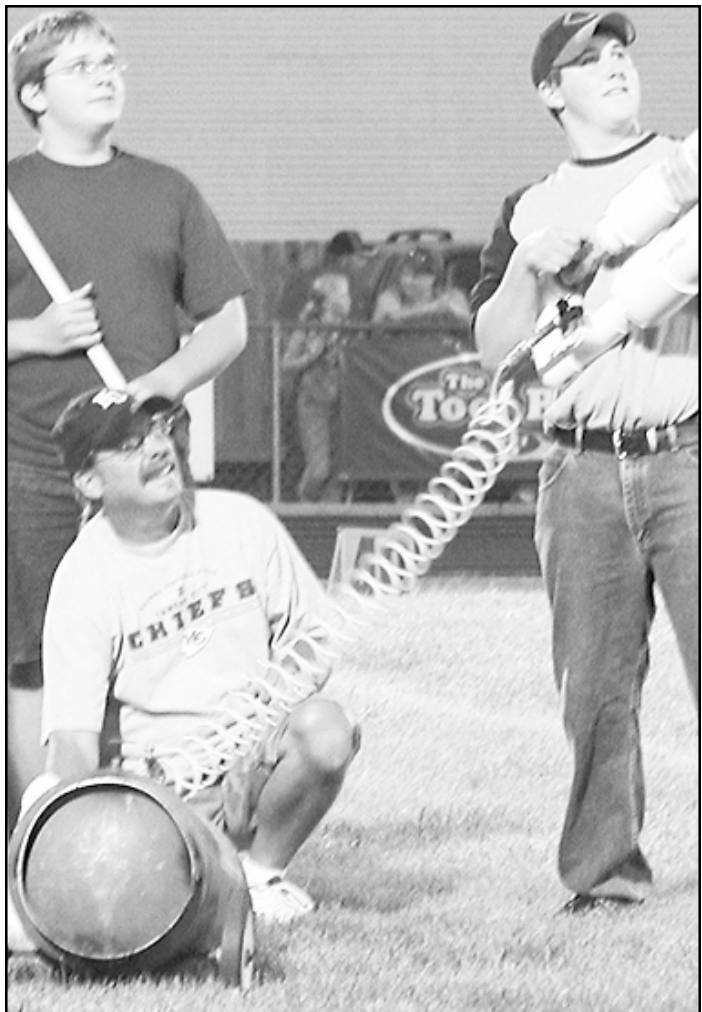
Square dance Saturday in Colby

The Golden Buckle Square Dancers are planning a dancing event Saturday, starting at 8 p.m. at the Colby Community Building. Steve Bailey, Holdrege, Neb., will call for the square dance. Visitors are welcome.

Share signup next week

Heartland Share signup for September begins today and continue through Friday, 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.

Flying T-shirts



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Technology Student Association members from the Colby School District and project manager Ray Duffey (kneeling) launched T-shirts with a launcher they built during half-time at the Colby High School Eagles football season opener Friday at Dennen Field. Students participating in the project were Curtis Fulwider, Zac Cardwell, and Karlton Leiker (not pictured) with Brian Saddler (right) and Cody Duffey (standing).

Judge seals case; no explanation

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

A Thomas County juvenile case has been closed by a judge’s order, but the judge refuses to explain.

“The judge just put a gag order on that case,” Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick told court clerks last Tuesday after meeting with Magistrate Judge Richard Ress.

Kansas law allows the public to have access to court records unless they are sealed by a judge. Anyone can go to the clerk of the district court’s office and ask to see case records.

Officials may ask for the request in writing.

Many case files also can be viewed under the state’s electronic filing system, called Full Court Accounting System.

The system tracks all the documents filed in each case, as well as any other activity, such as bonds, probation requirements or restitution payments. If a case is closed,

though, it does not appear on the system.

State law allows judges to close cases involving juveniles under the age of 14. However, Ress refused to disclose the nature of the case Tuesday, involving one or more children, or why it was closed.

“I’m not going to talk about it,” he said.

“A gag order doesn’t include keeping people from looking at the case unless it is part of a grand jury, an inquisition or closed by state statute,” said Ron Keefover, spokesman for the Office of Judicial Administration in Topeka.

Wyrick did not return calls on Wednesday. District Judge Glenn Schiffner said since he didn’t handle juvenile cases, he could not explain why Ress closed the case.

District Judge Jack Burr of Goodland, Schiffner and Ress’ superior, said the *Free Press* could ask to see a copy of Ress’ order closing the case.

State sees no signs of gas gouging

TOPEKA (AP) — Although phone calls complaining about the high price of gasoline have increased substantially in recent days, the Kansas Attorney General’s office says it has found no evidence of price gouging at state gas stations.

But Attorney Gen. Phill Kline warned Friday that any complaints about price gouging would be aggressively investigated.

The lack of any obvious gouging may result from lessons station owners learned after the Sept. 11

terrorist attacks, when 140 gas stations in the state ultimately agreed to a settlement related to price gouging.

“I don’t believe we’ll see any of it this time,” said Kyle McNorton, general manager of Topeka-based Capital City Oil, a gasoline wholesaler and retailer. “On Sept. 11, there were some people who pushed the panic button. A lot of times they weren’t knowingly gouging, but it happened, and it didn’t need to”

And Lawrence resident Dale Miller said Kline is looking in the

He also said the newspaper could file a motion asking for a review by a district judge.

“The order should say specifically why the case was closed,” Burr said.

Burr, as chief judge for the 15th Judicial District, oversees courts in Thomas, Logan, Sheridan, Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace and Rawlins Counties.

“I’m not going to comment about the case,” Ress said when asked to disclose the nature of the case and produce a copy of the order closing it

The *Free Press* called Keefover a second time, asking how to proceed. “I’ll call the chief judge and call you back,” he said.

After a 30-minute delay, Ress finally talked a little about the case.

“If I sealed a case,” he said, “it would be because of a juvenile’s age and to protect the victim.”

So far, he has not produced the order.

wrong place for suspected price gougers.

“You might want to talk to Saudi Arabia about that,” said Miller, a retired gas station owner.

Kline’s spokesman, Jan Lunsford, said the office follows a general rule, upheld by courts, that gouging begins when prices were more than 2.5 times their previous levels. Gasoline prices before Hurricane Katrina were about \$2.60 per gallon, meaning prices would have to reach more than \$6 a gallon before gouging was suspected.

THANK YOU • THANK YOU • THANK YOU

The Thomas County Amusement Association would like to thank the following people and businesses for their services, donations and support to make the 2005 carnival at the Thomas County Fair their biggest and best ever. When you are out and about, please take time to thank them for their continued support for the Amusement Association.


Bankwest	Omar Weber	Jeana Simpson Family
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Mary Ann & Keith Downing	Aaron Morton
City of Rexford	KXXX/KQLS “The Ride”	Josh Weed
Colby Child Care Assn.	Colby Free Press	John & Dona White
Sacred Heart CYO	Colby College Media	Samatha Sabatka
Dillons	Colby Ag Center	Susan Holzmeister
Farm Bureau	Midwest Energy	Amanda Seeman
Farmers & Merchants Bank	Martin Tractor	Brad & Amy Wildeman
Colby Fire Department	Ron & Cheryl Kogler	Carolyn Miller
First National Bank	Thomas County Fairboard	Martina Urban
Heartland Christian School	LeRoy’s Printing	Zach Cardwell
Hi-Plains Co-op	Western Sprinklers	Tom Harrison
Knights of Columbus	Dunk Tank Dunkees	Daryl & Marilyn Meyer
Colby High Plains Lions	Karen Raymond	Judy
People’s State Bank	Tera Raymond	Gary & Pat Sloan
Rotary Club	Cindy Marsh	Leon & Sharon Woofter
S & T Telephone	Mike & Jackie Wiens Family	Nate Harter
Sacred Heart School	Becky & Jeff Kippert	Diane Wilson
Thomas County Shrine Club	Mary Lou Jones	Larry Struckmeyer
Thomas County 4-H Clubs	Doug & Joni Ketchum	Karen & LJ O’Neal
Wyrick’s Law Office	Family	Lacy O’Neal
Clair & LaRita Schrock	James & Connie Ritter	“Ma” Merle Snyder
Brenda & Dennis Herl	Family	Virginia Umberger
Doug Brown	Brice & Amber Barton	Paul & Sharon Steele
Val & Darrell Wark	Linda Vrbas	Orscheln’s of Colby
Don Morton	U-Save	John Tweed
Cliff Harris	David Tole	Robert Dible
Jennifer Woofter	Hazel Estes	Delores Leak
Jo Kready	Bill Dible	Brenda & Robert Keith
Damon Glover	Betty Voss	Maria Platon
Judy Linville	Wilma Pabst	Kaid Wark
Jim Brown & Church of	Thomas County Sheriff’s Dept.	Tim Moeder
Christ Group from Littleton, Co.	Heather Griggs	

All others who donated items, stepped in to work and help out at the last minute - Thank You Very Much!

Kerry Wark Chad Zimmerman Wanda Brown
Tina Harris Melinda Morton Ron Donley Tom Wallsmith

How can anyone have enough nerve to break a 5 year olds heart?

That is exactly what happened on the week of August 7th. My 5 year old son's heart was crushed when someone in this town had enough nerve to enter our yard and steal my son's motorcycle. Please help his heart mend. We are looking for a little Kawasaki 50, it has a lime green and white body with a black seat. It also has a set of homemade training wheels and 01 on the front and on both sides. If anyone has any information PLEASE contact the Colby Police Department at **785-460-4460**.



American Profile

Celebrating Hometown Life
(available in trade area only)

See American Profile Magazine in today’s issue of the

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