

Weather Corner



Sunny, windy and warmer

The forecast
Tonight...Mostly clear with lows in the mid 50s. South wind around 10 mph.
Friday — Mostly sunny with highs in the high 80s. South wind between 10 and 20 mph.
Friday night — Partly cloudy with lows in the high 50s. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Saturday — Mostly sunny with highs in the low 90s. South southwest wind between five and 10 mph.
Saturday night — Mostly clear with a low around 56.
Sunday...Mostly sunny with highs in the low 80s.
Sunday night...Mostly clear with lows in the mid 50s.
Temperatures
Wednesday's high, 79
Low this morning, 53
Records for this date, 98 in 1955, 28 in 1904
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.04
September's precipitation, 0.04
Soil temperature, 74
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. 14= 2,283,700 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

Old cell phones wanted

Colby Grade School is collected old cell phones with proceeds going toward the purchase of new playground equipment, said Tami Brown, coordinating the project. Drop-off sites are located at Gavons Electronic, 1870 S. Range; the service desk at Dillons, 1605 S. Range; Unicel, 1933 S. Range; Beringer Hardware, 165 W. 4th or at the grade school, 210 N. Grant. In addition to helping the school, she said, those donating will also be helping the environment through recycling efforts. For questions, call Brown at 460-5100, ext. 1305.

Hospital auxiliary accepted today

The Citizens Medical Center Auxiliary is sponsoring a recycle sale, 7:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, 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.

WPAA has season opener in Atwood

The season opener for the Western Plains Arts Association will be *Denver A Cappella Project*, starting at 3 p.m., Sunday, in the Atwood High School auditorium. The group consists of three sets of spouses, two sets of siblings, and two sets of in-laws, making it truly a family affair, said Pat Ziegelmeier, executive director. The show highlights the group's love for different musical styles — whether they are crooning a jazz tune or belting out a gospel number. This program will be designed to provide a little something for everyone.

Admission is by WPAA season ticket or at the door: adults, \$10; students, \$5.

EMT class enrollment still open

Kathi Wright, EMS director with the Thomas County Emergency Medical Service, said there is still time to enroll in the EMT class, which will begin Monday, Sept. 26, starting at 6 p.m. at the EMS building 1275 S. Franklin, Colby. The first meeting this week was informational, she said, and no classroom work has started yet. If interested, call 460-4585 for an information packet concerning class dates and times, meeting places, college credit and fees, textbooks and lab equipment needed, and of course the requirements. Financial assistance is available, Wright said.

After Harvest Festival Sept. 27

The social problems class at Colby Community College will sponsor the 37th annual After Harvest Festival, starting at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 27. The festival will be held in the Community Building Little Theater. The event is for all those 55 years and older. Activities include bingo and cards at 3 p.m., followed by dinner at 5:15 p.m. and a dance from 6:30-7:30 p.m. No reservations are required. Dinner will include ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, corn, tea and coffee. Larry Koon, an instructor at Colby College for 37 years, is organizing the event. "This is an opportunity for students to interact with older Americans," he said. "A an inter-generational activity, it is great." In addition to the social problems class, the festival is sponsored by the Senior Progress Center. For questions, call Deb Koon, 462-6617.

New study continues today

A new and in-depth study of the Pentateuch, starting with the book of Genesis will begin at 7 p.m., tonight The purpose

of the group is in learning more about Jewish roots, which could include the meaning of many annual feasts, such as Passover, Shavout, and Pentecost and much more. For questions, call Jim or Henrietta at 460-1160.

College to offer computer class free

Colby Community College is offering computer and Internet classes for older Americans beginning Thursday, Oct. 6. The beginner's class will start at 2 p.m. The class for advanced students will begin at 3 p.m. The classes, taught by Larry Koon, will meet in the computer lab located in the Bedker Memorial Complex on the college campus. Students will be providing individual assistance. Topics to be covered include basic computer instruction, digital cameras, transferring photos to cloth and use of the Internet. Handouts will be provided. There is no tuition charge for this class. However, participants will be charged a \$5 technology fee. Refreshments will be provided. To register, call Deb Koon at 462-6617. Classes will be held Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27.

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.

Gaither video concert Sunday

The Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine, is sponsoring a Gaither video concert starting at 6 p.m., Sunday. This week's concert will feature "Mark Lowery Goes to Hollywood." The concert is open to the public and free of charge. "Enjoy great gospel music on the big screen," organizers said.

Love Thy Neighbor comedy scheduled

The Colby Community College drama department will present the comedy *Love Thy Neighbor* on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Nov. 3-5 in the Cultural Arts Center located on campus. The comedy is written by Colby Community College alumnus Gary Ray Stapp (class of 1981) and has a cast of eleven. Love Thy Neighbor revolves around Leona Crump who is concerned about who will buy the house across the street and is determined to keep out the "riff-raff," said Debbie Schwanke, public information officer. In spite of her efforts, a family of hillbillies moves into her neighborhood. Obnoxious Gafina and her Maw, as well as Gafina's "trampy" sister Bambi and amorous boyfriend Turner make life unbearable for Leona. She vows to remove them from her neighborhood with

or without the help of her couch-potato husband and closest neighbors. The comedy is directed and designed by college drama instructor Deb Bickner. Cast members include Kristi Khan (Colby) as Leona Crump; and Daniel Blake (Goodland) as Albert Crump. Other cast members are Jonathan Miller (Burlington, Colo.) as Paul Harrison; Regina Heier (Colby) as Judy Harrison; Tina Schmid (Colby) as Rose Bush; Challis Horinek (Gem) as Ava/Maw; Megan Ford (St. Francis) as Gafina; Josh Kenney (Seward, Neb.) as Turner; James Mason (Winston-Salem, N.C.) as George; and Wendy Bugbee (Ulysses) as Officer Doonan. Advance tickets will be available at the Campus Bookstore. Tickets will also be available prior to each performance at the door.



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Dale Tubbs, owner of Tubbs Harvesting, Colby, harvested corn Tuesday morning as Lynette Ball drove along side the combine in a grain cart on land she and her husband, Ron Ball, own near Menlo.

Three area school districts discuss Jennings, tax dollars

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

School districts in Hoxie, Oberlin and Norton look to keep thousands in tax dollars with the dissolution of the district in Jennings next year. Money in the past which was sent out of Sheridan, Decatur and Norton Counties will stay in each county starting next school year. "What we collected in 2004 for the Jennings School District spending in 2005 was \$93,198 for the state general levy at 20 mills and the rest is \$74,037," said Marilyn Horn, Decatur County Clerk. Sheridan County Clerk Paula Bielser said her county's figures are higher than her counterparts'. "We collected \$100,421 for the state general levy at 20 mills, and \$105,439 for the rest at 14.964 mills," she said of money previ-

ously going to the Jennings School District. At the Aug. 8 school board meeting in Jennings, board members Lawrence Carter, Frances Bader, Gary Gillum, Jeanette Krizek, Alesha Vahlin and Lila Jennings voted 5-2 on how to distribute land owned by the district when it's dissolved at the end of this school year. Jerry McKenna was appointed to an open seat later in the meeting. The land distribution is what will change how much taxpayer dollars will remain in each county. "It appears the total sections (of land) to be given to the Oberlin School District is 102 sections, while Hoxie School District will receive 93 sections," Horn said. "Dresden City appears to be pretty evenly split between the two school districts.

Enrollment Statistics

The following are enrollment statistics for the school from 1993 until present:	1998-99	91.5
	1999-00	91.5
1993-94	2000-01	86.0
1994-95	2001-02	89.5
1995-96	2002-03	73.0
1996-97	2003-04	60.5
1997-98	2004-05	30.5
	2005-06	12.5

"And Jennings City mostly goes to Hoxie, so that would more balance the dollars with more city dollars for Hoxie, but more rural dollars for Oberlin with more sections." Using Decatur County figures, Horn said of the \$167,235 which funded Jennings School District, both districts in Oberlin and Hoxie

will get about \$71,075 from taxpayers. About 15 percent of that figure, about \$25,085, will go to Norton School District, as outlined on a map which will be proposed to the state during the closure process. That map of how Jennings School District is on file at the district office at the school in Jennings.

"There are about 32 sections of land in Norton County that have been paying the Jennings School District levied dollars," Horn said. "With the half-sections and partials, that is truly approximate." Declining enrollment in Jennings is forcing the closure of the school there. Operating only an elementary school this year, junior and senior high school students opted to seek their educations elsewhere among districts in Oberlin, Hoxie and Norton. Lois Heilman, board clerk, said in the past 10 years, enrollment has dropped from 96.5 full-time students to 12.5 students. She said major decision making steps are being taken as to how to close the district. "Still to be decided is what to do

with the building and furnishings," she said. Rod Bieker, general counsel with the Kansas State Department of Education said last week the closure of Jennings is the first done in a "number of years." He said the state anticipates paperwork from Jennings board members by December. "The approval becomes effective July 1 following the (resolution) date of adoption by the board," Bieker said. "We'll have a hearing after the board submits paperwork to us to hear from the board and from the public." Bieker said the entire closure process takes about four months. "I'll do it as quickly as I can to be at the best interest of all the parties involved," he said.

Mover makes first appearance in district court

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

Charges have been filed against a Pratt man alleged of holding a Colby woman's household furnishings against her will. Blaze L. Wegele, 43, made his first appearance in Thomas County District Court on Sept. 7, to face charges of criminal deprivation of

property. According to a complaint filed by Thomas County Andrea Wyrick, Wegele is alleged to have intentionally obtained or exerted control over property owned by Barbara J. Young—Duell. However, the complaint says Wegele did not intend to permanently deprive Young-Duell of her household furniture and goods.

The dispute started after a Wilson Moving Company, Hays, subcontracted the move of Young-Duell's household furnishings from Oberlin to Colby to Wegele & Wegele Vanlines, Inc. Wilson Moving went out of business just days before Young-Duell's early June move. According to Young-Duell, when

Wegele arrived at her home and started to unload his truck, a cost difference of several thousand dollars became center of the dispute. Young-Duell believes an oral quote of less than \$2,000 she claims Wilson Moving Company gave her should have been honored by Wegele. Wegele's company's position is that Young-Duell can go to Pratt and retrieve her belongings for \$11,008, or have them delivered for \$14,065. The company claims it used standard state billing rates and is owed the money for packing and delivering Young-Duell's goods. Cal Williams, Colby, will represent Wegele in the case, but no court date has been set.

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

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September Sweater Sale
Buy 1 Sweater get
2nd Sweater Half Price!

(Second sweater must be of equal or lesser value.)

Sale going on through
the month of September.

CJ's Boutique
Southwind Plaza • 1105 Taylor Avenue
Colby, KS • 785-460-0337
Hours: M-S 10-6, Sun 12-6