

Weather Corner



Highs near 83, lows about 50

The forecast

Tonight — Clear with a low around 50. East wind at 9 mph becoming southwest. **Tuesday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 83. South southwest wind between 7 and 11 mph. **Tuesday night** — Partly cloudy with a low near 48. Calm wind becoming east northeast between 14 and 17 mph. Winds could gust as high as 29 mph. **Wednesday** — A 40 percent chance of showers, mainly after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy with a high near 64. East northeast wind around 17 mph, with gusts as high as 29 mph. **Wednesday night** — A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy with a low near 44. **Thursday** — A 50 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy with high around 60. **Thursday night** — A chance of showers before 7 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 35. **Friday** — Mostly sunny with a high around 63.

Temperatures

Sunday's high, 75
Low this morning, 47
Records for this date, 96 in 1926, 19 in 1922
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
November's precipitation, 1.97

A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Briefly

School board meeting tonight

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. tonight in the board room at the Administration Building. Items on the agenda include approval of the consent agenda; reports from the principals and superintendent; a curriculum presentation at the high school; establishment of a calendar committee; and personnel issues if necessary.

Governor postpones lecture

Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has postponed her Tuesday speaking engagement on the campus of Colby Community College. She was originally scheduled to be a featured speaker for the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series on that date, said Debbie Schwanke, public information officer, but will not be available because she is traveling to China. The Lecture Series talk featuring Sebelius will be rescheduled for spring 2006.

Appointment needed for disposal

The Thomas County Household Hazardous Waste Site will be open by appointment only this week, said Sandy Swob, director. Anyone with household hazardous waste items is urged to call her at either 460-4526 (days) or 460-3438 (evenings) to make an appointment.

Share delivery Saturday

Heartland Share delivery is Saturday, Oct. 22 at 10:30 a.m. in the Colby Sacred Heart School gymnasium. The Share menu includes Canadian bacon, pork ribs in barbecue sauce, beef-a-roni, chicken nuggets, chicken breast fillets, cabbage, carrots, lettuce, potatoes, apples, pears, plums, peaches and pasta dinner. A share is \$18.50 plus two hours of volunteer service of our choice. There are a few shares left. If interested, call 460-3579 or 460-8640.

County meeting Tuesday

The Thomas County commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include road supervisor Clair Schrock loader bids, Rod Rodenbeck of Colby Glass with a presentation on air lock installation at the Thomas County Office Complex and a request from fair board secretary Audrey Hines to be appointed to the fair board.

Red Cross potato bar Sunday

The Thomas County Chapter American Red Cross will sponsor a potato and dessert bar Sunday, at Fairview Estates. Serving will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a free will donation accepted to carry on humanitarian activities in Thomas

County. Baked potatoes with toppings, along with dessert, will be served.

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. For questions, call 460-5100, ext. 1305.

Benefit dance Saturday

A benefit dance and auction will be held for Diane (Merrell) Homm, Saturday, from 8 to midnight at the City Limits Convention Center, 2227 S. Range Ave. Featured entertainment will be "Shadow Riders," a country western band. Admission is \$8 per person with the auction taking place at intermission. Donations for Homm, who was diagnosed with cancer, can be left at the First National Bank. All proceeds will help her and her husband, Richard, defray medical expenses. For questions, call Sherry Barrett, 462-6095, or Carolyn Miller, 460-6896. Also miscellaneous items for the auction are needed.

Two dogs need homes

The Colby Animal Clinic has two full breed labs needing homes. They are both black — one female and the other male. Both were born on June 5, 2005, and have had their six-week set of shots, a pelvic exam, dewormed, and dewclaws removed. All they need now is a good home and their second set of shots. Registered papers can also be obtained for an additional fee.

In addition, a bloodhound mix — red/brown in color, female; was found five miles north of Colby



Full-breed labs look for home.

with red collar and blue leash. The dog is about 12 months old. Also a Yellow Lab mix — yellow in color, male; found in Gem with black collar and leash, and also about 12 months old.

Witness testified he believed it was a 'control deal,' and money

From "JENNINGS," page 1

and it wasn't, didn't have anything to do with sexual harassment or anything other than money basically," Jennings said.

During cross-examination, the state's attorney, Diane Bellquist, asked Jennings whether Staats told him she wanted to see the doctor reprimanded, but not in public.

Jennings said it was his understanding hospital personnel told Staats "if she would sign it that it would never be made public, they just wanted it in their file; so, I guess I can't answer that one way or the other. She didn't say that she wanted him reprimanded. She just said she signed it because she thought it would never be public."

Bellquist asked Jennings if he

Hearing open to public briefly

From "TESTIMONY," page 1

closed doors. On Thursday, Gaschler, after both sides agreed, ruled he'd make Jennings' testimony public if it had nothing to do with either topic. Gaschler, after listening to Jennings testify ruled it could have been in public.

Jennings from July 8, 2002, to April 20, 2004, served on the Citizens Medical Center membership, a 22-person Thomas County and Colby resident-based group which elects the seven member hospital

board of trustees.

Members of the group are not provided patient information nor do they participate in the peer review processes. Jennings had not been involved in Hildyard's April 2004 due process hearing at Citizens Medical Center after the doctor's privileges at the hospital were permanently suspended.

On Thursday, O'Neal told Gaschler that Jennings would testify about a patient listed in the petition, but he was not that patient.

Despite Gaschler's ruling to make public Jennings' testimony, a

problem with equipment delayed release of the transcript until this morning (see related story).

Testifying about patients and peer review issues, testimony of Hildyard and Regier was closed to the public.

After today, Gaschler will have a transcript of the hearing prepared and both sides will be allowed to file their recommendation for the ruling's outcome.

After that timeframe, which could be several months, Gaschler will close the case and issue a ruling within 30 days of that date.

doctor and would see him at the country club or out at a bar, but didn't go out to dinner "more than once or twice a year."

O'Neal in redirect-examination asked Jennings is he could clarify who was pressuring Staats to sign the compliant against Hildyard.

"I don't remember well enough to say," Jennings said.

O'Neal said in the context of the

conversation he had with Staats, he believed she was being pressured by "somebody at the hospital."

"Yes. Yes," Jennings said.

O'Neal asked Jennings if he was apologetic for being Hildyard's friend.

"Oh, my gosh, no," he said.

"That's all I have," O'Neal said, with Bellquist asking no further questions.

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