

Weather Corner



Rain expected, highs near 65

The forecast
Tonight — Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 7 p.m. then a chance of both between 7 and 10 p.m. then a chance of showers during the night.
Mostly cloudy with a low around 38. North northeast wind between 6 and 13 mph.
Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. **Thursday** - A 20 percent chance of showers before 7 a.m. Partly cloudy with high around 64.
Thursday night — Partly cloudy, with a low around 35.
Friday — Partly cloudy with a high around 63. Light wind becoming north between 11 and 14 mph.
Friday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 37.
Saturday — Mostly sunny with a high around 62.
Temperatures
Tuesday's high, 87
Low this morning, 45
Records for this date, 90 in 1903, 17 in 1989
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
October'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

College plans special meeting

A special meeting of the Colby Community College board of trustees, Thursday, beginning at 5 p.m. in the All-American room of the student union for the purpose of discussing the presidential search prompted by Dr. Mikel Ary's resignation effective on Friday, Oct. 14.

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. Everyone is welcome. For questions, call Pat Sloan at 785 460-7495.

County open for trick-or-treating

All Thomas County offices, including the courthouse, office complex and extension, with the exception of the sheriff's office, will offer trick-or-treating for elementary children from 3-5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 31.

Essay contest available online

The Goodland Daughters of the American Revolution

Chapter are encourage students to participate in the American History Essay Contest and the DAR Good Citizenship Award contest. For questions, visit: www.dar.org and find "scholarships."

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 next week

Heartland Share delivery is Saturday, at 10:30 a.m. in the Colby Sacred Heart School gymnasium. There are a few shares left. If interested, call 460-3579 or 460-8640.

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.

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. Also miscellaneous items for the auction are needed.

Adult flu clinics begin Thursday

The Thomas County Health Department is offering an adult flu clinic on Thursday at Brewster Senior Center from 9 to 11 a.m.; the Colby Senior Center, 1-3 p.m.; and Meadowlark Manor from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. The clinics continue Friday, Oct. 21 at Fairview Estates in Colby from 10-11 a.m. and at the Thomas County Courthouse for county and city employees from 1 to 3 p.m. Other dates and times will be announced in a future edition. For questions, call the county health, 460-4596.

Sheridan County deals with faulty gravel truck

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

A Sheridan County commissioner wanted to know if the rear end of a faulty gravel truck was being lubricated with fruit juice.

"What's in the rear end, lemon juice?" Keith Kennedy asked during a special meeting Thursday.

Kennedy, along with Commissioners Ron Schamberger, chairman, and David Zimmerman scrambled Thursday to replace a truck which has turned out to be a lemon.

The 1998 Mac truck was purchased sight unseen in August.

The truck cost Sheridan County taxpayers \$34,250.

At the same time, a second gravel truck was purchased through Dick Goss, Hays Mack Sales and Service, Hays. The second truck cost \$76,694.

Bob Schwarz, road and bridge supervisor told the commissioners the camshaft of the 1998 truck is no

good. "Dick said they will give the county 100 percent of the price to fix it.

"Talking with the mechanic, they aren't planning to take the heads off," Schwarz said.

"Somebody didn't take care of it," Schamberger said of the failed truck.

Zimmerman said the process Schwarz describe was a concern and he supported buying new versus repairing the used truck. According to Zimmerman, the 1998 Mac truck having 290,000 miles was purchased by the dealership in Hays from a dealership in Chicago. The county has added about 600 miles to the truck since its arrival.

Schwarz said noises from the engine were present with the county received the truck, but the noises have "become louder."

"It sounded fine when we got it," Schwarz said, "but Melvin (Lovin) could hear something, but it real fast wore something out."

'Home rule' determines capital expenditures

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

When it comes to capital expenditures, Sheridan County Commissioners use a different standard for themselves than they do for department heads.

According to Sheridan County Clerk Paula Bielser, all county department heads must have any purchase over \$200 approved by the commissioners.

Commissioners however, can use home rule to determine how capital expenditures are made and whether a bid process will be used or not.

State law requires a board of commissioners to take bids on construction of buildings and bridges.

"Past commission boards have always let bids," Bielser said.

When two gravel trucks totaling \$110,944 were bought in August, a

bid process did not take place.

Bought sight-unseen, a 2005 Mack truck costing \$76,694, and a 1998 Mack truck costing \$34,250, the older of the two has already had to be replaced.

Commissioners on Thursday voted to buy at 2005 Mack gravel truck, again without having seen it and again without taking bids, costing taxpayers \$30,000 more than did the lemon.

nedy, to replace the truck with a new one.

One a unanimous vote, a 2005 Mac truck costing \$67,250 will be bought from Hays Mack. According to Schwarz, the \$34,250 paid for the 1998 truck will be applied to the cost, leaving a bill of \$33,000 due. "That's the chances you take buy-

ing something used," Schamberger said.

The new truck, again being purchased sight-unseen, will have a five-year warranty. It will need a sliding hitch estimated at \$200 installed, as well as fenders, adding to its cost. It is uncertain when the truck will be delivered.

Hoxie's health fair features special Halloween theme

By JAN KATZ ACKERMAN

Colby Free Press

A health fair will take place in Hoxie on Saturday and it will have a Halloween theme.

Scaring up Good Health will be sponsored by the Sheridan County Health Complex and the Kansas State Research and Extension of Sheridan County.

Starting at 8 a.m., the health fair will take place at the 4-H building at the fairgrounds north of Hoxie. It will run through noon.

Sheridan County Health Complex's lab and x-ray departments plan to provide blood tests and a drawing for a free mammogram. The dietary department and nursing staff will talk about eating healthy and home care for meals, plus show a video on the set of vital signs and strokes.

Hoxie Medical Clinic staff will be on hand to share information about diabetes and associated equipment. Those same staff members will provide foot care check-ups.

The Extension office will provide educational materials of all kinds, and the Public Health Department staff will talk about car seat safety and breast cancer awareness.

Providing tours of the county's ambulances, blood pressure checks and contact information for cell phones will be the emergency medical service.

Others participating in the health fair will be the Hoxie Police Department, Thorpe Chiropractic, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Regional Prevention Center, Smart Start of Northwest Kansas, The Farm, Inc.

(foster family care resource service) Sheridan County Fire Department, and Sheridan County Interagency.

In addition, area agencies attending and providing educational information will be the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter, Hays; Living Independently in Northwest Kansas, Hill City; Midwest Energy, Great Bend; Northwest Kansas Area on Aging, Hays; Social Rehabilitation Services, Colby; Midwest Transplant, Mission; Northwest Environmental Protection Group, Hill City; Osteoporosis Services, Inc., Topeka; Hospice Services, Inc., Phillipsburg; and Colby Community College. A free five-minute seated massage will be available through the Comfort Zone, Carol Farber, Colby.

A concession stand will be provided by Sheridan County 4-H groups and all proceeds will go to the Hoxie Area Ministerial Alliance.

For more information about the fair contact the Sheridan County Health Complex at (785) 675-3281 or the Sheridan County Extension Office at 675-3268.



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