


Weather Corner



More rain in the forecast

Tonight — Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. Light and variable wind. **Friday** — Partly cloudy with a high around 61. Light wind becoming north between 11 and 14 mph. **Friday night** — A 20 percent chance of showers after 1 a.m. Partly cloudy with a low around 41. North northeast wind between 7 and 10 mph. **Saturday** — A 20 percent chance of showers before 1 p.m. Partly cloudy with a high near 59. North northwest wind between 7 and 14 mph. **Saturday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 28. **Sunday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 53..

Temperatures
Wednesday's high, 58
Low this morning, 38
Records for this date, 92 in 1947, 8 in 1905
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.32
October's precipitation, 2.29

Briefly

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.

Music booster meet Tuesday
The Colby Music Boosters will meet Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Colby High School Workroom. The group plans on discussing music booster card sales and the courtesy table at the "Battle of the Bands," Thursday, Oct. 28. Anyone with a student in band or vocal is encouraged to attend the meeting.

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 plans 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.

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 460-5100, ext. 1305.

Health complex plans meal for hunters

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press
Pheasant hunters will be treated to a meal opening day of the season on Saturday, Nov. 12.
Sheridan County Health Complex staff members are taking on the long-standing tradition of preparing a meal for hunters as they hit the fields for birds.
"We'll be hosting an upland game opening day luncheon and the staff will be serving it," said Joe Stratton, administrator.
Previously a task of the Sheridan County Emergency Medical Service, hospital staff members will serve lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

at the Sheridan County 4-H building. The free will donation meal will include roast beef and ham, mashed potatoes, two vegetables, dinner rolls and a dessert.
Various gift items, including gift certificates; children's, men's and women's gift baskets; and a variety of fleece blankets, will be given away during the meal.
Anyone interested in seeing the items which will be given away can stop by Hoxie State Insurance at 824 Main Street. For more information about the gift-give-away contact a hospital employee at (785) 675-3281. Winners need not be present to win.

Proceeds of the luncheon will be used to purchase an indoor water feature for the long-term care facility. This, along with other topics, was talked about at the hospital board meeting on Monday.
Stratton referred to the meeting as "basically uneventful," and said the light agenda was a welcomed for trustees.
"While the hospital is struggling financially," Stratton said. "we are ready to offer a contract to a doctor we've been talking with. Things look promising."
While not ready to make public the name of the doctor in case contract negotiations fail, Stratton said he currently lives in New Mexico.
A decision was made to upgrade cardiovascular equipment for the use at the monthly clinic offered by Dr. Ahmed Kutty, Kearney, Neb.
"We are purchasing a new electrocardiogram and treadmill with a new software package," Stratton said.
ReChelle Kennedy said on Wednesday she gave the board members

a monthly business report.
"The hospital is not looking great," Kennedy said about figures where aren't completely tallied. "But September probably looks better than August."
"Outpatient wise, business is booming. I told the board we have to pat our community on the back for keeping our lab and outpatient services going.
"Inpatient wise is that we'll continue to struggle until we get a provider in here," Kennedy said.
Under old business, the policy on disruptive conduct was tabled due to the continued situation of having only one full-time medical provider, Dr. John Rand Neuen-schwander, in the community. Until another provider is on staff full-time, the policy will not be taken up for a vote during medical staff meetings.
Also tabled was the 2006 budget. Kennedy said she anticipates having it ready for the board to review at the next monthly meeting which will take place on Nov. 21.



OPENING for LUNCH (Mon. - Sat.)

TUES, OCT. 25th 11 A.M.

Featuring a Lunch Menu and Buffet

We welcome your group for luncheon and afternoon events. Call ahead, and we'll have your table ready for you!

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Kansas maintains above-average scores on math and reading tests

TOPEKA (AP)—While Kansas isn't moving closer to the head of the class on some national math and reading tests, a top education official said Wednesday the state's normally strong grades don't show serious signs of slipping either.
Kansas fourth- and eighth-grade students continued to score better than their peers across the nation in the National Assessment of Educational Progress tests for reading and math. Results were released Wednesday by the National Center for Education Statistics, the federal agency administering the tests.
However, the state's average scores generally didn't change significantly over the past two years, nor did the percentages of students who performed at a basic level or greater change significantly.
The exception was the math test for fourth-graders, where Kansas students' average score was slightly better this year than it was in 2003, and more students showed either proficient or advanced skills.
On the fourth-grade math test, only Massachusetts had a higher average score, and Kansas was among the top 10 states in both eighth grade tests.
While 23 other states had higher average scores on the fourth-grade reading test, only 11 were far enough ahead that test administrators considered the gap significant.




"We have not lost ground," Deputy Education Commissioner Alexa Posny said. "We're still one of the highest performing states in the nation, which is great news."
The center administers the tests every two years to a sample of students in each state. About 11,700 Kansas students took the tests this year, with 101 schools participating in the math test and 100 in the reading test.
Federal officials were wary about making state-to-state comparisons, because of the differences in the percentages of minority and poor students.
Still, the tests give states a general idea of how they're doing compared with other states, said Andy Tompkins, a University of Kansas education professor and former state education commissioner. It's a better way to make comparisons than examining the results of various states' own testing, he said.
"We always thought it was pretty helpful," Tompkins said. "The assessments in Kansas are going to be different from the assessments in Mississippi."
The average math score for fourth-graders was 246 on a 500-point scale, compared with 242 in 2003, enough of a jump to be statistically significant. Massachusetts' score was 247.
Also, the percentage of Kansas

fourth-graders who failed to demonstrate basic math skills fell to 12 percent this year, down from 15 percent. Also, 47 percent had proficient or advanced skills, compared with 42 percent in 2003.
"The trend you'd like to see is an increasing number of kids at proficient and above," Tompkins said.
Kansas fourth-graders' average reading score was 220, the same as in 2003, compared with a national average of 217. The eighth-grade reading score was 267, seven points above the national average but only a single point above 2003's figure.
Eighth-graders posted an average score of 284 for math, the same as in 2003, with the national average this year at 278.
Hispanics gained some ground from 2003 compared with white students on the eighth-grade reading tests but lost ground on the fourth-grade reading tests.

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.

If you don't talk with your kids about sex, who will?

Be sure to start an honest, open dialogue with them at an early age. For a free booklet that can help you discuss all kinds of tough issues, call 1-800-Child-44.





KIWANIS PANCAKE FEED

Saturday, October 22nd
7 a.m. - 2 p.m. • VFW
220 N. Lake, Colby

\$3.00 All you can eat!!
per person donation

Proceeds for Christmas projects and other community service
Tickets available from any Kiwanis member.

Hoxie Medical Clinic Announces Clinic Hours for Dr. Brewster Kellogg

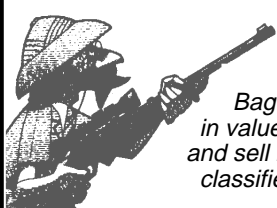
Dr. Kellogg from the Family Center for Health Care in Colby will be seeing patients in the Hoxie Medical Clinic on **Monday, October 24 from 9 a.m.-Noon**

Dr. Kellogg is Board Certified in Family Practice, his special interests include:

- Obstetrics •Sports Medicine
- Family Medicine •No-Scalpel Vasectomies

For an appointment call: 785-675-3018

Hoxie Medical Clinic
826 18th Street
Hoxie, KS 67740



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