

Weather Corner



Sunny, clear  
highs near 75

**The forecast**  
**Tonight** — Mostly clear with a low around 42.  
**Thursday** — Mostly sunny with a high around 74. West southwest wind between 11 and 14 mph. **Thursday night** — Partly cloudy with a low near 37. West northwest wind between 7 and 11 mph. Friday — Partly cloudy with a low near 37. West northwest wind between 7 and 11 mph. Friday night — Partly cloudy with a high around 65. Northwest wind around 7 mph becoming south. Saturday — Partly cloudy with a high near 62. Saturday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 32. Sunday — Mostly sunny with a high near 68.  
**Temperatures**  
Tuesday's high, 73  
Low this morning, 36  
Records for this date, 85 in 1931, 0 in 1951  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
November's precipitation, 0.00  
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Briefly

Brewster plans events Nov. 12

The town of Brewster has many activities planned the opening day of hunting, Saturday, Nov. 12, officials said. Among the events planned, there will be garage sales, cider provided by Beta Club and available at the Brewster Library, along with books for check-out. The library will also be selling baked goods with proceeds going to help the Mark Flanders family and the Lutheran Church is sponsoring a free-will donation luncheon from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

No singles dance this month

No singles dance is scheduled for November, said Carolyn Miller, one of the event coordinators. The next dance is planned on Friday, Dec. 2, with Jim Christiansen providing musical entertainment. Dances are held from 8 p.m. to midnight at the City Limits Convention Center.

Brewster High plans dinner/theater

Brewster High School's drama department is hosting a dinner/theater, Saturday, Nov. 12, starting at 6 p.m. with dinner, followed by the play at 7:30 p.m. in the school's gymnasium. The play is entitled, "Here Comes the Judge." On

Sunday, Nov. 13, an encore presentation will be held starting at 3 p.m. The play is free both Saturday and Sunday. The dinner portion of the Saturday event is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. The meal is being provided by the freshmen class, school officials said. Dinner tickets can be purchased from Aleisha Bremenkamp, Leanna Burkholder, Seth Carpenter, Chance Cranston, Melissa Crumrine, Chelsey Horney, Boone Huff, Britt Kammer, Ethan Kammer, Tyler O'Connor, T.J. Preston, Jeff Reid or Brittany Schuette.

Debate tournament Saturday

Colby High School will be hosting its Invitational Debate Tournament. Debating will start at 9 a.m., Saturday, at the high school. If interested in helping judge, contact Nancy Rundel at the high school at 460-5300.

Share sign-up continues

Heartland Share sign-up is Monday through noon on Saturday, Nov. 5 at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. Fourth St. in Colby. Delivery is Saturday, Nov. 19 at 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart School gym. For November, a food share is \$19.50 plus two hours of volunteer time of one's choice. The

November menu is a Thanksgiving meal, including an eight- to 10-pound turkey, stuffing mix, potatoes, celery, carrots, onions, gravy mix, egg noodles, apples and oranges and a thaw and serve pumpkin pie. Call Gene Griffin at 460-3579.

Winona plans pancake feed

The Lions Club is planning a pancake feed from 6 to 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Winona Methodist Church. The event will include all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage and eggs, and coffee and juice. In addition, a special prize of a guided hunting trip will be given away. For questions, call Winona Feed and Grain, (800) 203-8158 or Winona Lumber and Supply, (785) 846-7893.

After 5 Club plans November event

*Honoring Our Grandmothers*, is the November theme for the High Plains After 5 Club event. The dinner/program begins at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 14, at The Colonial Steakhouse in Oakley. The dinner and presentation will conclude by 8:30 p.m. To make a reservation or for those needing nursery arrangements for the dinner/program, call Gloria Mattix, (785) 460-2705.

Logan County holds mass dispensing workshop

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

This is a drill, this is only a drill. These words were paraphrased numerous times at Tuesday's Point of Dispensing exercise in Oakley. Cindy Mullen, regional public health coordinator for the West Central Public Health Initiative, trained more than 50 people how to handle a mass dispensing operation. Items which could be dispersed include medical supplies, medications or vaccinations. Logan, Gove, Ness, Sheridan and Trego Counties are members of the Initiative and Mullen will conduct training in all the counties. "As their coordinator, I help to assure preplanning, training and exercising is accomplished for a variety of tasks," Mullen said. "Most currently, we have written a local Standard Operating Guide for the Strategic National Stockpile which addresses mass dispensing operations." At first glance, the training,



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Cindy Mullen, regional public health coordinator for the West Central Public Health Initiative, explained details of mass dispensing operation work during a workshop Tuesday.

which took place at the Impact Center in Oakley, could be likened to mass polio vaccination operations that took place in the 1950s and 1960s. At the training meeting, strategic sites inside the foyer and gymnasium of the center were set up for a simulated anthrax treatment scenario.

"This is like football practice," said Toby Prine, northwest Kansas regional coordinator for the Kansas Homeland Security agency based in Hays.

"It's the football practice before the big game, but this is one game you hope you never have to play.

Prine, along with Ella Vajnar, a medical investigator with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, oversaw the half-day training. Vajnar said part of her role with the state is to help identify how a particular disease creeps into a geographic area.

"We find out how you get sick and where you get sick so treatment can follow," she said.

Mullen told participants the exercise helped define and train local emergency medical personnel, as well as law enforcement and volunteers about local mass dispensing.

"The need for preparedness is not just about bio-terrorism, but all hazards or disasters," she said. "The planning and training that we do addresses all disasters, including bio-terrorism.

"Public health now needs to be ready to address a large-scale event that could affect its jurisdiction, a county's entire population."

Two individuals who participated in the workshop were Connie Racette and Danny Thorton, both of Oakley.

"I was impressed," Racette said. "I was glad we did it so we can be prepared for these things in the future.

"I learned a lot about the govern-

ment and how it can help us in the instance of a situation like anthrax or bioterrorism."

Thorton agreed.

"I thought it was a very good step in the right direction. They have a lot of work to do, but I thought it was a very good meeting," he said.

Mullen said it is important to bear in mind a mass dispensing operation is not just for biological events.

"There are flu shot clinics, tetanus shot clinics, and back to school immunization clinic, etcetera, that have been designed for specific age groups or audiences.

The possible pandemic most currently causing concern is the Avian, or bird, flu," she said.

Those who attended the meeting were reminded the training was the first of its type and Logan County was breaking new ground.

"Our world has changed and we have to change with it and prepare ahead of time," Mullen said. "Logan County is being referred to as a frontier county and there are larger counties willing to help us with information and resources."

Prine said staged events help identify shortcomings.

"As with any hazardous event within a community," Prine said, "it's important that you protect the community. An exercise is where you want to make mistakes, where you don't have any fatalities or accidents."

Times and locations of upcoming Point of Dispensing exercises will be announced at a later date.

Three arrested in alleged meth lab operation

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

Authorities in Logan County arrested three people Thursday for alleged operation of a drug lab.

According to Colby-based Quad County Drug Task Force Coordinator Doug Murphy, Michael A. Keyes, 34, Nelda Foust, 54, Betty Groblebe, 53, all of Oakley, were arrested after two search warrants were executed on Foust and Keyes' homes.

"A new law requiring control of over-the-counter purchase of cold and allergy medicines containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine helped law enforcement officers catch four people who were allegedly preparing to operate a meth lab," Murphy said.

He said the Quad County Drug Task Force and Kansas Bureau of Investigation, along with officers from the Oakley Police Department and Logan County Sheriff's Office, seized items believed to be related to a methamphetamine lab.

"Groblebe was later released, and a fourth person, Farrell Odom, also of Oakley, was also questioned," Murphy said. "The four are accused of buying cold and allergy pills in

violation of the new pseudoephedrine bill that went into effect on July 1."

The new law limits people to buying only a limited amount of cold and allergy pills in a 30-day period to help combat the rising occurrence of meth labs in Kansas. Those kinds of medications are used in the production of methamphetamine.

Kansas, in 2001, was ranked second in the nation for the number of meth labs seized by law enforcement. Waste products from meth labs are hazardous to people who come in contact with it.

This is not Keyes' first time being arrested on drug charges by the Quad County Drug Task Force.

In April 2002, and again in August 2002, Keyes was arrested by the task force for operating a meth lab on two different occasions at his mother's house in Brewster. Nelda Foust's house is located across the street from the school in Brewster.

Manufacturing methamphetamine is a level one drug felony and provides for a presumptive prison sentence.

However, former Thomas County Attorney Allen Taylor allowed Keyes to plead to a level three drug

felony which allowed him to be eligible for probation.

Keyes violated his probation resulting in him serving time with the Kansas Department of Corrections. He was released on post-release supervision in June.

The Quad County Drug Task Force is a federally funded program

coordinated through the office of the Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and the Kansas Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The task force is comprised of the Oakley, Colby and Goodland police departments and the Logan, Thomas, Sherman, Wallace and Greeley county sheriff's offices.

School district promotes healthy snacks, activities

GODDARD (AP) — Go almost anywhere in the Goddard School District, and you'll hear the telltale sounds of people getting healthy.

The toothsome crunch from that first bite of apple in the teachers' lounges, where once they snacked mostly on cookies. Labored breathing in the staff workout center.

The pitter-patter of small feet trying to keep up with one elementary school principal on a fast-paced mile around the playground.

In three years, this district of 4,500 students and 500 employees has gotten serious about improving its collective health.

Districts in the Kansas City area have tackled student and staff wellness, too, but Goddard, an eight-school district just west of Wichita, has distinguished itself by a unique approach — using staff members as role models.

It "definitely is a leader in the state," said Tami Larson, a health educator for the state's Coordinated School Health Program.

When told of Goddard's efforts, an expert with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention called them "cutting edge." Goddard "is becoming a champion in Kansas that others will follow," said Allison Balling, obesity prevention specialist.

Soon, Goddard's story will be told nationwide.

In December, two researchers from the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita will speak at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association. A few years ago they helped the district see how it could improve the health of the school community.

Goddard's initiative comes in an era of rampant child obesity. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports about 16 percent of children from ages 6 through 19 are overweight or obese, three to four times the rate of the late 1960s. Many school districts are addressing the problem but typically focus only on students, said Judy Johnston, a dietitian and researcher at the medical school in Wichita.

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