

Weather
Corner



Wind gusts
as high as 30

The forecast
Tonight — Mostly cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly clear, with a low around 26. Blustery, with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Wednesday — Mostly sunny with a high near 57. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Wednesday night — Mostly clear with a low near 26. West wind around 10 mph.

Thursday — Partly cloudy with a high around 58. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northwest.

Thursday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 24.

Friday — Partly cloudy with a high around 48.

Temperatures
Records for this date, 73 in 1928, -10 in 1894
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.0
December's precipitation, 0.08
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Seedstock
show nears

MANHATTAN — Area cattle producers can get acquainted with current industry issues and advances at the Cattlemen's Seedstock Showcase and Conference Jan. 23, 2006, in Phillipsburg.

The event, sponsored by the Phillips-Rooks District Extension Council, is free of charge. It will be at the Phillips County fairgrounds with registration from 9:00 to 9:50 a.m.

Topics to be discussed include: "Utilizing Distiller's Grains" and "What's New with Breed Indexes and EPDs" with Twig Marston, beef specialist at Kansas State University Research and Extension, as well as "Water Quality-Makes Dollars and Sense in Your Operation" with Stacie Minson, Extension Extension watershed specialist.

A demonstration about livestock waste-water, a door prize giveaway, trade show and luncheon will also be part of the day.

For more information about the conference and how to register, interested persons can call the Thomas County Extension Office, 460-4582.

Judicial council
proposes evaluations
for judges

LAWRENCE (AP) — The Kansas Judicial Council has proposed giving voters evaluations of judges who are up for retention elections.

Evaluations also would be done for judges who face political elections, but those evaluations would not be made public. Judicial Council officials said they want those evaluations kept private because they don't want publicly funded evaluations used in political campaigns.

Randy Hearrell, executive director of the Judicial Council, which made its proposal to the Legislature, said politically elected judges could use the evaluations.

"Most judges don't get very direct feedback on how they are doing," Hearrell said.

For judges who are selected and then stand for retention elections, the evaluations would provide information to voters on whether the judges should continue in office.

"This is just good government," said Kansas Court of Appeals Judge Stephen Hill, who faces a statewide retention vote in November. "It accomplishes something if it helps

Briefly

Blood testing for Wellness Fair nears

Sanitation schedule announced

County offices plan closings

County attorney seeks projects

Museum opens
playa lakes as newest exhibit

By Sue Taylor, director
Museum of Art and History

An award-winning exhibit on playa lakes "Playas: Gems of the Plains" has opened at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, now through February, 2006. Playa lakes are often called lagoons or buffalo wallows and the exhibit explains their importance to the wildlife and in the replenishment of the groundwater.

The playa lakes exhibit features 20 separate 80-inch tall and 40-inch wide panels which illustrate a wide range of topics about playa lakes. Visitors can walk around the panels, each of which presents information on the function of playa lakes, their history geography, ecology and art.

Playa lakes are shallow, usually round, wetlands with clay floors that lie in the lowest point of a generally large, closed watershed and collect runoff from surrounding uplands.

Their average size is 17 acres, and all playa lakes combined make up about 2 percent of the total short-grass prairie landscape. They are ephemeral, or seasonal, in nature and hold water only after rainfall or runoff events. Since rainfall is scarce in the region, most of the time playa lakes are dry. The normal wet-dry cycle generates a diverse plant community, which produces large quantities of nutritious seeds essential for waterfowl, and other birds that migrate and winter in the region.

Playa lakes may be the most important wetland habitat type for birds in the region. More than 200 bird species are known to use playas during the breeding, wintering or migrating seasons. Not only are playas important to wildlife, they are vitally important to replenishing

The Colby Wellness Fair will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, 2006 and as in previous years, prior to the fair, a variety of screening laboratory tests will be offered, said Tracey Gilchrist, wellness committee member. Blood tests will be drawn on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 4 and 5 and also on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 7, 9, and 10. All blood testing will be done from 6 until 9 a.m. with registration in the lobby of the Citizens Medical Center Specialty Clinic. Anyone planning to be tested should fast 10-12 hours prior to the test so an accurate level on the Lipid Profile can be attained. For questions about testing or general information, call Jeanene Brown, 460-4850, another committee member.

The Friday, Jan. 6, Singles Dance was cancelled due to the extremely cold weather, said Carolyn Miller, one of the organizers. The February dance is still planned.

The City of Colby's sanitation trucks will run the following holiday schedule during the New Year's week starting with Friday, Dec. 30, trucks will run normal routes; Saturday, Dec. 31, normal commercial service; Monday, Jan. 2, no sanitation routes; and Tuesday, Jan 3, Monday route with regular Tuesday service route. For questions, call 460-4410.

The Thomas County Courthouse, landfill and health department will be closing during the New Year holiday.

The landfill will close on Sunday, Jan. 1 and Monday, Jan. 2. It will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 3 at 9 a.m., along with all offices in the courthouse and the health department.

The Thomas County Attorney's office is looking for community service projects for defendants and juvenile offenders to do as part of their sentence or as a condition of probation or diversion.

For those who are members of the community or a local business and have a project that needs done or have ideas for some community service projects, send a letter to the Thomas County Attorney's Office, Attn: Community Service, 140 W. 4th, Colby, Kan. 67701.

The Thomas County Interagency Coalition in conjunction with area businesses and organizations will continue its After School Program for students in third, fourth and fifth grades. The program will run Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays Jan. 9 through March 16.

Transportation from Colby Grade School to the Colby Community Building will be provided by the school district; parents must pick up their child from the community building at 5:15 following the program. For questions or to enroll a child, call 460-8177.



Courtesy Photo

Kansas man
appeals Prairie Village
ticket over anti-war signs

The Prairie Museum of Art and History has opened its newest exhibit: Playas: Gems of the Plains.

and protecting underground water supply. Playas are the primary source of recharge for the Ogallala Aquifer, a 174,000 square mile formation that underlies eight states: Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.

These states have depended on the Ogallala for the majority of agricultural, municipal and industrial

water supply since the turn of the century. But continued pumping has depleted the aquifer's water supply faster than natural recharge can replenish it.

Many people have playas on their land, this exhibit really emphasizes the idea that everyone has a role in protecting them. Playa lakes are the most numerous wetlands in the region, totaling more than 50,000 in

eastern New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming, western Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma, and the Texas Panhandle.

More than 95 percent of the world's playa lakes are located in the western Great Plains - they are a unique natural resource. The Playa Lake exhibit is free and open to the public.

A special day for the public

"What's Your Habitat: Kansas Day on the High Plains" Sunday, Jan. 29, 2006 will feature the Playa exhibit and hands-on activities, demonstrations and crafts relating to the high plains. In celebration of the 145th birthday of Kansas, the museum will serve refreshments and have activities for all ages from 1 to 5 p.m. at the museum. The day is free for the public.

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.

MOVIE
PASSES

Watch for your
name in the
Wednesday movie
listings
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free passes.



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Kerry & Barb Turner would like to wish you and
your family best wishes for the holidays!

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Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Sat. 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.