

Weather
CornerPartly cloudy
and warming

The forecast

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 41. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy with a high around 74. Breezy with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tuesday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 45. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy with a high near 83. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Wednesday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 45.

Thursday — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy and breezy with a high near 64.

Thursday night — Partly cloudy and breezy with a low around 38.

Friday — Partly cloudy with a high near 66.

Temperatures

Sunday's high, 65

Low this morning, 30

Records for this date, 88 in 1929, 11 in 1975

Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00

April's precipitation,

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

Briefly

Forums planned for candidates

Colby Community College is holding public forums for two college presidential candidates, Dr. Lynn Kreider and Clayton Tatro. Kreider's forum will be held Wednesday and Tatro's event is Thursday. Both forums begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center located on the southeast corner of campus.

Puddle Duck enrollment Wednesday

Puddle Duck Preschool's enrollment-open house for the 2006-07 school year is scheduled from 4-6 p.m., Wednesday. Director Amy Jennings did want to remind interested parents or guardians; however, that her 4-year-old classes are full. "We would be glad to add 4-year-old children to our waiting list," she said. The 3-year-old classes have room, and Jennings said she will be happy to answer questions regarding both age groups. Jennings can be reached at 460-2603.

Childbirth classes begin Thursday

Citizens Medical Center is offering childbirth classes in April, July and October, 2006, said Jeanene Brown, RN, coordinating the program. The next series of classes will be

held from 7 to 10 p.m. on Thursdays, April 6, 13, 20 and 27. All classes are held in the education room located in the lower level of Family Center for Health Care, 310 E. College Dr., Colby, Kan. For questions, call Brown at (785) 460-4850.

Square dance Saturday

The Golden Buckle Square Dance Club is holding a dance beginning at 8 p.m., Saturday, at the Colby Community Building. Callers for the dance are Marlin and Jackie Spellmeyer of Ogallala, Neb. Visitors are always welcome.

Free sports physicals May 9

Colby Medical and Surgical Center, 175 S. Range Ave., is once again providing free sports physicals on Tuesday, May 9, for middle school and high school students planning to participate in sports next fall. Students are asked to bring physical forms with them. Colby High School students will be seen at 5:30 p.m.; Colby Middle School at 6 p.m.; and Brewster and Golden Plains at 6:30 p.m. For questions, call Patti Stephens, (785) 462-3332.

Public transportation available

The general transportation van is available to anyone in

Thomas County for trips to the doctor, visiting friends, going to a meal site and more, said Shelly Harms, county clerk. The van services are provided to Colby, Brewster, Gem, Menlo, Rexford and a portion of Oakley as needed from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. For reservations, call 460-2901 or 443-9208 by 11 a.m. the previous business day if possible.

Chorus rehearses every Tuesday

The Hi-Plains Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines holds rehearsals every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave. All female singers are encouraged to attend anytime.

Orchestra continues rehearsals

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra holds rehearsals from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Mondays in the Colby High School band room. All musicians are invited to join the orchestra, said Sharon Kriss, one of the members. Musicians span a wide range of vocations and ages (middle school to retirees) from communities throughout northwest Kansas and northeast Colorado, she said. For questions, call Kriss at 460-2800 or Mary Shoeff, 462-2391.

Memory Walk fund raiser exceeds \$6,000 goal

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Alzheimer's annual Memory Walk held Saturday in Colby reached its goal and more through the help of sponsors, walkers, and in-kind donations.

"Our goal was \$6,000," said Outreach Coordinator Rhonda Riedel, "but we ended up raising more than \$7,700."

Now in its third year, Riedel said, six teams with a total of 21 walkers participated in the event and 34 sponsors contributed cash or other donations.

Riedel said the amount of walkers doubled and sponsors more than quadrupled last year's amount from 7 to 34 businesses and organizations.

Each team had anywhere from three to seven walkers and the individual walkers asked for pledges from people in the nine-county area.

Two of the teams were associated with Creative Memories, said Donna Jamison of Quinter and involved with the project.

"We teach people how to scrapbook," Jamison said, "and scrapbooking is good for those with Alzheimer's."

Looking at old photographs tends



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Marcie Beckner of Quinter was one of 21 walkers participating in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk at Fike Park on Saturday.

to spark memories and help patients connect, Jamison said.

"Of the total raised, the walkers brought in \$3,415 and the 34 sponsors donated \$4,290," she said.

Thomas County walkers raised the most money, Riedel said, followed by second place Gove, and then Rawlins, Decatur, Logan and Cheyenne counties.

The other three counties in the western Kansas Alzheimer's chapter are Wallace, Sherman and Sheridan. With more than 64,000 Kansans suffering from Alzheimer's, fundraising events such as the Memory Walk make it possible for chapters across the state to continue to look for a cure, help the Alzheimer's sufferer and provide support to caregivers.

Money from Saturday's walk will go toward strengthening services to include the help-line, support groups, respite funds, resource library, training for professional caregivers, community resource information, educational programs for families, case management, and financial assistance to families for respite.

"Our chapter, which is one of the nationwide chapters established in 2003, is part of the Alzheimer's Association of the Great Plains,"

Riedel said. "We are a volunteer health organization providing support and assistance to patients and families affected by this disease."

"We had a marvelous turnout and the weather was good," she said, adding that last year at this time it was much warmer.

For those who know someone with Alzheimer's or families that could use a break from caring for the patient, Riedel encourages them to call her at (785) 673-3149.

Another option is the help-line, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling toll-free (800) 272-3900.

Another aspect of the area chapter is in reactivating an Alzheimer's support group, said Helen Poland, one of the Memory Walk coordinators.

The first support group disbanded in the 1980s and both Poland and Carolyn Miller are hoping to bring the group back if there's enough interest.

"We are open to suggestions on the best time, day or other ideas," Poland said.

"This group would also be for caregivers or family members of those suffering from dementia."

If interested, call Poland at (785) 462-7809.

Mystery grave to be opened after 127 years

LAWRENCE (AP) — Two University of Colorado professors hope a 127-year-old mystery involving an unmarked grave in Kansas will be solved as soon as next month.

A Douglas County judge on Friday gave Colorado anthropology professor Dennis Van Gerven and law professor Marianne Wesson permission to exhume a body in the grave at Lawrence's Oak Hill Cemetery.

They hope to determine if the corpse is John Hillmon or Frederick A. Walters. Questions about who was buried in the grave eventually led to the creation of an important piece of federal evidence law in the late 1800s.

"Hopefully, we'll expose a beautiful face — a skull, that's what we're hoping for," Van Gerven said. "It could be dust ... (or) it could be a very well-preserved skeleton."

The dig likely will happen in mid-May. Martin approved the request after the professors pledged to return the remains to the grave within 48 hours and that the process would be handled in a dignified way.

Van Gerven said crews would dig only 2 feet into the ground with heavy machinery. After that, a team will dig by hand through each layer

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— Dennis Van Gerven,
anthropology professor

until they spot the coffin.

They'll remove the bones — if there are any — and take them to a University of Kansas lab, where they'll clean and photograph them.

Van Gerven said that if the skull was in good shape, he would be able to superimpose a photo of it on other photographs, to see which man it matches. He said Hillmons' nose was distinctively different from Walters'.

If there's only dust in the grave, a small sample will be taken for DNA testing.

When Hillmon's death was reported in 1879, life insurance companies suspected that Hillmon and a companion had killed Walters to collect on Hillmon's life insurance policy.

Walters reportedly had sent his girlfriend a letter announcing plans to travel with Hillmon.

The dispute over the case led to

six trials, and it went twice to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Using Walters' letter to his girlfriend, the court's first ruling created an exception to the hearsay rule

that allows out-of-court statements by third parties to be used as evidence if they describe the intentions of the speaker or the writer.

Wesson said she believed the Supreme Court's decision to allow the letter was based partly on the justices' belief that Hillmon was not dead — and that the court had wanted the letter admitted to help prove it. Scholars will view the court's decision differently, she said, if it turns out that Hillmon was buried in the grave all along.

ANNOUNCEMENT & CANCELATION

The 2-Day Auction for the Ross & Marianna Beach Foundation, Inc. scheduled for Monday April 10th & Tuesday April 11th, 2006 has been CANCELED due to the Ranch Purchaser buying both livestock and machinery.

For More information, contact:
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