

Weather Corner



Thunderstorms possible tonight

**Tonight** — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1 a.m. Partly cloudy with a low around 44. Calm wind becoming north between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

**Friday** — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a high near 65. Breezy, with a north wind around 20 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Friday night** — A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a low near 41. North wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

**Saturday** — Mostly cloudy with a high around 63. Windy with a north wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

**Saturday night** — Partly cloudy and breezy with a low around 41.

**Sunday** — Partly cloudy and breezy with a high near 66.

**Sunday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 42.

**Monday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 72.

**Temperatures**  
Wednesday's high, 69  
Low this morning, 30  
Records for this date, 91 in 1989, 22 in 1924  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
April's precipitation, 0.55

**Water Use Report from Wednesday, April 26**  
2,152,500 gallons  
4 million = Water Warning  
4.5 Million = Water Emergency  
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Briefly

College play begins tonight

Colby Community College's drama department will feature "The House of Blue Leaves," at 7:30 p.m., tonight, in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center Frahm Theater. The play will be shown again Friday and Saturday at the same time and location. Tickets are available in advance at the college bookstore, 460-4670 or at the door.

Stem cell highlight of lecture

Dr. Jason Robert is the featured speaker for the last Max Pickerill Lecture Series of the 2005-06 season . Robert's topic, "Cloning and the Stem Cell Circus," begins at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, in the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community College. His talk will delve into the science behind the stem cell debate, outline key ethical questions, and consider political ramifications. This event is free to the public. For questions, call Cathy Gordon 462-3984 ext 310.

Duck race fundraiser Saturday

Duck races hosted by the Colby College men's basket-

ball team begin at 6 p.m., Saturday, at Twisters Bar & Grill, 735 E. College Dr. Registration will start at 4:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the men's basketball team.

'Why 21?' meeting set Monday

A program on how the adolescent brain develops and how it can be understood and protected, "Why 21? It's all About the Adolescent Brain," by Karen Williams will be given at three different times on Monday, May 1. A breakfast program will from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Pioneer Memorial Library; 375 W. Fourth St.; a lunch program from noon-1 p.m. at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin Ave., and an evening question and answer session from 6-8:30 p.m. at Pioneer Memorial Library. To RSVP for the lunch program, call 460-8177.

CCC plans two spring concerts

The Colby Community College vocal music concert is scheduled Thursday, May 4, and the instrumental music concert is Tuesday, May 9. Both events will begin at 7:30 p.m.

and both performances are planned in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center. There is no admission charge.

Public dance set for May 5

The Colby Singles Group is sponsoring a dance from 8 p.m. to midnight, Friday, May 5, at the American Legion, 1850 W. Fourth St., Colby. Entertainment will be provided by Swing 'n Country. All dances are open to the public. In addition, organizers said, no dance is planned in June.

Preschool open house Friday

Sacred Heart Preschool, 1150 W. Sixth St., is holding an open house from 1 to 6 p.m., Friday. "Feel free to stop by and visit," said Principal David Evert.

Scheduling change announced

The Alferd Packer Memorial String Band performance scheduled Sunday in Sharon Springs has been changed to 7:30 p.m., May 13, in the Quinter High School Auditorium.

Brewster soldier wants to help Iraqi kids

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

Culture shock and a warm heart have prompted a Brewster man to ask for help for Iraqi children. Kansas Army National Guardsman SFC John McMahan is a member of the 125th Field Artillery Unit at Dodge City. Earlier this month, McMahan joined an Army unit from the Midwest for a year-long tour of duty in Iraq, but last week he called his wife asking for help. McMahan is a trooper for the Kansas Highway Patrol.

"He said how heartbroken he was for the children in the community he protects," Susan McMahan said. "He said the kids there have absolutely nothing and asked if I could put together a fundraiser for things he needs to help out the children there."



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Farmers and Merchants Bank Administrative Assistant Jacquie Golemboski, right, accepted a donation box from Susan McMahan who is spearheading a fundraiser to help her husband, Kansas Army National Guardsman SFC John McMahan, help Iraqi children.

Susan is the records clerk at the Law Enforcement Center in Colby and she's asked area churches and businesses to join her campaign to help her husband help the Iraqi children.

"He said he saw their living conditions and was just in shock," McMahan said. "My husband is a very loving and giving person and he has a huge heart when it comes to children and their welfare."

Parents of three children, Jen, 17, Orin, 15 and Andrew, 2, Susan said she wants to fulfill her husband's request for donations of hard candy which is wrapped, wrapped chewing gum, non-liquid health and beauty items such as soap, washcloths, combs, toothpaste and toothbrushes and school supplies.

"I just think when you see a need you need to act," McMahan said. "We are so blessed here and we need to share what God has given us. We

went and saw New Orleans over spring break and that experience gave me a new attitude about life and our part of our world."

McMahan has placed drop boxes at Dillons, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Uptown Style, Frontier Equity in Brewster and the Church of Christ in Goodland.

Boxes will be available at these locations through May 14. A donation box will also be available at the Law Enforcement Center in Colby at 225 N. Court Ave. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

McMahan said she will oversee shipment of donated items "as they come in" and the first box was shipped to Iraq on Monday.

Other items which can be donated are small toys, including soccer balls. "The Brewster Community Church is donating the ship-

ping costs and if you have any other items you think would help we would appreciate your thoughtfulness," McMahan said.

GOP proposes \$100 gas rebate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans advocate sending \$100 rebate checks to millions of taxpayers, and a Democrat is leading the campaign for a 60-day gasoline tax holiday.

Either way, it seems no one in Congress wants to be without a plan, however symbolic, to attack the election-year spike in gasoline prices.

A vote is possible as early as this week on the Senate GOP approach, which calls for \$100 rebate checks for taxpayers to cushion the impact of higher gasoline prices. The measure seems unlikely to prevail, at least initially, since it includes a highly controversial proposal to open a portion of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling.

Senate Republicans also favor extending a tax break that manufacturers receive for each hybrid vehicle they make, and want President Bush to suspend deliveries to the nation's strategic petroleum reserve for six months.

Democrats seemed caught off guard by the GOP maneuvering, but a spokesman said they would have a plan of their own.

Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., has proposed a 60-day suspension in the federal tax on gasoline and diesel, a holiday that he says would cut the cost of gasoline by more than 18 cents a gallon and reduce the price of diesel fuel by more than 24 cents a gallon.

The Senate Finance Committee provided additional evidence of the

lawmakers' scramble to respond. In a rare move, the panel requested tax returns from the country's major oil and gas companies as part of an investigation into industry profits and soaring gasoline costs.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, the committee's chairman, said

senators were concerned about the "record profits and significant executive compensation in the oil and gas industry."

"I want to make sure the oil companies aren't taking a speed pass by the tax man," Grassley said in a statement.

Happy

BIRTHDAY

Barbara Kay!

The CCC Drama Department Presents:

**THE HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES**

A Farce With Music  
By John Guare

April 27-29 at 7:30 p.m.

Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center ~ Frahm Theater

Tickets available at the door or in advance at the Campus Bookstore ~ (785) 460-4670

Prices: Adult \$5;  
Non-CCC Student & Senior Citizen \$4;  
Free with CCC activity card

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

**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.

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