

Weather Corner



Highs near 80, lows about 45

Tonight — Clear with a low around 42. Northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.
Saturday — Mostly sunny with a high near 80. Calm wind becoming south between 5 and 10 mph.
Saturday night — Mostly clear with a low near 44. East wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.
Sunday — Partly cloudy with a high around 74. North wind around 5 mph. Sunday night — Mostly clear with a low around 44.
Monday — Mostly sunny with a high around 72.
Monday night — Mostly clear with a low around 43.
Tuesday — Mostly sunny with a high around 74.
Temperatures
Thursday's high, 70
Low this morning, 30
Records for this date, 99 in 1962, 27 in 1953
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
May's precipitation, 0.32
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Running mate selected for governnor's race

TOPEKA (AP) — Republican gubernatorial candidate Ken Canfield added someone with education policy experience to his campaign Thursday, naming Rep. Kathe Decker as his running mate. Decker, 53, of Clay Center, has been the chairwoman of the House Education Committee for the past four years and chairwoman of the House Select Committee on School Finance for the past two years. She announced Wednesday at the close of the 2006 session that she would not seek another term, citing "a better offer that came through the door."
"It's a good opportunity to get a message out to the public," Decker said Thursday. "We think there's a lot of things Kansas can be doing for families."
"Ken Canfield is a visionary man. He and I have a lot of thought processes the same."
Decker was one of the chief architects of the three-year, \$541 million school finance bill passed by legislators Tuesday in response to a Kansas Supreme Court mandate to increase education spending. Decker gained her colleagues' respect for her knowledge of school issues and desire for increased school accountability.
"I believe there is a groundswell growing in the this state, a populist groundswell, for a new and fresh leadership," Canfield said. "Not being a political insider, I need to unite myself in strategy and thinking with somebody who has a proven track record."
Decker was appointed in May 1998 to fill out the term of her hus-

Briefly

Mail carriers set food drive Saturday
Colby Post Office's letter carriers will be out in full force Saturday delivering mail and collecting non-perishable food items for the Thomas County Genesis food bank. As in previous years, the collection is part of the National Association of Letter Carriers food drive. Anyone who would like to donate canned goods and other non-perishable items are encouraged to leave them by their mailbox during the normal mail times Saturday.
Heartland Share delivery coming up
Heartland Share delivery is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 20 at Sacred Heart School gym. The May menu is four pounds of chicken fries, deli sliced ham, hot dogs, boneless chicken wings, one pound bacon, cucumbers, potatoes, cabbage, green peppers, green onions, apples, lemons, surprise package. A share is \$20.50 plus two volunteer hours. There are a few shares still available for anyone interested. For information, call 460-8640 or 460-3579.
School board to meet Monday
The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the board room of the Administration Building. Items on the agenda include: approval of the consent agenda; a student forensics presentation; curriculum presentation on the Enhancing Education Through Technology grant; reports from the principals, curriculum director and superintendent; ap-

proval to let bids for a 2006 large sport utility vehicle and 41-passenger school bus; and personnel issues, if necessary. The meeting is open to the public.
Soccer registration Saturday
Area youth interested in playing soccer this fall are encouraged to pre-register from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, at the soccer fields (the corner of Thompson and Tenth Street in Colby). American Youth Soccer Organization coordinator Tom Shoaff said today that registration fee of \$30 will include a ball, shirt, shorts, socks and shin pads. The cost for Registration after Saturday is \$35, he said. For questions, call Shoaff at 460-AYSO.
Business Appreciation Day planned
Living Independently in Northwest Kansas, Inc. is holding Business Appreciation Day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday at 505G N. Franklin in Colby. Businesses and others in the community are invited to come eat a hot dog lunch and give the LINK staff a chance to meet everyone.
City-wide garage sale scheduled
The Colby High Plains Lions Club in conjunction with the Highway 25 Association is sponsoring a city-wide garage sale, Saturday, June 10, said Hazel Estes, Lions Club member. This is the second year for this event, she said, and like last year, any service organizations, individuals or groups

interested in coordinating a garage sale that weekend are encouraged to call the Lions Club. In turn, the Lions Club will advertise all the garage sales on a map showing locations and make those available to the public prior to the weekend. In addition to the garage sales in this area, other sales will be going on from Interstate-70 at Coby to Interstate-80 at Sutherland, Neb. "To be included on the garage sale list for June 10, we need to know as soon as possible," she said. For questions or to signup, call either Estes at (785) 460-0557; Mary Hurtt, (785) 443-1886; or Francis Britton, (785) 460-6426 (evenings).
Readiness Group meets Saturday
The Northwest Kansas Military Family Readiness Group will meet at 10 a.m., Saturday, at the Colby National Guard Armory, 470 S. Range Ave., Colby. Anyone who has a family member or friend in any branch of the armed forces, activated or not, or anyone who would like to be involved in the readiness group is encouraged to attend. For questions, call Melanie Fortin, 460-2995, or Lisa Varney, 890-6939.
'Bridging the Gap' planned for May 20
"Bridging the Gap," a special day for mothers and young women, is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at the Colby Community Building, 285 E. Fifth St. To reserve a spot, contact Kathy Lindberg at (785) 443-1040 or kncomm@st-tel.net.

Accomplishments marred by unfinished business

TOPEKA (AP) — Many legislators are celebrating what they view as a productive session, but even their biggest accomplishments on crime and school finance were marred by unfinished business. A plan to phase in a \$541 million increase in aid to public schools over three years had bipartisan support and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius promised to sign it. Backers hope it satisfies a Kansas Supreme Court mandate, but legislators ended their wrap-up session knowing the state might not have enough money to sustain its spending all three years. Legislators also approved "Jessica's Law," imposing tougher penalties on sex offenders, particularly those who prey on children, the marquee bill amid a bevy of anti-

crime proposals. But they didn't take any steps to create new prison space to handle a larger influx of inmates. Also, there was a lack of support of health care issues, including rejection of a Sebelius proposal to expand the state's social services so that all children 5 and under have health insurance. "You have to prioritize," Senate President Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, said Thursday. "I think that's what's happened down through the years." The 2006 session ended Wednesday, except for a brief adjournment ceremony May 25. Because of Supreme Court decisions, funding for public schools was the biggest issue.

Sebelius called the plan "a victory for Kansans," and she and other supporters have argued it will satisfy the court. Others aren't so sure, believing it strays too far from a court-mandated education study released in January. If the court doesn't like the plan, legislators probably will be forced into special session, just as they were last year. "There's no assurance that we've met the needs or put in sufficient funding," said Rep. Ward Loyd, R-Garden City. Even if the court accepts the plan, legislators may have to resolve budget problems created by its passage. Because legislators approved neither a tax increase nor expanded gambling, the state would have to rely on existing revenues. And the spending could cause the state to eat up its cash reserves, now some \$620 million, by mid-2008. A worst-case scenario projected a potential budget shortfall of \$423 million. While some legislators, particularly conservative Republicans, complained about the potential barrels of red ink, House Speaker Doug Mays said making projections three years into the future is difficult. "The first year, you can nail it pretty good. The second year, you're making projections based on current conditions," said Mays, R-Topeka. "By the time you're looking at the third, there's really no way to tell

what the economy's going to do." Legislators believe they have more time to figure out how to find more space for prison inmates, though projections indicated the state will need to find room for another 1,000 by 2016. House members favored a

Sebelius proposal to issue \$20.5 million in bonds to expand prisons at El Dorado or Ellsworth, while senators held out for allowing private prisons in Kansas to house the state's inmates. Because of their differences, neither idea passed.

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