

Weather Corner



Highs near 87; lows near 65

Tonight — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 63. South wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Saturday** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy with a high near 87. East wind between 10 and 15 mph becoming calm. **Saturday night** — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 59. East wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm. **Sunday** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy with a high near 83. Calm wind becoming east between 5 and 10 mph. **Sunday night** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 55. **Monday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 83. **Monday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 58. **Tuesday** — Partly cloudy with a high around 86.

Temperatures
Thursday's high, 82
Low this morning, 52
Records for this date, 105 in 1943, 45 in 1916
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
June's precipitation, 2.54

Water Use Report
Thursday
• 2,380,100 gallons
3.5 million = Water Watch.
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

Public van will not operate

In addition to all Thomas County offices being closed Monday and Tuesday, July 3-4, County Clerk Shelly Harms wanted to remind anyone who uses the public transportation van that it will also not be running those days. All county offices. For questions about the van call the Senior Progress Center at (785) 460-2901. To schedule the van after 12:30 p.m., call (785) 443-9208.

Puppies want a home

The Colby Animal Clinic has six Corgi-mix puppies, both male and females, black and white in color and six to eight weeks old ready for adoption. The only cost for adoption is the price of immunization shots. For questions, call 460-8621 or stop by the facility, 810 E. Fourth St.

Waste site collection Saturday

The Thomas County Household Hazardous Waste Site, 190 W. Fourth St., Colby, will be collecting old paints, cleaning products, lawn and garden chemicals and more from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday. "Don't throw those items in the trash," said Sandy Swob, director. Using the household haz-

ardous waste site, she said, is a good, safe alternative to disposing of this items in the landfill. The service is free and open to all county residents. For questions about what is accepted, call Swob at 460-4526.

Voter registration reminder

The Thomas County Clerk is reminding residents that if they move within the county or out of the county, they need to re-register to vote at their local clerk's office. For questions, call 460-4500.

Ham Radio Club event Saturday

Colby's Trojan Amateur Radio Club will participate in a nationwide Field Day at 1 p.m., Saturday and continuing through 1 p.m., Sunday at the Colby Municipal Airport. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about ham radio operators and how their networks can save lives in emergency situations when traditional forms of communication fail or become overloaded. Everyone is encouraged to attend the event. For questions, call Frahm at 462-7388 or Mike Albers, 460-3678.

Bikes not allowed on sidewalks

With summer vacation in full swing the City of Colby is reminding bicyclists and others riding related devices about the ordinances against riding on sidewalks and other walkways. According to the law, no person riding a bicycle, roller skates, skateboards, coasters, toy vehicles or similar devices are allowed to use sidewalks or pedestrian walkways in the downtown business district. More specifically, the ordinance addresses designated sidewalks and walkways in the area from Second Street to Sixth Street between Chickamauga Avenue and Lake Avenue and other locations designated by the council. Fines for a first offense is \$55; second offense is \$65; and third offense is \$90. For questions, call 460-4410.

Promotion meeting Tuesday

The Colby Promotion Committee, a part of the Thomas County/Colby Chamber of Commerce, is meeting at 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave. The purpose of the committee is in promoting Colby within the community and beyond through advertising and planning. For questions, call 460-3401.

Census shows population decline among northwest Kansas counties

By Tom Dreiling

Norton Telegram

There's nothing new in the latest population estimates released this week by the U.S. Census Bureau. Specifically for northwest Kansas, there were no gainers to be found. The figures, it should be noted, are estimates, not actual and are for July 2005.

Despite the continuing loss of population, there's always a positive or two in the mix.

The City of Norton, for example, has an estimated population of 2,806. The July 2004 estimated figure was 2,852 and the last official count — the 2000 census — showed 3,012 people in Norton.

Despite these figures, Norton still remains the third largest town in the 12-county area generally called "northwest Kansas."

Here are figures of the largest towns in each of those 12 counties (2005, 2004 and 2000 actual census, in that order):

- Cheyenne County/St. Francis — 1,376, 1,390, 1,497
- Rawlins County/Atwood — 1,139, 1,182, 1,279
- Decatur County/Oberlin — 1,811, 1,854, 1,994
- Norton County/Norton — 2,806, 2,852, 3,012
- Sherman County/Goodland —

- 4,485, 4,516, 4,948
- Thomas County/Colby — 5,030, 5,139, 5,450
- Sheridan County/Hoxie — 1,149, 1,151, 1,244
- Graham County/Hill City — 1,451, 1,472, 1,604
- Wallace County/Sharon Springs — 733, 741, 835
- Logan County/Oakley — 1,984, 2,000, 2,173
- Gove County/Quinter — 846, 869, 961
- Trego County/WaKeeney — 1,773, 1,807, 1,924

These figures clearly place Norton as the third largest town, with Colby and Goodland first and second, respectively.

If you include Hays and Russell, Norton is then the fifth largest town. Hays is first with 19,632 (19,827 in 2004 and 20,013 in 2000); Colby is second; Goodland is third; and Russell is fourth with an estimated population of 4,342 (4,434 in 2004 and 4,696 in 2000).

Here are figures for some other communities in the northwest Kansas area (2005, 2004, 2000 in that order):

- Phillipsburg — 2,432, 2,485, 2,688; Stockton — 1,453, 1,465,

- 1,558; Plainville — 1,889, 1,892, 2,029; Almena — 454, 458, 469; Clayton — 64, 65, 66; Edmond — 45, 46, 47; Lenora — 285, 290, 306; Logan — 549, 557, 603; Dresden — 48, 49, 51; Selden — 185, 185, 201; Jennings — 130, 134, 146; Norcat — 158, 161, 169; Osborne — 1,440, 1,461, 1,607; Gove City — 95, 97, 105; Bird City — 438, 443, 482; Brewster — 262, 268, 285.

- Collyer — 125, 130, 133; Ellis — 1,812, 1,828, 1,873; Gem — 92, 93, 96; Grainfield — 298, 305, 327; Grinnell — 299, 306, 329; Kanorado — 228, 229, 248; Kensington — 490, 493, 529; Long Island — 145, 147, 155; McDonald — 138, 144, 159; Menlo — 55, 56, 57; Morland — 155, 156, 164; Park — 137, 140, 151; Prairie View — 131, 134, 141; Smith Center — 1,725, 1,747, 1,931; Victoria — 1,164, 1,174, 1,208.

- Agra — 278, 285, 306; Bogue — 169, 170, 179; Damar — 150, 150, 155; Glade — 106, 108, 114; Herndon — 136, 141, 149; Kirwin — 214, 218, 229; Palco — 228, 231, 248; Speed — 41, 42, 44; Wallace — 62, 62, 67; and Zurich — 121, 122, 126.

Sherman County to review tornado warning

From the Goodland Star-News
Tornado warning sirens Friday afternoon sent people scurrying for cover, and there was confusion at the Sherman County courthouse about where people were to find shelter.

Carol Armstrong, county registrar of deeds, and Iris Scheopner, county treasurer, asked the Sherman County commissioners Tuesday what the people in the courthouse should do in case of another tornado warning.

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said the county needs for Gary Rogers, regional emergency coordinator, to write a policy about tornado response and storm shelter locations.

"Where are people to go?" Armstrong said.

She said on Friday some offices closed and people went home, others went to the basement and another group gathered in the north part of the main hallway.

Rasure said until there is a written policy the county offices should be closed and the doors secured, and all the people from all three floors should seek shelter in

the main hall of the courthouse.

Asked about the basement William McKnight, building superintendent, said the basement was not a good place because of the electrical boxes and boiler located there.

Rasure said the basement is not designed as a shelter, and there are stairs that are potentially dangerous.

McKnight said the county cannot legally lock the door to the basement, but suggested a sign be put on the door saying it was not an emergency shelter.

Rasure asked about the special weather radio that is in the county clerk's office.

McKnight said it did not work, but he has checked it with Randall Fixsen of Fixsen Electronics, and it should be working.

McKnight said the radio had not been programmed when it was set up.

Rasure said there should be a spare set of batteries for the weather radio, a battery operated radio and a flashlight that can be taken into the hallway in an emergency.

For the Record

The following arrests or incidents have been provided by either the Thomas County Sheriff's office or the Colby Police Department. All suspects were booked into the county jail and are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The Thomas County Jail is used by Colby, Oakley, Logan and Thomas counties.

Colby Police Department
Wednesday, July 21

• **Recovered property:** Police were advised at 11:32 a.m. of a wallet found at Village Inn Restaurant.

• **Harassment:** An individual reported a credit card scam. Police took the information.

• **Burglary/theft:** A weedeater

was taken from a Colby residence in the 600 block of West Plum and reported to authorities at 6:12 p.m. The items stolen from the car and the weedeater incident while not related were close in proximity.

• **Theft:** A garden hose and hose reel were taken from a shop in the 800 block of South Country Club.

Thomas County Sheriff's office

Tuesday, June 20

• **Traffic complaint:** Authorities were alerted about children throwing rocks at cars on Interstate 70 near the Brewster exit. When a deputy arrived, no youth were in sight.

Sister Act to perform

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Sister Kenneth Struckhoff from Colby Sacred Heart Church is retiring and moving to Fond du Lac, Wis.

As a farewell, everyone is invited to attend a reception in her honor from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, in the Sacred Heart Church basement, 585 French.

Entertainment is being provided by "Sister Act," which was organized in 1991 for a one-time performance at Father Henry's farewell party, said Kathy Britton, a member of the group.

"Everyone enjoyed the group so much that we were asked to start performing for organizations, other church functions, and during the holidays," she said.

The group is a take-off from the movie, "Sister Act," that starred

Whoopy Goldberg. The difference between the movie actors and the Colby-based Sister Act is that the women here lip-sync the music.

Complete with black robes and habit, the group said they enjoy entertaining.

Sister Act's singers include Britton, Pam Augustine, LaDonna Dempewolf, Alberta Cameron, Jamie McClure, Rhonda Rogers and Ceanne Rinehart.

In addition to the Sister Act performing three songs Sunday, Sister Struckhoff plans to talk about her life.

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