

Weather Corner



Saturday high near 72, low 35

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 34. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

Saturday — Mostly sunny with a high near 72. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday night — Mostly clear with a low around 35. West wind around 10 mph.

Sunday — Mostly sunny with a high near 74. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday night — The forecast is calling for mostly clear skies with a low around 39.

Monday — Mostly sunny with a high near 63.

Monday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 35.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy with a high near 51.

Temperatures

Thursday's high, 46

Low this morning, 32

Records for this date, 86 in 1933, 10 in 1925

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

October's precipitation, 2.02

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

Briefly

Library offers special event

Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. Fourth St., is hosting a forum on the Freedom of Information Act beginning at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 2. Brochures are available at the library or for questions, call 460-4470.

‘The Messiah’ rehearsal Sunday

Choral rehearsals continue at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, for the upcoming presentation of “The Messiah” in the Cultural Arts Center on the campus of Colby College.

Kiwanis hosts pancake feed

The Colby Kiwanis Club is sponsoring a pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, at the VFW, 220 N. Lake St. Proceeds from the feed will help with Christmas projects and other community services.

Missionary banquet planned

Jim and Shelley Savage of Wycliffe Associates will be speaking at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, during a banquet at the Colby Quality Inn, 1950 S. Range Ave. The Savages are

missionaries who will share how lives are transformed through the work of Bible translation. Call 462-3722 or 462-8786 for complimentary tickets.

School board meets Thursday

The Colby School Board is having a special meeting at 7 p.m., Thursday, in the administrative office to consider approval of the Dennen Field Stadium project and the architect. For questions, call 460-5000.

Square dance Saturday in Colby

The Golden Buckle Square Dance Club is hosting a dance starting at 8 p.m., Saturday, in the Colby Community Building, 285 E. Fifth St. Everyone is welcome to attend. For questions or details, call Elaine Hurtt, 462-2895.

Lions fundraiser continues

The Colby High Plains Lions Club is continuing its fundraiser at Orscheln Farm and Home Supply, 1915 S. Range Ave. Saturday. Activities include breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. and lunch 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eyeglasses will be collected from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. both days. A car wash will be held

beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, weather permitting, and a bake sale will begin at 8 a.m. Sunday. A collection box for eyeglasses and hearing aids, along with an information booth will also be available.

Food basket recipients wanted

Genesis-Thomas County, which serves as the area’s only food bank, is again planning its annual holiday food basket program for those Thomas County families in need. “Anyone who is interested in receiving a food basket during this special time is asked to pick up forms at the Genesis-Thomas County office, 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 6 in Colby on Wednesdays between 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.,” said Marilyn Friesen, co-coordinator for the holiday event. The deadline for applications is Saturday, Nov. 11.

Essay contest deadline Wednesday

The Masonic Grand Lodge of Kansas is sponsoring an essay contest with this year’s topic: *How is Trade with China Affecting Life in America*. Essays must be submitted to the local Masonic Lodge on or before Nov. 1. In Colby, send essays to: St. Thomas Lodge, P.O. Box 421, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Area law enforcement agencies help out in Hoxie

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

While activities around the Sheridan County sheriff’s office looked normal Friday morning, they were anything but normal.

As agents from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation conduct their investigation into Thursday’s shooting death of Sheriff Jim Johnson, law enforcement officers and dispatchers from surrounding towns pitched in to conduct business of the day.

“Various agencies are providing patrol and dispatching,” said KBI Deputy Director Kyle Smith during a late morning press conference in downtown Hoxie.

“It would be easier to name agencies which aren’t helping out than those who are.”

Smith said dispatchers from across northwest Kansas will be taking shifts to help out dispatchers who are on staff at the sheriff’s office in Hoxie.

And he said the Kansas Highway Patrol would help provide law enforcement and patrol to assist Gove County Sheriff Allan Weber, interim sheriff for Sheridan County.

Smith still did not release the name of the deputy who shot and killed 35-year-old Steven P. Reitcheck, the man who shot and killed Johnson while being interviewed about a possible self-commitment for mental health care. Reitcheck was suspected of vandalism to his father’s grave at St. Francis Catholic Cemetery over the past month and was called in Thursday to talk with Johnson. However, Smith did say the deputy who shot and killed

Reitcheck has been placed on administrative leave.

“I’ve talked with Steven’s mother, Mary Reitcheck,” Smith said “And she expressed her condolences to the Johnson family, as well as to the community.”

Mayor Lori Horesky, Hoxie Chief of Police John Bieker and Sheridan County Attorney Mike Haas talked about the town being “in shock.”

It’s going to take a long time to heal from this, if they ever do,” Bieker said.

Sheridan County Undersheriff Brian Fenner was at the sheriff’s office this morning, but was not available for comment.

Attorney General Phill Kline was in Hoxie this morning to visit families of the victims of Thursday’s shooting.



FILE PHOTO

Ruins of a headstone straddle its base in St. Francis Catholic Cemetery located 1 mile west of Hoxie, which might have had something to do with Thursday’s shooting. The headstone was placed there in memory of Leroy D. Reitcheck who died as a result of a hit and run car accident in June of 2003.

Anti-Kline ads continue in attorney general race

TOPEKA (AP) — Questions about outsiders’ involvement in advertisements continue to bedevil Republican incumbent Phill Kline and Democratic challenger Paul Morrison in the attorney general’s race.

A Wichita group sponsoring anti-Kline mailings, calling him “Snoop Dog Kline” over his efforts to glean information from patient records at two abortion clinics, shares an office suite with an abortion rights group tied to Dr. George Tiller, who runs one of the clinics, records showed.

Kline’s campaign raised questions about Morrison’s decision to stop broadcasting a radio ad featuring John Walsh, the host of the “America’s Most Wanted” television show. The Republican said Walsh was upset his positive comments about Morrison were being used against Kline; Morrison said it had nothing to do with their race.

Also, two television stations reported that a national Republican group sponsoring an anti-Morrison television ad canceled future airings of the 30-second spot and asked for refunds of the money it spent to purchase the time. Both Morrison and Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius had deemed the ad misleading an asked stations to pull it.

Kline is seeking a second term against Morrison, the Johnson County district attorney, and their race turned bitter in recent weeks.

Mailings by Kansans for Consumer Privacy Protection, a Wichita group, already have been an issue because they relied on faulty Kansas Bureau of Investigation data to claim incorrectly that the state’s murder rate has skyrocketed since Kline took office.

Anti-abortion activists have suspected that the group is tied to Tiller, who donated \$153,000 to ProKanDo, an abortion rights PAC, which then spent the same amount on radio ads against Kline four

years ago as part of a larger campaign to elect abortion rights supporters.

The Lawrence Journal-World reported Thursday that Kansans for Consumer Privacy Protection lists the same Wichita address in state records as ProKanDo, according to state records. Julie Burkhart, ProKanDo’s chairwoman, did not return a message left on her cell phone Thursday evening.

Kline, his aides and other Republicans have been predicting for months that Tiller would mount an effort to defeat the Republican.

“This is evidence that George Tiller is beginning his backdoor assault on the attorney general,” Kline spokeswoman Sherriene Jones told the Journal-World.

Kline has said he needs information from the records of 90 patients at the two clinics as part of an investigation into sex crimes against children and potentially illegal late-term abortion. The clinics have accused him of conducting a fishing expedition, and Morrison has portrayed Kline’s actions as an invasion of the patients’ privacy.

Morrison campaign manager Mark Simpson said he’s not familiar with Kansans for Consumer Privacy Protection, but added, “A lot of people have problems with Phill Kline’s serious invasion of pri-

vacy.”

Meanwhile, Morrison faced questions about the radio ad featuring Walsh, which stopped airing about a week ago.

The Kline campaign said “America’s Most Wanted” representatives “confirmed” that Walsh demanded that the ad be pulled because he admires the work Kline has done to protect children.

A representative for “America’s Most Wanted” did not return a telephone message or reply to an e-mail inquiry sent Thursday by The Associated Press.

But Morrison said Walsh has been pulling advertising around the nation because he had worked with disgraced U.S. Rep. Mark Foley, R-Fla., on child protection issues. Foley was forced to resign over suggestive computer messages sent to teenage male pages.

As for Walsh expressing his dis-

satisfaction with his remarks being used against Kline, Morrison told AP, “I was told quite the opposite — it didn’t have anything to do with Phill Kline.”

Finally, there was a new development this week in the ongoing public fuss over an ad from the Republican State Leadership Committee, based in Washington. The spot criticized Morrison for supporting a 2003 law requiring drug treatment instead of prison for first-time, non-violent drug offenders.

The ad said Morrison backed recommendations jeopardizing public safety that even Sebelius opposed. Sebelius signed the law and strongly backed the party, but the group said it was referring to an early proposal to make the law retroactive and release several hundred inmates from prison, something removed from the legislation after Sebelius objected.



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