


Weather Corner



The forecast
Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 30. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 70. North wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Saturday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 37. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south. **Sunday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 73. South wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm. **Sunday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 39. **Monday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 64. **Monday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 40. **Tuesday** — A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy with a high near 63.

Temperatures
Thursday's high, 54
Low this morning, 27
Records for this date, 81 in 1908, 0 in 1895
Precipitation last 24 hours, 0.00
March's precipitation, 0.22
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119.

Briefly

Gaither video Sunday

Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine, is sponsoring a Gaither Homecoming video concert at 6 p.m., Sunday. The concert is free and open to the public. "Enjoy this great concert on the big screen," organizers said. Refreshments are free.

Commissioners to meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will met at 9 a.m. Monday at the courthouse. The meeting is open to the public.

College board meets Monday

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, in the board room of Thomas Hall. Items on the regular meeting agenda include introduction of Jeff Becker, cross country track coach; approval of employment contracts; discussion on tuition and fees and room and board increases. Other items include change in policy manual related to naming a facility; auditor's request for

agreement; request for contract continuation; board schedule of events in 2007; campus debit cards with Sunflower Bank and executive session on personnel matters and negotiations. For questions or an agenda, call 462-3984.

Spring break activities at library

Any middle school students looking for something to do during Spring Break will be interested to know that the monthly program held at the Pioneer Memorial Library every third Tuesday of the month, will meet Tuesday, March 20. The theme for the session is "Couch Potatoes." There will be a make-your own snack table and a movie. The session will run from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m. The program is free and no registration is required. Call 460-4470 or stop by the library at 375 W. Fourth for more information.

Heartland School open house

Heartland Christian School, 1995 W. Fourth St., invites all parents and potential preschool students to the school's open house from 9 a.m. to noon, March 30. The open house is for youth 3 or 4 years old to be in preschool for the 2007-2008 school year.

The open house will be in the school commons. For more information, call 460-6419.

Cemetery decoration removal

With the warmer temperatures and drier ground, the Beulah Cemetery Board of Directors is asking families to take down any Christmas decorations that may have been left during the December snowstorms.

Any decorations, such as miniature Christmas trees, ornaments, etc., will be disposed of after 5 p.m., Wednesday, March 21. For questions, call the Beulah Cemetery office, 462-3188.

Lions host roast beef lunch

Rexford Lions Club is hosting a roast beef lunch with all the trimmings from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, March 25, at the Rexford Community Hall on Main Street.

Free-will donations accepted for community projects.

Artist creates natural-looking environments

SALINA (AP) — Referring occasionally to the picture he was using as a rough guide, C. Paul Barker dipped his small brush into the plastic cup full of paint and started making what, quite frankly, appeared to be small, green blobs.

Kathy Tolbert, who had hired the Chicago muralist, stood on the other side of the glass and watched.

"They look like blobs when he's doing it, but when it's done, he has a beautiful tree with leaves," said Tolbert, director of Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure.

Right she was.

The more he painted, the more the blobs began to look like leaves of a tree.

"What I do isn't art," Barker said as he looked over his completed and nearly completed murals in the reptile room at Rolling Hills zoo. "It isn't personal expression. It's a more of a technique, a skill I have of fooling people."

Tolbert doesn't agree.

"It's art, and it's really good," she said.

Barker recently spent a week painting scenic murals on the walls of the glass-enclosed reptile exhibits and one for the anteatr exhibit.

The vinyl wallpaper, made from blown-up photographs, which has been the backdrops for the reptile exhibits, had become worn and faded, Tolbert said.

"When we decided we needed to do something else, we knew just who to call," she said.

Barker spent 43 days and made three different trips to Salina to do all of the murals at the wildlife museum at Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure.

He started doing murals at zoos and museums in 1982 after discovering that the line of work was far more fun and profitable than making cabinets, his previous profession.

Because Barker looks at the murals he paints as a job and not art, he can do them pretty quickly, using a spray gun, brushes and his fingers.

"The secret is efficiency," he said.

"I'm not one of the guys who will spend hours looking at what I've done and thinking it has to be perfect and what I want. You make a client happy and you go home."

Barker's work starts before he visits the job site.

Before he arrived at the zoo, he visited with Tolbert about what creatures were in the exhibits he was to paint.

To make the mural look like the reptiles' native homes, Barker does research and looks at a lot of pictures.

"I take the Frankenstein approach," he said.

"I take a tree from here and a shrub from here and a sky from someplace else."

He makes a sketch, but the finished product rarely mirrors the sketch.

He begins each of his murals with a background and continues to layer additional elements on top of that.

If he messes up, he doesn't spend time worrying about it.

"If I don't like what I've done, I paint over it," he said. It's always a surprise to me how each mural turns out."

Enhanced tornado scale means changes

WICHITA (AP) — Meteorologists compare the Enhanced Fujita Scale that is being used for better tornado damage assessment to switching a black-and-white TV for a high-definition plasma screen.

The revised system took more than a year to complete and promises to be far more detailed than its predecessor, which was introduced more than 30 years ago.

The benefits for the public are endless, says Dan McCarthy, warning coordination meteorologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla.

"What we hope it'll be able to do is lead to a better-built home for tornadoes," McCarthy said.

The "EF Scale" can also provide a better measure of a tornado's damage potential, he said, which could lead to more detailed warnings as tornadoes form and move along the ground. The Enhanced Fujita Scale

officially went into effect Feb. 1 and has already been used to assess early season tornadoes in Florida, Louisiana and elsewhere.

Local builders have already changed their practices and materials based on what they learned after a large tornado tore through Haysville, south Wichita and Andover on April 26, 1991.

That includes the use of engineered roof truss systems that are tied down with hurricane straps to walls that have been wrapped from the ground up in protective sheathing.

"Safe rooms," which typically feature reinforced concrete shells and sturdy doors, have become increasingly common in the past 15 years.

The new Fujita scale uses 28 indicators to measure damage, with several different degrees of damage possible within each indicator, including trees, commercial buildings, manufactured homes, and houses built with metal or wood.

The original Fujita scale was far more basic, meteorologists say.

"Wind engineers have done a lot more studies" in recent years, said Chance Hayes, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Wichita. "It doesn't take as much wind to do damage as we previously thought."

An F3 tornado under the old scale usually meant roofs were torn off frame homes, trailer homes were destroyed and cars were lifted off the ground, with winds between 158 and 206 mph.

However, an EF3 tornado would do the same kind of damage, but with winds between 136 and 165 mph. F4 tornadoes were considered to have winds of up to 260 mph, while EF4 twisters have a top speed of 200.

The new scale should offer uniformity in damage assessments by

removing subjectivity, Hayes said. Under the old scale, five meteorologists assessing the same damage could theoretically return with five different ratings.

"Anybody from the National Weather Service should be able to walk up to the same damage and come away with a very similar EF-scale rating," Hayes said. "We want to get that uniformity to get a more accurate database for tornadoes that occur."


Ted's Boot Repair and Tack

IS RELOCATING
APRIL 1ST

4mi. West on US 40 from Oakley and 3 1/2 mi. South on CR 40. Drop-off locations to be announced.

785-672-3007
785-672-7530 (cell)

Drs. Morrison & Wahlmeier is now




Same...

- experienced doctors and staff
- cutting edge eyecare technology
- selection in fashion eyewear
- on-site optical lab
- caring, comfortable atmosphere

We're celebrating our new name all month with drawings for great prizes. (drawing held 4/30/2007)


Stop in and register to win!

Two locations



Jeff Morrison, O.D.
Mark Wahlmeier, O.D.

180 W. 6th, Colby • 462-8231



Mark Wahlmeier, O.D.

1002 Broadway, Goodland
899-3654

www.eyeclinic.com

You

Can Make A Difference

Farm community to honor 'king of cool'

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Steve McQueen, aka the "King of Cool," will be honored later this month in the central Missouri town of Slater, where he grew up.

McQueen, whose famous movie moments include a mad motorcycle dash in "The Great Escape" and a car chase through the streets of San

Francisco in "Bullitt," was born in Beech Grove, Ind., on March 24, 1930. He spent much of his childhood in Slater on his great-uncle's farm, organizers said.

Steve McQueen Days, to be held March 23-25, could help raise the tourism profile of the farming community of 2,100 residents, about

200 miles northwest of St. Louis, the city's assistant administrator, Russell Griffith, said Monday.

MARKET YOUR CATTLE THE SUPERIOR WAY



Superior Livestock Representative
Steve Vaughn

655 Woofter Ave.
Colby, KS 67701

Superior Livestock Auction
785-460-8882
785-443-2739

DEALERS WANTED

Kansas distributor looking for motivated individuals to become a dealer for **BRYAN FURNACE.** The #1 outdoor woodburning furnace.

Great income potential!

Call 1-800-794-6660 or 1-620-241-2869 for more details about this great opportunity.

If you have any of these certificates...

Good Only at Participating Merchants

25

\$

25

25

25

Christmas On Us

Colby Free Press

Expires March 31, 2007

...remember - they expire on March 31st!!

THE TUMBLEWEED CHORUS

Proudly presents its 26th Annual Show

WHEN THE CIRCUS CAME TO TOWN

Featuring:

Headline Quartet - Four Voices
(1996 International Collegiate Championship, 2002 International Gold Medalists)



The Tumbleweed Chorus
Directed by Rod Eisenbise

Guest Chorus ~
Salina Crossroads Barbershop Chorus
Directed by Mike Linden



Saturday, March 31st, 2007

Two Performances **2:30 PM and 7:30 PM** Colby Community College
Cultural Arts Center/Frahm Theatre - Colby, KS



TICKETS:

\$8.00 Advance; \$10.00 at the Door
Contact any member or call: 785-462-2474