Area/State

Weather Corner



Cloudy and colder

The forecast

Tonight – Mostly cloudy with a low around 18. North wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Saturday** — Mostly cloudy with a high near 32. North wind around 5 mph. Saturday night Partly cloudy with a low around 12. North wind around 5 mph becoming east. Sunday -

Mostly sunny with a high near 47. South wind between 5 and 10 mph. Sunday night — Mostly clear with a low around 28. Monday – Partly cloudy with a high near 69. Monday night A 20 percent chance of show ers. Partly cloudy with a low around 36. Tuesday - A20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a high near 58.

Temperatures

Thursday's high, 35 Low this morning, 22 Records for this date, 88 in 1893, 8 in 1936

Precipitation last 24 hours, 0.00

April's precipitation, 0.00 A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-8367.

Student earns membership

Karen Honeyman, of Oakley, a student at Kansas State University in Manhattan, was selected as a member of Silver Key. It is K-State's sophomore leadership honorary that emphasizes community service.

Honeyman is an arts and sciences major.

Silver Key adviser Carla Jones, assistant vice president and senior associate dean of student life, said the group selects between 35 to 40 students for membership each spring. The students currently are in their first year of study at K-State and must have at least a 3.0 grade point average. During the next school year, Silver Key members will participate in a variety of community service activities throughout the year. Past projects have included cleaning up along highways, food drives and helping children and the elderly.

Briefly

Commissioners to meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at the courthouse. They will canvass votes from the Tuesday, April 3 city-school election. The meeting is open to the public.

Food sign up continues

Sign up for Prairie Land Food (formerly Share) continues through today at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. Fourth St. Delivery is Saturday, April 21, in the gymnasium of Colby Sacred Heart School, 1150 W. Sixth St. For questions, call either Marguerette Edmundson, 460-8640 or Gene Griffin, 460-3579.

Fair board to meet Thursday

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include Thomas County extension agent report; bills and financial report; committee reports on the buildings and grounds, rodeo, parade, demolition derby,

races, fair book, advertising expenses and income, exhibit entries and premium checks; a discussion on the blue grass festival contract, map for vendor sites, swim booth in the commercial building and proposal for cost sharing fair expenses with extension.

Historical society annual meeting set

The Thomas County Historical Society's annual meeting begins at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, April 22, with a business meeting to elect board members. Following the meeting, Dr. Phillip Thomas, a professor at Wichita State, will have a program on Charles J. 'Buffalo' Jones, a buffalo hunter who became famous for the preservation of the American bison in the 1860s. In addition, he was also one of the founders of Garden City and later appointed as a game warden in Yellowstone Park by President Theodore Roosevelt. For questions, call 460-4590.

Ribbon cutting April 25

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce is

sponsoring a ribbon cutting ceremony at 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 25, welcoming the Yellow Brick Road Candle Company, 175 W. Third St., at its new location. The event is open to the public.

Spring concert April 26-27

Colby Grade School's Soaring Singers will perform at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 26 and at 1:30 p.m., Friday, April 27, in the school gymnasium, 210 N. Grant Ave.

This is the fourth annual spring concert, said Jennifer Koel, director. For questions, call 460-5100.

Commodity distribution Monday

United States Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Monday at the Retired adn Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center.

Peole eligible may receive them only according to income guidelines on the above date and tiem only. For information, call 462-6744.

Kansas man picks up the tab for various charities in state

their can of beer or pop open, most provides housing for parents with started in 1987 in Minneapolis, and people don't give a second thought newborns in the Neonatal Intensive the Joplin house began its collection to that little tab they had to pull.

got around half a million of them at requiring continuous rest and/or his Girard home, along with several monitoring, and families of chilhundred thousand canceled stamps. All of them will go to charity.

efit the Ronald McDonald House of

Care Unit, mothers who have devel-But Chuck Hoagland does. He's oped illnesses during pregnancy dren with illnesses requiring extended hospitalization or observa-The pull tabs, for example, ben- tion or lengthy outpatient treatment. The idea of collecting pop tabs

program in 1997.

"I collect the tabs all over town, and sometimes people just give them to me," Hoagland said. "I get quite a few tabs at church and from the American Legion."

He said he started collecting in 2002 after he broke his back. "The

GIRARD (AP) - After they get the Four States in Joplin. The home for Ronald McDonald Houses doctor told me I needed to walk, and I walked up and down the roads," he said. "I started picking things up."

He said that many types of cat food cans, as well as canned goods for humans, now have pull tabs. "I wish more people would get involved in collecting them," he said. "A lot of tabs are going into the trash each day that could be put to good

use helping others." Hoagland takes other recyclables he finds to Southeast Kansas Recy-

cling, Inc., in Pittsburg. For 25 years he collected canceled stamps for American Legion Post No. 408, St. Paul, Minn. "The man in charge of that project died, so they canceled the project,"

Now he sends the stamps to the Mosaic program at Bethphage Village, a facility for those with developmental disabilities near Axtell, Neb.

Stamps are sold to a collector. with the income shared equally among the clients at the facility.

Hoagland was born in Whindham, N.Y. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on April 2, 1954. "I was just 17 and my mother didn't want me to go, but she finally let me enlist," he said.

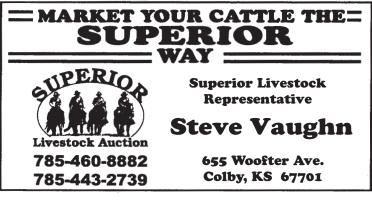
"I spent three years with the army, got out and was home four months, then I joined the Air Force."

He served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969.

Hoagland discovered Girard through a friend he met stationed in Wichita. "I came home with him to Girard, and when I met Judy, that was it," he said.

"She graduated from Girard High School in May 1960, and we were married in June 1960. We have two children and six grandchildren."

He said he worked in printing at Girard for 23 years.



Persevering to keep a military trail

Military Road through Manhattan, perhaps harder than anybody in the city.

A retired businessman, Combs, 73, has orchestrated moving 4- and 5-ton rocks for markers along the trail. He's secured thousands of dollars in donations for bronze plaques cast with historical text; built a wooden bridge to make it it." safer for pedestrians; and dotted its route with yellow survey flags.

Combs can't recall how many hours he's devoted to the trail, which was traversed by covered wagons in the 1800s.

something I wanted to do, so it didn't make any difference ... I knew the trail was there. I thought it was a shame that it was overgrown tan Mutual Life Insurance Comand that nobody knew where it was.'

walked the trail, talking about its hill country of southern Indiana, history. Part of the pathway extends with "pure" air and "big trees" wood bushes and an occasional across, he said. hedge tree. Combs cleared some of it was disappearing.

worked hard to preserve the old overseveral yards, away from overgrown oak trees. The trail is 10-15

> "There's a lot of traffic on this trail, but nobody will do anything," he said. "They'll just walk around

Combs said the city gave him lumber to build a wooden banister and a walking bridge over portions of the eroded trail. It took him about a month to build the structure. A small bronze plaque bears Combs's "Lots," he said modestly. "This is name and the construction date, 1998

He first began work on the trail in 1997. He was president of Manhatpany for 21 years until he retired in 1999. He learned his appreciation On a recent balmy day, Combs for the outdoors growing up in the

Combs wears jeans and a cased knife on his belt, moving easily through the woods, though he doesn't consider himself an outdoorsman.

"There were few to no diaries for the Old Military Trail," Combs remarks, unlike the many that documented the Santa Fe Trail.

He's quick to say that preserving the trail has been a volunteer effort involving others, including former Parks and Rec director Terry DeWeese, Burke Bayer of Bayer Construction Company, and retired architect Morris Werner, an authority on the Military Trail whose research Combs said he followed.

Bayer made heavy equipment and labor available to move and set five limestone-slab markers from through Warner Park. The area is oak, hickory and maple — that four Cottonwood Ledge, a stone ridge in thick with oak and cedar trees, dog- people couldn't get their arms one of Warner Park's hillsides. The stones weigh 4-1/2 to 5-1/2 tons each, the largest being 6 feet tall and equally wide.

Hoagland said.

feet wide in most places. to me. Like, why they came through Combs is disappointed that the soft bottoms, instead of that Warner Park's many users don't ledge," he says, pointing to higher help maintain the trail by clearing ground. fallen branches and rocks.

MANHATTAN (AP) — For al- city's parks and recreation depart- it was 150 years ago, where the most a decade, Don Combs has ment to build up the trail and shift it wagons were going through, and the cavalry. "There are mysteries on the trail,



Soldiers drive economic development

FORT RILEY. (AP) - Whilemost of the military's focus recently has been on the surge of soldiers going to war in Iraq, Kansas is witnessing its own surge.

Compelled by a Pentagon decision in 2005 to bring the 1st Infantry Division back to its traditional home at Fort Riley from Germany, surrounding communities have been adjusting to an influx of thousands of new soldiers and their families. The first wave came in 2006, and another one is approaching.

Results from the efforts of civilian and military officials in Kansas to find enough housing for the soldiers have caught the Pentagon's attention.

"The locals have responded like no others I've seen," said William Armbruster, deputy assistant Army secretary for privatization and partnerships. "You guys have stepped up to the plate and are making a difference. Everybody seems to be in synch."

He referenced a task force, spearheaded by former Lt. Gov. John Moore, that coordinated the efforts by surrounding cities, counties, school districts and state agencies. Combined, they charted a course for getting housing started, improving public infrastructure and helping soldiers find housing and jobs for spouse

"You literally had to crawl to get the ground. through here," he said.

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who listened and

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past

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the

months,

<u> Thank You...</u>

The old trail drops into the Euthe cedars to rebuild the trail where reka Valley in southwest Manhattan, a faint "swale" or depression in

"That's the trail, there," Combs off," Combs said of the mammoth He used dirt hauled in by the says, pointing. "This is just the way

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