

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 showers. Partly cloudy with a low around 36. **Tuesday** — A 20 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.

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,

racers, 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 and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center.

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

Kansas man picks up the tab for various charities in state

GIRARD (AP) — After they get their can of beer or pop open, most people don't give a second thought to that little tab they had to pull.

But Chuck Hoagland does. He's got around half a million of them at his Girard home, along with several hundred thousand canceled stamps. All of them will go to charity.

The pull tabs, for example, benefit the Ronald McDonald House of

the Four States in Joplin. The home provides housing for parents with newborns in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, mothers who have developed illnesses during pregnancy requiring continuous rest and/or monitoring, and families of children with illnesses requiring extended hospitalization or observation or lengthy outpatient treatment.

The idea of collecting pop tabs

for Ronald McDonald Houses started in 1987 in Minneapolis, and the Joplin house began its collection 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

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 Recycling, 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," Hoagland said.

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.

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.

Soldiers drive economic development

FORT RILEY. (AP) — While most 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 spouses.

Thank You... for your Votes

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