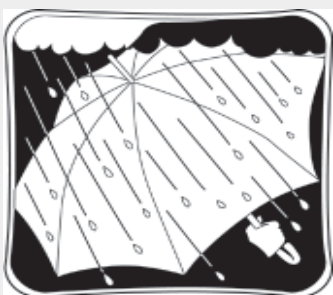


Weather Corner



The forecast
Tonight — Isolated showers before 10 p.m. Partly cloudy with a low around 48. West wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 80. Northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Saturday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 51. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph becoming calm. **Sunday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 78. North wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Sunday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 51. **Monday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 82. **Monday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 53. **Tuesday** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a high near 89.
Temperatures
Thursday's high, 71
Low this morning, 49
Records for this date, 96 in 1899, 356 in 1917
Precipitation last 24 hours, 0.01
May's precipitation, 1.15
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-8367.

Briefly

Fike Park clean-up Saturday and Sunday
Volunteers are needed to help clean up Fike Park to make it more enjoyable for the children of Colby. The work will be from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday and Sunday. Graffiti on the playground equipment will be removed and the paint on the railing will be re-done. Wal-Mart is sponsoring the event.

Commissioners to meet Monday
The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include Jim McGuire with courthouse air conditioner bids; Sheriff Mike Baughn on security at the Law Enforcement Center. The meeting is open to the public.

School Board to meet Monday
The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the Administration Building. Items on the agenda include administrative reports and board reports; a discussion on a capital outlay fund; technology proposal; security camera

discussion and if necessary, personnel. The meeting is open to the public.

Cub Scouts plan bake sale
The Cub Scouts are having a bake sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, at Wal-Mart in Colby. Proceeds from this sale will help the boys go to camp this summer, sponsors said.

Lunch 'N Learn meeting cancelled
The Master Gardener's Lunch 'N Learn planned Thursday, June 7, has been cancelled due to conflicts, said Jan Poore with the Thomas County Extension Office. The July Lunch 'N Learn meeting; however, is still scheduled for noon, Thursday, July 5, with Christy Rasure helping prepare exhibits for this year's fair. In addition, the Thomas County Extension office wants to remind everyone that following the departure of Doug Musick, extension agent, the Master Gardener's will be in the office, 350 S. Range Ave., from 9 to 11 a.m. to answer questions anyone has and to identify

specimens. "You may leave specimens any day of the week, but they (Master Gardeners) will be in the office on Thursdays," Poore said. Also, people may E-mail their questions to gardenaid@yahoo.com.

CPR and first aid class planned
The Thomas County Red Cross is holding an adult CPR and first aid class from 6 to 10 p.m., Tuesday, June 12, at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby. Anyone interested in taking the class needs to call 462-7161 to register. There is a small fee for the course and materials, said Sherry White, Red Cross director.

County office to open late June 12
The Thomas County Treasurer's office will be closed from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, June 12, so employees can attend a motor vehicle training workshop. For questions, call 460-4520.

Aquila natural gas rates to increase 3.6 percent today

Goodland Star-News

Aquila customers will see a 3.6 percent increase in their July natural gas bills after a rate increase approved by the Kansas Corporation Commission.
The new rates went into effect today. The 3.6 percent increase equates to a \$5.1 million increase in annual revenue for Aquila's natural gas operations in Kansas. The increase applies to residential, commercial and industrial customers in the state. The company originally had filed in November for a 5.1 percent, or \$7.2 million, increase in annual revenues.
"We respect and support the process that is in place to set rates for our customers while considering increasing operations and maintenance costs and our responsibility to continue providing safe, reliable service to our customers," said Chuck Loomis, operating vice president for Aquila in Kansas.
For residential and small commercial customers, the new rates

include an increase in the monthly customer charge and a decrease in the charge on volumes used.
The residential customer charge will see a raise from \$12 per month to \$16 per month. The small commercial customer charge will see a

raise from \$17 per month to \$22.75 per month. For both customer classes, the per therm usage charge will decrease from \$0.15108 per therm down to \$0.14524 per therm.
With the new rates, a typical resi-

dential customer using 735 therms (one therm equals 100 cubic feet of gas) a year will have an overall increase of about \$3.64 per month, or approximately 12 cents a day. Small commercial customers using 1,558 therms of gas a year will experience

an increase of \$4.99 monthly, or about 17 cents a day.
Aquila will use the increased money to recover ongoing costs for operating and maintaining its distribution system, which reaches 54 communities across Kansas.

Weather delaying Kansas wheat harvest

WICHITA (AP) — The wheat harvest was likely to start a little later than usual in some sections of Kansas because of recent cool, wet weather.
Kiowa, near the Oklahoma border in Barber County, is often where the harvest begins in Kansas, usually in the first week of June. This year it will be closer to mid-June, said Dennis Carroll with the OK Co-op Grain.
It won't be a pretty harvest, he said.
"We've had frost, endless rain, rust and army worms," Carroll said. "We haven't had locusts yet, but I'm prepared."
The Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service's weekly report of crop conditions reports that only 11 percent of the state's wheat is rated excellent. Another 26 percent is good, while 31 percent is rated fair, 20 percent poor and 12 percent very poor.
In central and south-central Kansas, three days of freeze in late April did significant damage. More recently, drenching rains have brought widespread flooding to ripening wheatfields.
"We've had two 100-year floods in a span of two weeks," said Jeff Comfort, manager of the Farmers Co-op in Salina.
But prospects are better in western Kansas.
"We've got the best wheat I've

seen in years," said Kevin Wineinger at Farmco in Tribune, in Greeley County on the Colorado border. "We've been able to avoid hail, and we've been getting rains now and then. It's looking very promising."
Wineinger said harvest in western Kansas will be delayed probably by as much as a week because of the weather. But that same weather promotes big, full heads of grain.
He said Kansas and Oklahoma railroads have already started positioning rail cars in anticipation of western Kansas' first good wheat harvest in almost a decade.
Southern Sumner County also normally harvests early in June. This year, it will be at least another week and maybe longer, said Martin Schmidt at Farmers Co-op Grain in Caldwell.
How much the freeze hurt is still uncertain, he said. Sedgwick, Reno, Harvey, McPherson, Marion, Rice and Dickinson counties also reported heavy losses from freeze and the recent floods.
At Andale Farmers Co-op, Greg Patry said he's still not able to figure out the freeze damage.
"I look at it one week and I'm pretty optimistic, and then I drive by it again and I'm not so sure," he said.
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Information from: The Wichita Eagle, <http://www.kansas.com>

Goodland fire chief resigns after 20 years

Goodland Star-News

City fire chief Scott Gilmer resigned May 21, said Wayne Hill city manager, leaving the city looking for a new leader for its mostly new volunteer corps.
"I did not ask for his resignation," Hill said. "He came in this morning and handed me his letter of resignation."
"I have named assistant chief Brian James as the interim chief, and will begin the process of advertising for a new fire chief."
Hill said James has an associates degree in fire fighting, and is a qualified fire fighter.
Hill said he would not comment on any possible reasons for the res-

ignation, but that the action was voluntary.
Gilmer has been the fire chief for about a year. He was acquitted by a jury in December of charges of attempted theft of cigarettes, and was suspended in February for testing positive for alcohol while a passenger in a vehicle making a rescue run during a snow storm in January.
Twelve city volunteer firemen quit in protest in March after Gilmer refused to resign when a 30-day suspension without pay ended. Several later joined the county rural fire department.
Gilmer has been a member of the volunteer fire department for 20 years.