




### Weather Corner



**Tonight...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Saturday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s. South winds 15 to 20 mph. Gusts up to 30 mph in the afternoon. Saturday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows around 60. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

**Sunday...**Partly sunny. A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 80s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Sunday night...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s.

**Monday** and **Monday night...**Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s. Lows in the upper 50s.

**Tuesday...**Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s. Tuesday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

Wednesday through Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s. Lows in the upper 50s.

Thursday's low, high: 76, 49, trace precipitation.

## Concerns for bioscience lab discounted

MANHATTAN (AP) — Safety questions linger, but officials trying to attract a new national bio-defense laboratory see little danger in building it at Kansas State University.

Most research at the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility would be in Level 3 labs on viruses such as foot-and-mouth disease, which infects cattle, pigs and sheep. But 20 percent of the space would be Level 4 labs, dealing with microorganisms posing a high risk of life-threatening diseases with no cure.

Kansas is competing with Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and Texas for the \$451 million lab that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security wants build to replace an aging lab on Plum Island, N.Y. A decision is expected later this year and the new lab could be operating by 2013.

A recent federal audit criticized the department for not conducting a study on whether foot-and-mouth research can be done safely on the mainland. A professor has raised the same issue, noting that if the lab comes to Kansas it will be surrounded by agricultural production.

But Kansas State University officials see disaster scenarios as science fiction rather than science fact.

"Can I tell you there is a zero percent chance there would be an accident in a place like this?" said Dr. Jerry Jaax, associate vice president for research compliance and university veterinarian. "No, I don't think I can tell you this, but certainly I can tell you the track record for these facilities has been excellent."

So far, opposition to bringing the new lab to Kansas has been muted. Legislators and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius are pursuing the project with the backing of university and community leaders.

"It represents jobs and economic development, and they see the risks as being small compared to potential gains," said Joe Aistrup, head of the university's Political Science Department. "Broadly speaking, there's widespread support in the community. There are a few people with qualms about it."

The biggest concerns have come from the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress. It issued a report last month that cited the lack of a safety study by Homeland Security.

# Penney's store in Goodland to close

By Tom Betz  
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Employees at Goodland's J.C. Penney's were told Tuesday the store would close in September.

Word of the announcement spread around town, and Elizabeth Riley, one of the three key holders at the store, confirmed the news Wednesday afternoon.

She said she, Patsy Gresty and Diana Nichols were told Tuesday morning before the store opened by store manager Lorri Madden of McCook and the district manager, Jim Brandt from the Wichita Penney's office.

Gresty, who has been with the store for more than 15 years said she was told to refer questions to Madden.

A call to McCook Wednesday did not find Madden at the office, but a message was left at her home. Thursday morning when a call was placed to the McCook J.C. Penney's the person answering the phone said Madden would be in the Goodland store in the afternoon.

Riley said the store has had a good bottom line, but that the office in Wichita was concerned about the volume of merchandise the store sells.

Riley, who has been at the store for 11

years, said they have been trying to do what they could to keep the store going, and in recent years it has been recognized as the best in the district and for having the best store manager. She said Gresty has been with the store for over 15 years and Nichols had worked there for about five.

"We were told if we could do a few of those things, they would look at getting us a bigger store," Riley said, "but when I asked at a dinner they had to celebrate our good efforts, I was told that was not going to happen."

"I know if we had a larger store and had a shoe department, we could double our sales. When I told Jim that, he said it was probably true, but again that it was not going to happen."

Riley said when they were called to come to the store early on Tuesday, the employees felt something was going to happen, but closing was not what they expected. She said the company had already announced a cutback in the number of truck deliveries to one a week because of increased transportation costs.

"We usually have our back-to-school stuff coming in now, but have not received any of it," Riley said. "Now we know why. Do you know any place that will be hiring?"

She said the employees were given papers from Penney's about how they were going to take care of them when the store closes, but when asked if they offered a job in another Penney's store, she said, "They said they would talk to Wal-Mart for us."

News of the announcement was being spread through several channels, including e-mails, and people were being urged to start a letter campaign to try to change the minds of Penney's management.

"The J.C. Penney store will be closing in Goodland on Sept. 1, 2008," read an e-mail from Daniel Hayden of Bankwest. "This is a long shot, but we need to ask everyone we know to write a letter and e-mail J.C. Penney's corporate office in Plano, Texas."

"We need everyone in our community, and I am talking about Sharon Springs, Colby, Burlington, Idalia, Yuma, St. Francis, Cheyenne Wells, and Goodland, to send them letters and e-mails and show them this store is important to this area."

"Yes, this is an underdog fight, but sometimes the underdog can win. So I am asking everyone to band together and let this corporation know how important this store is to our area."

"The closing of this store will not only affect Goodland, but it will effect all of northwest Kansas and northeast Colorado."

Shelly Thompson, cashier at Bankwest, suggested letters to: Myron (Mike) Ullman III, chairman and chief executive officer; Kenneth Hicks, president, chief merchandising officer and director; and Robert Cavanaugh, executive vice president and chief financial officer, at J.C. Penney Co, 6501 Legacy Drive, Plano TX 75024.

For those who want to send an e-mail, the address is jpcorpcomm@jcpenny.com. Three additional contacts include Tim Lyons corporate stores communications manager, Darcie Brossart and Quinton Crenshaw, J.C. Penney's corporate communications contacts.

"If we get enough letters flowing into their offices asking that the store not be closed, maybe we can prevent the closure," Hayden said.

Thursday J. C. Penney reported on their corporate web site that over all store sales decreased 4.4 percent for May, compared to a 0.9 percent decrease last year. Total sales in May decreased 2.4 percent.

Penney's reported the top performing merchandise divisions during the month were in family footwear and women's accessories, while fine jewelry and most home categories experienced weaker sales. Geographically, the best performing region of the country was the northwest.

## Tornadoes sweep across Great Plains; elephants panic

WICHITA (AP) — Several tornadoes dropped from a line of strong storms that moved across Kansas on Wednesday, destroying at least one home and spooking a pair of circus elephants that escaped their enclosure.

The elephants, part of a traveling circus in WaKeeney, were apparently frightened by the storm and wandered through the town after breaking loose, said Trego County Sheriff Richard Schneider.

One elephant wandered into a resident's backyard less than a mile from the Trego County Fairgrounds and was blocked off by fire trucks until its trainers could coax it onto a truck, Schneider said.

"I guess it got tired of walking around," he said.

The second elephant was tranquilized in another resident's backyard, coaxed into a truck and taken back to the circus, which was already packing up to head to the next town, Schneider said.

There were no reports of damage from the elephants, but winds and hail caused extensive roof damage in nearby Collyer, he said.

The National Weather Service in Kansas City, Mo., said there were 30 reports of tornadoes across the Midwest, with 14 of those coming after 5 p.m. Winds of up to 80 mph and large hail battered parts of Kansas, with Pawnee County reporting hail stones up to 3 inches in diameter.

The National Weather Service had predicted a potentially historic day of twisters and the storms were still churning late Wednesday evening.

"This is about what we expected," Noreen Schwein, regional hydrology program leader for NWS in Kansas City, Mo., said around 9

**"This is a very energetic system in the upper level and there's still a lot of support ... we're certainly not out of the woods yet."**

Noreen Schwein  
National Weather Service, Kansas City

p.m. "This is a very energetic system in the upper level and there's still a lot of support, so for the next couple of hours we still could see strong tornadic action. We're certainly not out of the woods yet"

A large tornado in Atchison County destroyed a grain bin and farm buildings before crossing the Missouri River, where it overturned tractor trailers on Interstate 29 in northwest Missouri, Schwein said.

One of two tornadoes in Clay County destroyed one home, knocked down power lines and trees, and damaged several buildings, according to Clay County Sheriff's dispatcher Cat Dallinga.

A tornado that touched down three miles southwest of Russell Springs Thursday afternoon dissipated before causing any damage, as did second tornado that touched down briefly near Preston, about seven miles northeast of Pratt.

Some roofs at the Pratt County airport were reported damaged, though it wasn't clear if the damage was caused by a tornado, according to Pratt County Emergency Preparedness. An irrigation system was also overturned in the area.

A funnel cloud was reported southeast of Seneca, Kan., and a tornado was spotted on the ground

near the community of Watson in far northwestern Missouri, according to the NWS. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The first damage reports from the system included large hail about 10 miles west of Goodland, said meteorologist Scott Mentzer of the National Weather Service in Goodland. Some damage was also reported to irrigation pivots in fields 13 miles northwest of Goodland.

Golf ball-sized hail and some wind damage from 60 to 70 mph winds were also reported in Pratt County.

Wichita State University canceled its evening classes and planned to close the campus at 5 p.m. because of the expected inclement weather.


Fans at the Wakarusa Music and Camping Festival in Lawrence had to take cover when a line of strong thunderstorms passed through the area around 9 p.m.

The Shawnee County Emergency Operations Center near Topeka canceled all outdoor activities and asked residents to utilize public shelters as quickly as possible in preparation for the storms. About 200 people used the shelters during the storms, which caused minor damage in the area, including


downed power lines, street flooding and possible tree fires.

A statement from the National Weather Service warned that parts

### DOC'S on-call



**Presented by Gary D. Slavens, M.D.**



#### CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) is a condition in which people experience debilitating fatigue that lasts at least six months. Rest and physical activities do not improve the fatigue. Other symptoms include memory and concentration problems and muscle and joint pain. People with CFS also experience headaches, recurrent sore throat, and tender lymph nodes. Because there is no specific test that can detect CFS, it can be difficult to diagnose. People with CFS symptoms are often dismissed as depressed or having hypochondria. However, more than 3,000 research studies show that CFS is a real physiological illness. Women are four times as likely as men to have CFS, and it occurs most often in people between the ages of 40 and 59.

Please call **DOC'S ON-CALL** at **785-460-8000** to schedule an appointment with me. Our practice is located at **1005 S. Range, Suite 200, Colby.**

of Kansas could see hail bigger than baseballs.



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**350 South Range , Suite 14      Colby, KS 67701      785-460-9152**


The Thomas County Community Foundation is doing what we do best! Making good things happen to good people by providing grants to worthwhile causes and great ideas. Thomas County is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise our families. We at TCCF are so pleased to help carry your dreams and visions for the community into the future. Let's dream together and make a difference today for Thomas County. Visit us at [www.thomascountycommunityfoundation.com](http://www.thomascountycommunityfoundation.com) to learn how to make your dreams a reality.

#### Thomas County Attorney SLEF Fund

Th Co Fair Board	Fair Expenses	\$2,500.00
Shepherd's Staff	New Computer	<u>\$1,315.00</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,815.00</b>

#### Colby Police SLEF Fund


Am Legion	Baseball Expense	\$1,500.00
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**AYSO restroom facilities partially funded by TCCF last year**

#### Pass Through Funds from Generous Thomas County Citizens

Pride of the Prairie Orchestra	\$ 985.00
Colby Trap Club	<u>\$4,925.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,910.00</b>



**Colby Swim Club**

#### Surprise Grants - Santa's Workshop Proceeds

Sacred Heart Pre-School	\$250.00
Thomas County Academy	<u>\$250.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>

#### TCCF Endowed Youth Fund

Brewster Senior Class	\$ 200.00
Heartland Christian School	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>

#### Kids Can Do! Fund

Brewster Grades 3 & 4	\$200.00
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#### KHF LTC Children's Fund


Leadership Thomas County	\$1,459.00
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#### KHF Children's Fund

Colby Swim Club	\$500.00
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#### Cory R. Wang Memorial Scholarship

Lakin Steele Criminal Justice Scholarship	\$936.00
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**Leadership Thomas County**

**TCCF has awarded \$16,020.00 in Grants for the 1st Quarter of 2008 to improve the lives of Thomas County citizens and organizations.**

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