

Weather Corner



Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly sunny. A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Thursday night... Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening...Then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows around 60. East winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the southwest after midnight.

Friday...Partly sunny in the morning then becoming mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s. Friday night and Saturday...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. Highs around 90.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the lower 60s.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. Sunday night and Monday...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. Highs in the lower 90s.

Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s.

Tuesday...Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.

Tuesday's low, high: 59, 81.
Monday's low, high: 53, 75.

Effort to save Goodland store shows progress

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News
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J.C. Penney's officials told people in Goodland Friday they are receiving lots of letters, e-mails and calls from people in northwest Kansas asking that the Goodland store not close in September, as was announced about two weeks ago.

John Garcia, a city commissioner and owner of Garcia's Home Furnishing and Appliance,

said Friday he had been in contact with an executive of the J.C. Penney Co. Garcia said he wanted to assure people a coordinated effort was underway to convince the company to keep the store open.

He said officials are discussing options with the Penney's office. He said the last call was initiated by Penney's, which he felt meant the executives were interested in talking about what could be done here.

Garcia said the official he talked to said the executive offices in

Plano, Texas, have been getting letters, phone calls and e-mails asking that the store remain open.

He urged people to keep writing letters, saying he feels the campaign is showing the company officials how important the store is to people here.

He said the group here is considering the idea of sending a delegation from the city and county to make a case for keeping the store open, but any decision about that would depend on the details of incentives that might be offered.

He said the city, county, Economic Development Council and Goodland Chamber of Commerce members involved in the discussions have indicated they are willing to help in any way possible to keep the store open.

Steve West, vice-chairman of the county Economic Development Council and president of Western State Bank, said Friday he had talked to Garcia, and felt the contacts Garcia has made are the best avenue to pursue.

West agreed it is good for people to continue sending letters, e-mails and making phone calls, as it keeps the store in front of the Penney's executives.

Letters can be sent to Myron (Mike) Ullman III, chairman and chief executive officer; Kenneth Hicks, president, chief merchandising officer and director; and Mike Taxter, director of J.C. Penney stores. The address is J.C. Penney Co, 6501 Legacy Drive, Plano TX 75024.

Of the three listed, Taxter has been with Penney's since 1971 and has been a store manager and district manager before moving up in the corporate ranks to be the director of stores. Garcia agrees that Taxter may be the key person in the effort to keep the store open, but said it is good to send letters to all three.

Advice from coach proves pivotal

From "OLYMPIAN," Page 1

Cormier was all set to return to Colby College as an assistant coach the next year, but a conversation he had with the Lampe prompted him to give the Olympics a shot.

"Not a lot of people know this, but he was two weeks away from being my assistant coach, and I told him you really ought to try to be an Olympian," said Lampe.

"About two weeks before school started, he said 'you know coach I think I can make the team, but I can't do it in Colby.' I told him stay where you are, and I'll see you in Athens. By golly, he did it. I don't think he would of done it unless he knew I thought he could."

Lampe made good on his promise to be in Athens for Cormier's Olympic debut and hopes to make

the trip to Beijing this year. Lampe says Cormier should be even better for his second Olympic go-around.

"He may actually be better now than he was then," said Lampe. "When you get older, you learn how to do the technical things so well. He's incredibly good on his feet and can throw people like a banji. Whatever he does, I'm not going to criticize."

Rather than criticize, Lampe announced plans to recognize Cormier by hosting the first annual Daniel Cormier Open Tournament Saturday, October 25.

Cormier has already committed



Cormier

to being a part of the festivities.

"He called me up and said I'll be there," said Lampe. "We'll make a big event out of it. It's going to be a lot of fun."

No matter how things turn out in Beijing, Cormier will return to Colby as a two-time Olympic qualifier.

But returning as an Olympic medalist would be that much sweeter.

Luedke falls short

Former Colby High and Colby Community College wrestler Eric Luedke saw his dreams of a trip to Beijing derailed at Sunday's Olympic Trials.

Luedke, the #7 seeded wrestler at 74 KG (163 pounds), lost his first round match to Keith Gavin 0-1, 6-0, 3-1 and was eliminated in the loser's bracket by Donny Pritzlaff by technical fall.

Topeka energy boss gets convicted

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) - A federal appeals court on Tuesday upheld a 24-month prison sentence for a former Westar Energy Inc. executive convicted in 2003 of bank fraud.

It was the third time the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had considered the sentence against

David Wittig, former chief executive of the Topeka-based utility.

The three-judge panel based in Denver had earlier rejected sentences of 51 and 60 months as too harsh. Wittig served a little over a year in prison before being released on appeal, meaning he likely would have to return to finish out his sentence. An attorney for Wittig didn't immediately return a phone call for comment Tuesday.

The panel in 2006 had recommended a sentence of no more than six months, but said in its ruling that U.S. District Judge Julie Robinson provided adequate reasoning that a longer sentence was required because of the seriousness of the crime and because Wittig's co-defendant was sentenced to five years in prison even though they were convicted of

similar crimes.

"Though a 24-month sentence was certainly not the only reasonable sentence the district court could have arrived at, we discern no abuse of discretion," the court said.

Wittig also was sentenced to three years probation with a number of conditions, including one preventing him from serving as a corporate executive or engaging in any financial agreements or negotiations without court approval.

The court overruled that condition as unreasonable, saying that Wittig's crimes were committed in his personal life, not as part of his job at Westar.

Wittig was convicted in July 2003 of loaning \$1.5 million to former Topeka bank President Clinton Odell Weidner II.

Rain and diseases cause wheat production to drop

WICHITA (AP) - Untimely rains have spawned an epidemic of the fungal disease head scab in winter wheat fields in Kansas, reducing yields and quality just as harvest gets under way in the state, industry experts say.

"Based on past yield loss estimates, this is going to represent a total loss to Kansas wheat production of 1 or 2 percent," said Erick DeWolf, a plant pathologist at Kansas State University. "It is not trivial, but it is not the end of the world either."

The last head scab epidemic in Kansas was in 1993 — and this year's outbreak is definitely in that category, he said.

Worst hit are fields in eastern Kansas, where the incidence of the disease is between 10 percent and 20 percent, DeWolf said. That could mean yield losses in some of those fields of 40 percent to 50 percent.

Those most affected are Neosho, Labette and Cherokee counties in southeast Kansas, said Bill Spiegel, spokesman for Kansas Wheat.

But head scab is far less prevalent in the major wheat production counties in the state. In south-central Kansas, the disease incidence is between 2 percent and 5 percent, with more fields tending toward the upper end of that range, he said.

In central Kansas, the incidence of the disease is similar, but more fields tend to the lower end of that

range, he said.

It is still uncertain how widespread the disease is in north-central Kansas because crop maturity is later in those areas, he said. Western Kansas appears to be relatively untouched by the disease, with trace levels found as far west as Hays, but at levels of less than 1 percent.

Kansas Wheat reported Tuesday that rains that hit just as the winter wheat was flowering earlier in the spring spawned the head scab outbreak. The severity is a result of the susceptibility of the variety, crop rotation and tillage practices.

"In a nutshell, I don't want people to get too alarmed about this, because there is still a lot of good wheat in the state," Spiegel said. "In the key wheat-producing counties of the state, if there is any disease at all, it would be very slight."

The National Agricultural Statistics Service rated wheat condition in Kansas on Monday as 24 percent poor to very poor. About 33 percent of the wheat is in fair condition, with 37 percent rated good and 6 percent excellent.

Identified by a brown discoloration of the central stem of the wheat head, the fungal disease also causes a white chalky appearance in the developing kernels. Diseased spikelets may also have a small pink mass at their base.

The Thomas County Hospice Advisory Board would like to thank the following donors, as well as those who bought tickets or attended the benefit lunch and raffle held June 1st for the Brent and Connie Menges family:

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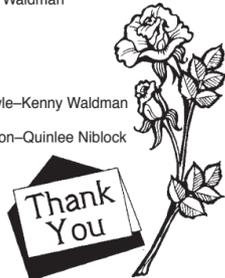
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Thanksgiving Yard Art—Nick Perez

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VOTE WYRICK



District Judge, Div. 2

I will be visiting Brewster on Friday, June 20th @ 5 p.m. and Hoxie on Saturday, June 21st @ 3 p.m.

"Come on out to the park and enjoy refreshments and conversation! I look forward to seeing you there!"

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Paid political ad by Wyrick for Judge, Jerry Vincent, Treasurer.

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For Sale 2000 Chrysler Sebring LXI 2 door coupe, leather interior, fully loaded with sunroof, 79,837 miles, very nice condition, good V6 engine, excellent fuel economy, priced below Kelly Blue Book. Call 785-672-2333.
-----6/18---6/23-----

For Sale 2005 Chevy, 2500 HD, 4 WD, 6.0 liter vortec, automatic, tow package, power windows/locks, AC, tilt, cruise, grill guard, 5th wheel turnover ball, 55K, excellent condition. 785-626-0165.
-----6/16---6/20-----

Services

Service Dave's Refurbishing Tree Service, handyman, house and fence painting, tree removal, tree repairs. Call Dave Rudy, 443-0994, 485 Walker #7.
-----6/6---6/19-----

Daycare Kountry Kids Daycare has openings. Contact Kristina Deges for details. 462-7384.
-----5/14---7-19-----

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-----5/2---TFN-----

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Up to 80% savings possible on many medications. Generics now available for Celebrex, Lipitor, Nexium, Plavix, Singulair, and all ED meds. Canada Drug Topeka, 1-866-804-6100.
-----G 4/26---tfn-----

Lost

Lost- Wednesday night at the ball game. Small, gold ring with 4 tiny stones. Sentimental value, reward offered. Call 462-6864.
-----6/16---6/18-----

Pets/Supplies

Puppies for Sale UKC adorable registered Bassett Hounds. Ready for your home! 785-821-1157.
-----6/12---6/18-----

For Sale Aquarium! 10 gallon tank complete with large sucker fish, approximately 10 Neon Tetras, other fish, new filter, hide-n-seek log, plastic aquarium plants and food supplies. 462-0933.
-----6/18---6/20-----

Garage Sales

Garage Sale Sacred Heart School Gym, West 5th and French Avenue in Colby. Friday 4-8, Saturday 8-1. Queen Mary Circle's annual huge sale. Something for everyone!
-----6/16---6/20-----

Moving Sale 155 N. Range, park on street behind house. Saturday 8-4. Dinner table and chairs, full-size wood bed frame, swingset, LT picnic table, dumptruck, sandbox, brass collectibles, football cleats, toys, clothes, lots of misc.
-----6/18---6/20-----

Garage Sale 1195 Summer Sun, Friday 9 a.m. to dark. Furniture, home decor, clothing, toys, collectibles, lots of treasures.
-----6/18---6/20-----

Garage Sale 480 Lawrence Drive (off 5th Street, behind State Farm Insurance), Friday 4-6, Saturday 8-10. Household, little bit of everything.
-----6/18---6/20-----

Oakley Community Wide Garage Sale Saturday 8 a.m. in Oakley. Maps available at Kabredlo's, Oakley Shurfine Foods, Mittens TA and Colonial Steakhouse. Call 785-672-4862 for details.
-----6/12---6/18-----

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