



Weather
Corner

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the upper 50s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday...Partly sunny in the morning then clearing. Highs in the upper 80s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph. Saturday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 50s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday...Sunny. Highs in the mid 80s. North winds around 10 mph. Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 50s.

Monday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s.

Tuesday and **Tuesday** night...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 90s. Lows in the lower 60s.

Wednesday through **Thursday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. Lows in the mid 60s.

Thursday's low, high: 99, 60, .11 precipitation.

Water usage
Thursday
2,948,000 gallons

3 Consecutive Days over 3.5 million will put us in a water watch

3 Consecutive Days over 4.0 million will put us in a water warning

3 Consecutive Days over 4.5 million will put us in a water emergency

A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-8367.

Goodland students get their filling of bugs, insects

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland-Star News
pjschiefen@nwkansans.com

Jo Ann Dawe and Vern Collins from the Butterfly Pavilion in Denver were at the Goodland Public Library last week to teach about 50 kids and a few adults about invertebrates, animals that have their skeleton on the outside of their body.

Dawe told the kids that worms, snails and beetles all are invertebrates. She read the book, "Ugh a Bug," to them, giving kids some basic information about bugs. One point it made is that a person doesn't need to kill bugs if they don't have to.

She pointed out that insects have three main body parts, a head, thorax and abdomen, six legs and two antenna.

The first two insects she showed the kids were hissing cockroaches from Madagascar. They live at the bottom of the rain forest and use their antenna for feeling, smelling and communicating, she said. They breathe through small tubes called spiracles and can live from three to five years.

Some kids had no hesitation in touching the roaches but others weren't too sure about it. Some said that the roach felt like finger-

nails.

The next insect was a double thorny walking stick from Australasia. Dawe said they had to have special papers to import the stick, as it is considered a pest in Kansas. The animal looks just like a stick, she said, and is thorny because it lives on rose bushes and other thorny plants. Kids didn't get to touch the stick, she added, as it has a tendency to lose legs if it thinks it needs to protect itself.

Millipedes and centipedes came next, and Dawe led the group in a song about the differences between the two. Centipedes are flat and have two legs per segment, she said, and millipedes are round with four legs per segment.

Next, she showed the kids a hermit crab, which is a crustacean. Crustaceans have 10 legs and four antennae, she said. Dawe passed around a container with roly poly bugs in it. They are crustaceans, not insects, she said, and breathe with gills.

The last thing she showed the kids were spiders. Dawe had a large black widow with her and warned kids about the dangers of being bitten by them.

The kids were really interested and really got a close look as the spider was in an taped-shut container.



PAT SCHIEFEN/The Goodland Star-News
Talon Poulson looked at a millipede at the program given by the Butterfly Pavilion of Denver last Thursday at the Goodland Public Library as part of their summer reading program which has a buggy theme.

Oberlin discusses financing for proposed rec center

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
The Oberlin Herald
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The Decatur County commissioners talked last Tuesday about borrowing money with a bond issue or guaranteed loan to help build a new recreation center which would house the Golden Age Center, Sunflower Theater and a new bowling alley.

Greg Lohofener, who has helped with the project as a member of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. board and now as a volunteer, talked with the commissioners about the money options.

Commissioner Ralph Unger asked if Dave Barber with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Administration had gotten back to Mr. Lohofener about the agency's loan program, which the hospital board used it finance its new addition. Mr. Lohofener said he hadn't, adding that he needs to know if the county owns the building.

Could a nonprofit agency like the theater board run it?

An application for the state tax credit program has been sent in to buy equipment, said Mr. Lohofener, and they should hear about it around July 1.

Tax credits won't be used to

build the structure, he said, just buy equipment.

The commissioners and Mr. Lohofener talked with Sarah Steele with Gillmore and Bell, a Wichita bond law firm, on a conference call because they had questions about a mixed-use property.

If a private agency would be hired to operate all or part of the center, said Ms. Steele, there could be some concern about a bond issue from the county.

The cinema board or the Economic Development Corp. could oversee both sides if there needs to be a nonprofit organization running the center, said Mr. Lohofener.

How much does the county want to get involved in the financing in terms of risk? Ms. Steele asked. Originally, said Mr. Unger, they talked about some kind of revenue bonds, with little risk to the county.

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Explosion last year linked to static

WICHITA (AP)- An explosion last year at an area Barton Solvents distribution plant was most likely caused by a static spark from a loosely held measuring float, investigators said Thursday.

Such floats are used in hundreds of thousands of chemical tanks around the world, according to investigators.

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board, an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents, released its final report Thursday on the July 2007 explosion at the Barton Solvents plant in Valley Center.

The report included a series of recommendations to prevent similar explosions at other chemical tank facilities.

The report said that several factors came together on July 17,

2007, to lead to the explosion: the right temperature and humidity, the metal measuring float, how the tank was filled and refilled, and the ignitable vapor-air mixture inside the storage tank.

"We believe it was a low-probability, high-consequence event," said lead investigator Randy McClure.

The blast destroyed much of the plant and led to widespread evacuations of Valley Center, a town of 6,000 just north of Wichita. Eleven residents and one firefighter were injured.

David Casten, president of Des Moines, Iowa-based Barton Solvents, said his company is now modifying 135 floats in chemical tanks in its plants.

"Overall we are pleased," Casten said of the board's investigation.

"They repeatedly said it was an accident."

It was important to the company that investigators did not find negligence, he said.

The Chemical Safety Board also found that standard industry practices for bonding and grounding chemical tanks may not be enough to prevent fires sparked by static electricity.

The tank where the first explosion occurred had built up so much pressure that the bottom seam separated and the tank launched 130 feet into the air, investigators said. Within moments, nearby tanks also ruptured, with debris hitting a nearby mobile home and businesses.

"We believe if the tank farm had been designed appropriately, this would not have been anything but a single tank fire," McClure said.

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The 8 Wonders of Thomas County!

Which Would You Choose???

Local residents know the best spots tourists should visit while in our area. That's why the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Colby Free Press are asking you to help name the 8 Wonders of Thomas County. This unique marketing effort will help direct tourists to the top eight attractions we have to offer.

We need your help to identify the best of the best. Whether it be a building, museum or a place of business, a remote rural location or an in-town hot spot, Thomas Countians are the best source of knowledge.

Voting will take place in two stages. In stage 1, we're asking for you to name your own top 8 list. Either fill out the form below and return it to The Colby Free Press or vote online at 8wonders.hdnews.net/thomas/. Voting will take place until June 30th.

Stage 2 will feature the top 16 sites voters have selected as finalists. From that list, you will determine the 8 Wonders of Thomas County. Stage 2 also will be conducted with your choice of paper or online ballot starting July 18th.

The 8 Wonders of Thomas County winners will be announced Aug. 29th.

8 Wonders of Thomas County Ballot:

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