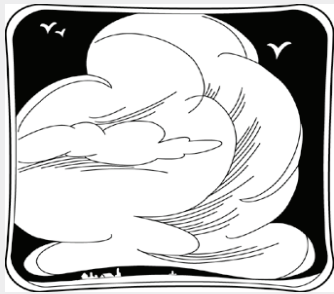


Weather Corner



Tonight: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms may produce heavy rainfall. Lows in the upper 50s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms.

Some thunderstorms may produce heavy rainfall. Highs in the lower 70s. Northeast winds up to 10 mph.

Friday night: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms may produce heavy rainfall. Lows in the upper 50s.

North winds up to 5 mph shifting to the west after midnight.

Saturday: Decreasing clouds. Slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms.

Highs in the lower 80s. Northwest winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Saturday night: Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 50s.

Sunday: Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s.

Sunday night: Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s.

Monday: Sunny. Highs in the lower 70s.

Monday night: Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 50s.

Tuesday: Sunny. Highs in the upper 70s.

Tuesday night: Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 50s.

Wednesday: Sunny. Highs in the upper 70s.

Wednesday's high, 83, low, 56. (Source: K-State University Northwest Research-Extension Center in Colby)

Precipitation Tuesday, 0

Officials with the City of Colby's Public Works Department will no longer track the average water usage since summer is coming to an end.

Current temperatures are available by calling (785) 460-8367.

Man starts baling twine company near Walton

By Ron Wilson, director
Huck Boyd
Kansas State University

The sun shines upon the hayfield as the farmer bales the hay. But suddenly the process comes to a stop as the farmer runs out of one essential element: The baling twine. Twine is vital for baling hay, and it has also become a source of business for a remarkable rural company.

David Liefer is the owner of Synthetic Resources Inc. in Peabody. The first product sold by Synthetic Resources was baling twine.

The company began in 1992, when David was farming and baling hay near Walton. A baler twine manufacturing company in Alabama contacted him to see if he wanted to buy twine. David was interested, but when he learned they were selling the twine by the semi load, David figured he would pass.

But when he mentioned this to his father Allen, his dad said, "Well, maybe we could buy that

That's Rural

whole load and then sell what we don't need."

So that's what they did. Allen went out to sell baling twine across Kansas, but he didn't have much luck.

Finally, Allen said, "I'll try it one more time and if it doesn't work, we'll give it up."

So he made one more sales trip across Kansas. Near Liberal he saw a farmer baling hay out in a field. He stopped, got a ball of twine, and walked out in the field to show the farmer. The farmer said, "If you're willing to walk halfway across this field to show me this twine, I'll buy some from you."

The first sale was made and the company was launched. David says, "That man is still a customer of ours today."

Business grew over time. Product offerings expanded to include netwrap, tarps, silage film, and other ag-related products. In 1995, the company diversified to offer

synthetic fiber used as an alternative to welded wire when laying concrete.

David says, "When we were going out to deliver baling twine, we were driving right by these ready mix plants out in the country. They found they could use our synthetic fiber and it turned out to be a great fit."

David and his wife bought the company from his father in 2000. Since all of the company's products are synthetically manufactured from polypropylene, they named the business Synthetic Resources Inc.

As the business grew, David needed suppliers from overseas, although he uses net wrap from a new plant in Kansas.

The company's primary trade area is the central plains, from Texas to the Dakotas and from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. Yet David also has customers as far away as Oregon and North Carolina.

Synthetic Resources Inc. sells its products both through a dealer network and through direct delivery to farm customers.

In 2000, the company had about \$700,000 in sales. Today, sales amount to \$6 million.

David says, "The keys for us have been in building relationships, in superior product knowledge, and in going the extra mile for customer service. I farmed and put up hay for 20 years, so I know firsthand what my customers are going through. If somebody is having a problem, we probably know the baler model or know what some other customer has done to fix the problem."

That's a benefit in coming from rural roots. The company's office is located in Peabody, population 1,379. But as mentioned, David used to farm by the nearby town of Walton, population 287. Now, that's rural.

That rural background has proven invaluable in serving this company's rural customers. For more information, go to www.syntheticresources.com.

The sun is setting over the hayfield as the farmer finishes baling the last of the hay. It's a task which couldn't be completed without good baling twine. We salute David Liefer, Allen Liefer, and all the people of Synthetic Resources Inc. whose entrepreneurship and hard work are making a difference for their customers and their community. Their twine not only helps keep the bales of hay together, it can help keep the rural economy together as well.

And there's more. Remember that new plant located in Kansas? We'll learn about that next week.

Editor's note: The mission of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development is to enhance rural development by helping rural people help themselves.

Kanorado woman opens new business

A Kanorado native has stepped out into her own business, providing massage therapy and acupressure for Goodland and Sherman County.

Britany Pettibone, daughter of Greg and Sally Pettibone of Kanorado, opened Britany's Natural Therapy on Aug. 5 at 1616 Main, the brick office building next to Crazy R's Bar and Grill.

She took a 14-month massage therapy course at Heritage College in Denver, graduating in May 2005, and became a certified massage therapist. She went to a 100-hour seminar on acupuncture in Kansas City, but don't worry about the needles, as she does not puncture the skin.

Pettibone says she uses "Pointer Plus," which provided electronic stimulation and a Tai Chi, one of the classical acupuncture needles, but spring-loaded so it doesn't break the skin.

Acupressure can help with a lot of common ailments, she said, including scar tissue, gout, allergies, weight loss, stopping smoking, joint pain, headaches and migraines, infertility, menopause and hot flashes, heel spurs and carpal tunnel problems.

That's just a few of the common ones, she said, adding she that has

a prescription index that shows body points to help with over 2,000 ailments.

A guy said he didn't believe in it, Pettibone said, but she talked him into giving acupressure a try. Halfway through, she said, his sinuses were more clear, and he could breathe better. Now he believes. Acupressure works with energy that that goes through your body, she said, called qi (pronounced chee). There are 14 meridian channels that flow through your body, she said, with a different number of points to affect

each one. For example, she said, the heart has nine, the stomach 45 and the bladder 69.

"I hope people learn more about what you can do with acupressure," Pettibone said.

She worked at Dr. Sid Unruh's chiropractic clinic until the end of July and went on her own, renting the office from Rod Cooper. She handled billing, insurance and scheduling appointments for Dr. Unruh.

"I was the office manager," she said. "Now I know how to run my own."

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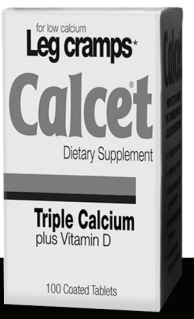
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