

Weather Corner



**National Weather Service**  
**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy with thunderstorms likely. Patchy fog after midnight. Some thunderstorms may be severe in the evening. Lows in the lower 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the northeast after midnight. Chance of thunderstorms 70 percent.  
**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy. Cooler. A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms in the morning. Highs in the lower 60s. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph. Gusts up to 30 mph in the morning.  
**Thursday Night:** Mostly cloudy. Colder. A slight chance of light rain showers in the evening, then a chance of light rain and areas of drizzle after midnight. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows in the lower 40s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of light rain in the morning. Highs in the upper 50s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.  
**Friday Night:** Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light rain. Lows around 40.  
**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly sunny. A 20 percent chance of light rain showers. Highs in the lower 60s.  
**Saturday Night And Sunday:** Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of light rain showers. Lows around 40. Highs in the lower 60s.  
**Sunday Night And Monday:** Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of light rain showers. Lows in the upper 30s. Highs in the lower 60s.  
**Monday Night:** Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light rain showers. Lows in the mid 40s.  
**Tuesday:** Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of light rain showers. Highs in the lower 60s.  
Monday: High, 55; Low 34  
Tuesday: High, 58; Low 36  
Precip: Monday 0.00 inches  
Tuesday .Trace  
Month: 3.41 inches  
Year: 4.59 inches  
Normal: 3.89 inches  
(K-State Experiment Station)  
Sunset tonight 8:36 p.m.  
Sunrise tomorrow 6:46 a.m.  
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Flu scare hits Kansas

From "FLU," Page 1

or a tissue.  
• Remaining healthy by eating a balanced diet, drinking plenty of water and getting plenty of rest and exercise.  
Only 12 cases of swine flu have been reported in the United States since 2005, none of them serious.

The last death in the U.S. occurred in 1988 in Wisconsin. The last outbreak occurred in 1976 in New Jersey, with more than 200 cases and one death.  
The state has established a toll-free number for questions about the swine flu at (877) 427-7317. Questions can also be e-mailed to swinefluinfo@kdheks.gov.

Academy students learn with virtual tools

From "ACADEMY," Page 1

beyond imagination."  
She was also able to come away with the newest Wii electronic game system.  
The academy has three Wii systems, she said, but that doesn't mean the students sit around and play games. They can do physical education and even work up a sweat, she said. With the Wii, they can make up their own flash cards if they are studying for a test or create videos from photographs.  
Morgan said the Wii system, by Nintendo, is a fabulous learning tool.  
"It is a virtual brain academy ... they can learn such things as medical terminology," she said. "They understand and can explain the law of gravitational force."  
The students are not all doing the same things at the same time, and they are honest about what they do, she said.  
Students must apply to join the

academy, which features "non-traditional" classes and a less-structured environment. They must have the permission from their parents. The setting is unlike most school rooms, Morgan said. Students work at their own pace on a "standards-based" curriculum. They get to choose from among creative electives.  
The academy took 10 students to a robotics competition in Hays recently. She said they used standard science skills in engineering, computer programming and physics to program the robot's brain.  
Five teams from the academy competed, ranking the school second overall, Morgan said. Although not all of the students will end up in an engineering career, she said, the problem-solving skills learned from the challenges provided in the academy will be with them for life.  
The class uses as little paper as possible, Morgan said, but still does formal writing assignments.

They have to meet the same requirements as other students to give them a good base and foundation.  
Sixth graders at Colby Middle School get one hour a day in the academy classroom to get extra technical training. They are given a shot at 21st century skills because all students need that exposure, Morgan said.  
"We are sort of a fish-bowl classroom," Morgan said "We do very well on state assessments tests. We take one thing at a time to see where the student takes it. As a teacher, sometimes I just have to take a step back, and learn through their creativity."  
Morgan said students from other classrooms are welcome to come in and share, is a great way to empower kids in leadership roles.  
The 15 students in the classroom are seventh and eighth graders, plus there are two virtual students, who do classwork over the Internet, in Wichita, one of whom

comes here one week a month. Morgan said he plans to move to Colby next year to live with relatives while attending the academy in person.  
A program, aptly named Route 21, designed to prepare kids for the future, is available to schools who successfully apply. To prepare kids for the future, the state signed up for the Route 21 program in 2008 through Partnership for 21st Century Skills. Information is at the website is 21centuryskills.org.  
The Best Buy grant didn't come without strings, Morgan said. The Academy accepted an obligation through the "Kids Can Do" fitness board to have a gaming party for the school and the community, which they did last month.  
"We are looking forward to some summer camps that will take place right here in Colby," Morgan said. "It is great exposure and we're really excited that we are able to have it at home."

Company makes record distribution to members

A record distribution of \$539,000 in cash patronage and equity redemptions was released in February to 450 eligible patrons of CHS Quinter Agronomy, a farm chemical business with locations in area towns, including Colby.  
"One of the great advantages of being associated with the cooperative on the local level provides us the ability to give the patrons a return on their investment," said Jeff Kahle, general manager.  
CHS Quinter Agronomy is a locally controlled division of CHS, formerly known as Cenex Harvest States, a major energy, grains and foods cooperative. The group has locations in Quinter, Studley,

Colby, Selden, Brewster and Burlington, Colo.  
This 2009, Kahle said, CHS Quinter Agronomy will allocate \$1.5 million in patronage dividends to its customers based on business from Sept. 1, 2007 to Aug. 31, 2008, he said. The February cash payment came from that time period.  
Nationally, CHS says it expects to return up to \$343 million during 2009 cash patronage, equity redemptions and preferred stock to 1,200 eligible companies and more than 35,000 farmers in the 48 states. The firm said this will be the largest distribution to owners ever made by a U.S. cooperative.

Kahle said members who have reached age 70, and representatives of the estates of deceased members, may contact him to request redemption of their equity at CHS Inc., 7085 Highway 40, Quinter, Kan., 67752, or call (785) 754-3318.

Wheat tour planned in May  
The Kansas State University Wheat Variety Tour is scheduled for May 27 at K-State's Southwest Research and Extension Center at 4500 E. Mary St. in Garden City. Registration is at 6:30 p.m. The program begins at 6:40, with presentations by K-State speakers:  
• Dryland Wheat – Jim Shroyer, crop production specialist.  
• Irrigated Wheat Varieties – Jim Shroyer, Extension crop pro-

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