Weather Corner



National Weather Service Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. South wind 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy and breezy, with a low around 55.

Memorial Day: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 74.

Monday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near

Thursday: High, 78; Low 43 Precip: Thursday 0.00 inches Month: 1.41 inches 6.03 inches 7.24 inches Normal: (K-State Experiment Station) Sunrise Saturday 6:24 a.m. Sunset Saturday 8:58 p.m. Sunrise Sunday 6:23 a.m. Sunset Sunday 8:59 p.m. Sunrise Monday 6:23 a.m. Sunset Monday 9 p.m. 6:22 a.m. Sunrise Tuesday Sunset Tuesday 9:01 p.m.

(U.S. Naval Observatory)

A Golden grad grins



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School Golden Plains Senior Class President Ivonn Vargas got her diploma from school board Member Paul Bruggeman. The school held its commencement ceremony on Sunday.

Colby City Council plans to help Arma with dispute

From "Arma," Page 1

She said the cost of the city's decision to take the case to the commission was well over \$100,000, which is tough for for a town of 1,521 to pay. She said Eudora and Lindsborg also are trying to negotiate new contracts with Weststar. A letter to Armstrong from city administrators Tim Schook of Arma and Gregory A. DuMars of Lindsborg, and James G. Bradley, president of the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency, says Arma filed the complaint because Westar was allegedly exercising its market power to extract unfair terms from the city and to lock itself in as the sole supplier for the city for the next two decades. The letter also said the complaint is meant to alert the commission that a com-

exist in Kansas, nor is there sufficient transmission capability for cities to be able to gain access to other markets.

In other business, the council:

• Approved a bid of \$439,998 from the firm Engineering America for a glass-fused, bolted-steeltank water standpipe in a 6-to-2 vote. Councilmen David Voss and Phil Hutfles voted against the deal. Voss said he didn't feel comfortable approving it without fully understanding the subject

The standpipe is being built to provide water pressure when the city water tower is shut down for maintenance, said Armstrong. She also talked about a suggestion to put a "Colby" sign in electronic letters on the pipe.

• Accepted a \$57,330 bid from contained, totally enclosed sys- ments.

petitive generation market doesn't tem, to replace equipment at the Copeland Lift Station. Armstrong said Wilson and Co., the engineering firm which is designing the station, had brought in two bids for the equipment. The current station is worn out, she said, and the new lift station will allow pumps to be pulled out of the ground, while the current station requires workers to work underground. No contractor has been selected yet for the job, she added, but whoever gets the bid will have to buy the pumps from Haynes at that price, with no

 Approved the final payment on \$2,200,897 to Midlands Contracting for work on the sewer mains to reach the new wastewater treatment plant on County Road 21. The council agreed the work is substantially completed. Arm-Haynes Equipment Co. for an strong said the total was \$38,813 above-ground, submersible-valve over the original bid because of package pump station as a self- change orders and price adjust-

County studies budget requests

From "COUNTY," Page 1

would give up control of the tax levy, which would go to an area board.

"Right now," he said, "we're a little uncomfortable with giving up the responsibility to keep our finger on the levy."

One alternative would be to form an interlocal agreement to include a commissioner from each county on the board so they could maintain some control over the levy. There was no objection to joining a district, he said; the problem was how it might be financed.

"The taxpayers will hold us responsible for what's done, and it's something we should be thinking about," Steele said.

"It's hard to get out of, once you're in it," noted chairman, Ken Christensen. "The one projection we looked at had Thomas County picking up 42 percent, and (the levy) could shoot to the max immediately, and we still need to take a good look at it."

Brown said that Norton and Decatur counties will form a district effective July 1. Milliman said came to Thomas County from a district.

The agent reminded the group of Wheat Day at 7:30 a.m. on June 9 at the experiment station.

Steele said he had an extensive meeting with the auditors last week, and the auditors want the commissioners to take responsibility for management to ensure that the information is accurate and complete when it is taken to the auditors. They want the commissioners to sign that they are responsible for the financial statements and to detect any fraud, if it happens, he said. The audit will be on a test basis, with the auditors looking at 15 to 20 bills at random. They want to know that the commissioners are actually looking at all the bills, Steele said.

Diane Stithem, community director for Big Brothers Big Sisters, came to ask that if the commissioners were going to reject her request for money again. She said she would like to get a letter to that effect, which could help her when she applies for a grant.

Clair Schrock, road supervisor, and Larry Jumper, landfill operator, told the commissioners their employees were a little upset after reading in the paper that the sheriff's department employees were getting \$13 an hour when their pay scale was quite a lot below that figure.

Commissioner Steele said, the only control commissioners have over the sheriff's office is the bud-

"We allow the department so many dollars for salaries," he said, 'and if he exceeds it, then that's all there is We cannot set salaries, we can only set the budget.

"In a Supreme Court case, 'Rylander vs. Lincoln County,' the court ruled in the sheriff's favor. The sheriff is elected and is accountable to the public, and he has agreed to assert control over his payroll."

Shrock said he understood, but he wished they would come and explain it to his employees early some morning before work.

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2nd Annual Waldo McBurney 5K Race Saturday, June 13 ~ 8 a.m. **Quinter City Park**

8 a.m. ~ 5K run/walk 9 a.m. ~ 1 mile run/walk 200m ~ kid's run/walk to follow \$15 fee before 6/1/09 \$10 flat fee for 12 & under \$18 fee after 6/1/09 \$21 fee race day

Benefits future Health and Fitness Center \$100 to the first male and female 5K finishers.

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10 & under, 11-15, 16-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, 71 & over T-Shirts/packet pick-up on Friday, June 12, 7 to 8 p.m. & Saturday, June 13, 6:45 - 7:50 a.m. at the park shelter. Registration forms available at local businesses or go online at www.active.com

Questions call 785-754-3403 or email dsgrue@yahoo.com

Sponsored by Castle Rock Health and Fitness

Cutoff Date for Fiscal Year 2009 EQIP Organic Initiative Funding Sign-up. May 29, 2009 is the cutoff date for Environmental Quality

Incentives Program (EQIP) Organic Initiative applications in Kansas to be considered for Fiscal Year 2009 funding. Stop by your local U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center and visit with the Natural Resources Conservation Service or local conservation district staff to get more information about helping address your resource concerns.

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service 915 East Walnut Colby, Kansas 67701 785-462-7671

http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2009 USDA NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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June 2009

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5/22/09 1:14:24 PM