Area/State

Weather Corner



National Weather Service Tonight: Scattered thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 64. South wind around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 89. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north.

Thursday Night: Scattered thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

Friday: Scattered thunderstorms, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 86. East wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Friday Night: Scattered thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Independence Day: Scattered thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 87. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Saturday Night: Scattered thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Sunday: Isolated thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 86. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Monday: High, 90; Low 60	
Tuesday: High, 93; Low 57	
Precip: Monday	0.00 inches
Tuesday	0.08 inches
June:	3.69 inches
July:	0.08 inches
Year:	13.92 inches
	13.76 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)	
Sunrise Thursday	
Sunset Thursday	
(U.S. Naval Observatory)	
Colby water use	
FriSun. 2,027	
Monday 3,019	
Tuesday 2,207	7,000 gal.
(Colby Public Works)	

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Falling land values give county budget troubles

From "COUNTY," Page 1

District because they all make a big contribution to the county.

"Generally, we follow a cycle of eight years in valuation trends," Steele said, "but we're not seeing that upward swing right now.'

Sue Taylor brought the 2010 budget request for the Prairie Museum of Art and History to the commissioners. They told her it looked like budgets would all be getting "a haircut" this year, and gave her a estimated figure of \$75,000 for next year as opposed to \$80,000 this year.

Taylor also talked about the Thomas County Quasquicentennial, the celebration of the county's 125th birthday. She told the project, which was completed the first week commissioners there will be events throughout the year to celebrate the occasion.

Cancer Society talked to the commissioners about letting the employees bid on a "day off with pay" program. The county would still pay the employee, but the employee's winning bid would give them a day off. This would be a way for the county to contribute to the American Cancer Society, she said.

"I hesitate to contribute with public funds," Commissioner Steele said, "and I think there is a ruling somewhere that governments and municipalities cannot use public money as donations."

The commissioners tabled the issue until the July 6 meeting.

County Clerk Shelly Harms presented a final bill from Custom Energy for the roof of June. There was a contingency of \$40,000 held back in case some of the sheeting had

the roofing contract, she said.

"I would have to be assured how much, if any, of the contingency was used, before sending the remainder of the payment," Commissioner Steele said.

Harms handed the commissioners a report that indicated none of the contingency had been used. Three attempts to get in touch with Custom Energy personnel failed, she said. The commissioners agreed to have Steele to get in touch with the parties before determining whether or not they could subtract the contingency from the amount of the bill.

Three bids were opened for the sale of the 2000 Ford Eldorado transportation van. The commissioners had published a for-They moved to reject the bids, and search on the second floor of the courthouse.

Jennifer Van Eaton from the American to be replaced. Sheeting was not covered in other sources of sale before deciding on whether to take the high bid. The issue was tabled until the July 20 meeting.

> Commissioners received an administrative report from the county Health Department saying the department had received more money than it had applied for in a grant request, because of how impressed the agency was with the application. The report also said the first dental appointment will take place soon, and people who can't normally afford dental visits will be able to have that service.

> "Its like a dream come true," said Commissioner Steele, "and is something I've wanted to see happen for a long time in our county."

The commissioners will meet again at 9 sale notice with the right to accept or reject. a.m. Monday morning in their meeting room

Area wheat mostly avoids damaging stem rust strain

From "RUST," Page 1

and then last year, into Iran. The spread opened new pathways into major wheat-producing countries. To date it has been seen in Uganda, Yemen, Iran, Kenya and Ethiopia.

Center, said it is just a matter of duction. time before it spreads all over the world. If it would come here tomorrow, he added, it would be a disaster.

Fungicides offer protection, but of an old foe. the best approach is to produce new varieties of wheat that resist The concern is that the fungus, the strain. The university is has which is spread by the wind, will found genes with promise of dobegin to move at a far faster pace. ing that, but it takes years to breed Bikram Gill, head scientist at K- a new wheat variety and produce State's Wheat Genetics Resource enough seed for widespread pro-

at Kansas State, said leaf stem rust has been a problem before, and we are sort of seeing a re-emergence

He said he's not sure if there has well controlled for more than two decades.

"Right now, it appears 70 per-

are vulnerable. The land grant tion of Wheat Growers, said it's Eric DeWolf, plant pathologist universities are doing research to identify resistant genes. And when they are identified, they will be used in the pre-breeding, of the different varieties," he said.

been one of this magnitude before, such as fungicides, but the best but some rust species have been approach is to have plants that are resistant to the disease," De Wolf said.

Joe Kejr of Brookville, a past cent of the majority of varieties president of the Kansas Associa-

no longer considered a question of if, but when, the fungus reaches the U.S., so he's hoping we'll have several years to prepare for it.

The government got a big push "There are other tools out there, when the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gave \$26.8 million to help with a research plan.

K-State, with its international reputation in wheat genetics, and was a natural to be included in this research

Some Colby offices closing on July 3

From "CLOSINGS," Page 1

Pharmacies: Walmart Pharmacy will be closed Saturday. Dillon Pharmacy will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Government Offices: The Health Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center and Colby city offices will all be closed on Friday. The Thomas on Saturday. County landfill will be closed Fri-

day and Saturday. It will be open 1 closed on Saturday. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The City sanitation truck will not make residential rounds on Friday. The route will be picked up Monday. The commercial sanitation truck will be running on Thomas County Courthouse, Saturday. For information, call the Public Works office at 460-4420. **Pioneer Memorial Library**

will be open on Friday and closed

The Colby Post Office will be of the holiday.

The Colby Free Press will be

open Friday, and will publish a paper on Friday. The office will be closed Monday, July 6, with no paper that day. The office will reopen on Tuesday with ad deadline for Wednesday's paper at noon on Tuesday.

The deadline for ads in The Country Advocate will be noon Thursday this week only because

Fireworks allowed until Saturday

From "FIREWORKS," Page 1

to be sold or shot in Colby.

Fireworks may only be shot from private property, not from public streets, alleys or parks. Throwing lit fireworks is also prohibited.

Violating these codes can result in a \$50 fine, said Police Chief Randy Jones.

Thomas County Sheriff Rod Taylor said there are few restrictions on fireworks outside city limits. Tay-

lor said anyone wanting to shoot off fireworks must have the permission of the landowner first. Don't block county roads, he said, and please clean up the spent fireworks afterwards. There are no date or time restrictions in the county.

In or out of the city limits, though, people need to be careful with fireworks. And, Taylor said, whatever you do, don't shoot fireworks off near dry fields, cut or uncut.

Big thunderstorms can form at any time

MANHATTAN – An old folk saying goes "As the days grow longer, the storms grow stronger.'

It's not surprising that there is a physical connection to the old saying, said state climatologist Mary Knapp.

"Longer days mean more hours of sunshine," said Knapp, who is in charge of the state's Weather Data Library, based in Kansas State University Research and Extension. "This in turn, provides more energy to the atmosphere, which can fuel strong storms. Couple that increased energy with a strong contrast in air masses, and you have the components for a severe weather outbreak."

find that the long-term average has the peak tornado month as May, where summer-like tem-

peratures can be displaced by winter chill and the days are long "Everyone should remember, severe weather can occur at any time," Knapp said. "Early spring

severe-weather outbreaks - with overnight hail storms and early morning tornadoes - serve as a reminder of that fact.'

It is not surprising then, to

Information about Kansas weather is available on the Weather Data Library Web site: www.oznet.ksu.edu/wdl/. "Weather Wonders" audio reports are available at www.oznet.ksu.edu/radio/.

To have your ad placed in the Business Directory call Jasmine or Heather today at 462-3963.

