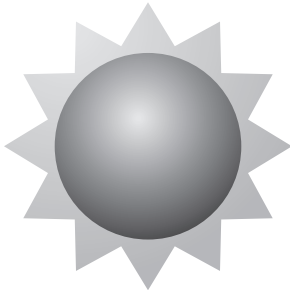


Weather
Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54. North wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, high near 83. Breezy, with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 52. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Friday: Sunny, high near 85. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56.

Saturday: Sunny, high near 91.

Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 61.

Sunday: Sunny, high near 95. Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 65.

Monday: Sunny, high near 96. Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 62.

Monday: High, 77; Low 57
Tuesday: High, 84; Low 53
Precip: Monday 0.00 inches
Tuesday 0.14 inches
Month: 2.39 inches
Year: 19.23 inches
Normal: 16.41 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
Thursday 7:02 a.m. 8:33 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Colby Water Use
Monday 1,731,000 gal.
Tuesday 1,669,000 gal.
(Colby Public Works)

Colby district prepares for the first day of school

From "DISTRICT," Page 1

drop in initial enrollment has mostly been due to parents moving out of town or foster kids going back to their biological parents. The grade school has not lost any kids to other area schools, he said.

Middle school Principal Rob Ross said the middle school's enrollment as of Monday was 224, up from 207 at the end of last year. Only five students moved out of the area, he said.

Curriculum Director Diane Wieland said the Thomas County Academy, which has been cut to half-time this year, has seven students and one virtual student. Wieland said there are more kids interested in being virtual students at the academy.

"We're cautiously looking at virtual students," she said. "They have to have the right at home support to make it work."

Activities Director Larry Gabel said fall sports practices began Monday. There were 55 students trying out for the high school football team, 32 for volleyball, 19 for cross country – four girls and 15 boys – 10 for the girls golf team and 18 for boys tennis.

In other business, the board:

- Held a public hearing on the 2009-2010 budget. President Janice Frahm opened the hearing up for public comment, but no members of the public were present. The board unanimously approved the budget later in the meeting.
- Welcomed new member Ed Geihlsler, who was appointed to a vacant seat at the previous meeting.
- Voted to allow Transportation Director Alan Wade to sell five old busses and five Suburban vans. Wade said these vehicles are from the late '80s and early '90s and are sitting unused at the district bus lot.

Board Member Kevan Taylor expressed concerns that several of the busses still are within the 20-year use limit allowed by the state. Wade said they have mechanical or electrical problems that have kept them off the road. The vehicles are otherwise in good condition, despite having high mileage.

"They'll all sell," Wade said. "They may not sell for very much."

He recommended selling the vehicles by sealed bid, rather than by auction. That way, the district wouldn't have to pay for an auctioneer.

The board approved the request 5-1-1 with Taylor casting the dissenting vote. Board Member Stan Molstad was not at the meeting.

- Approved a resolution to pursue a refinancing of the district's general obligation bonds. Business Manager Jo DeYoung said the underwriting company, Minneapolis, Minn.-based Piper Jaffray and Co., will take the district's \$2,015,000 in outstanding bonds, pay off the bond holders, repack the debt and then sell a new bond issue at a lower interest rate. DeYoung said the refinancing could save the district as much as \$20,000 a year in payments, money that would not have to be collected from taxpayers.

Children's group seeks volunteers

Children's Disaster Services, from New Windsor, Md., is seeking volunteers in the Midwest who would like to receive professional training for working with children traumatized by disasters.

The 27-hour Level 1 workshop will be from 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, through 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10 at the McPherson Church of the Brethren, 200 N. Carrie St., McPherson. For information, contact Elva Jean Naylor, on-site coordinator of the workshop, at (620) 241-3123.

To register call (800) 451-4407, ext. 5. The class is limited to 20 persons. Cost is \$45 per person. The registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 18.

Training involves participants in a simulated shelter experience by sleeping on cots and eating simple meals just as they would during an actual disaster. Volunteers will learn to provide a calm and reassuring presence for children in the midst of chaos caused by a variety of natural disasters, as well as terrorist attacks and aviation incidents.

Volunteers make themselves available to work with children affected by such disasters. They arrive at a disaster scene with "Kits of Comfort" containing carefully selected toys that promote imaginative play. This workshop teaches volunteers how to give children individualized attention and help them express their fears to start the healing process. Volunteers undergo a rigorous screening process, are capable of mobilizing rapidly and respond locally and nationally.

Children's disaster volunteers also provide respite, education and individualized consultation for parents about their children's unique emotional needs after a disaster.

Training is open to anyone 18 years or older who loves working with children.

Congressional candidate stops for donuts, health-care discussion

From "CANDIDATE," Page 1

the same of the government?"

Barnett said he has also been talking with rural health-care providers, including small-town hospitals, who say they are having trouble hiring doctors and that the cost of medicine is being driven higher by lawsuits. Health-care reform, he said, isn't likely to be resolved during this session, so if elected, he would face the same issue in Congress.

Barnett said he hopes to make Kansas a leader in energy production, focusing on nuclear, coal, solar and wind power. He said he would support more offshore oil drilling as well as drilling in Alaska and building more oil refineries.

Barnett said Paul Steele, a family friend and Thomas County commissioner, had suggested the doughnut shop as a good place to meet and talk with seniors.

With 14 months left until the general election, the Federal Election Commission is reporting that he has an edge in fund raising, with \$253,044 cash on hand, compared to Tracey Mann's \$164,335 and Sen. Tim Huelskamp's \$235,847. The commission's current data reports that among all of the candidates, the majority of campaign contributions have come from either individual contributions or candidate's own bank accounts. Very few contributions have come in from political action groups.

Barnett said he is working in the Chetopa school library, and will retire in a couple of years. They have a son, Adam (Tanya) Robinson, manager for a martial arts equipment company in Lenexa, and a daughter Michaela (Josh) Scruggs, who works for AIG Insurance, and one granddaughter.

Court officer retires after 30 years


From "RETIREE," Page 1

with no stress, leaving him time for fly fishing, hiking and working with amateur radio.

Wife Carol, who was with the junior high librarian here for 25 years, is working in the Chetopa school library, and will retire in a couple of years. They have a son, Adam (Tanya) Robinson, manager for a martial arts equipment


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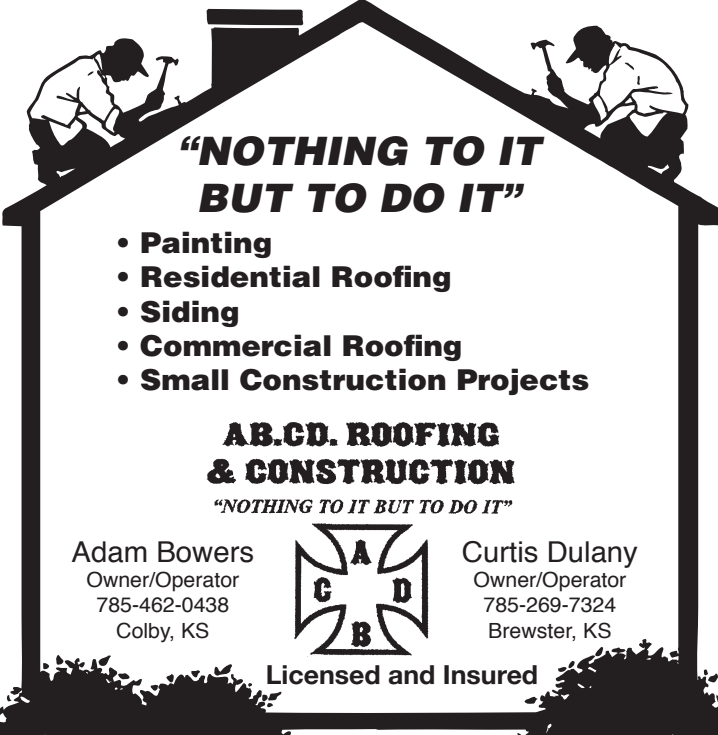
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