


Weather
Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Patchy fog after 1 a.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, low around 60. East wind around 5 mph.

Thursday: Patchy fog before 1 p.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, high near 81. Calm wind becoming southeast 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 1 a.m. Otherwise, partly cloudy, low around 60. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Friday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 76. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east.

Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 70.

Friday: High, 76; Low 55
Saturday: High, 76; Low 56
Sunday: High, 84; Low 60
Monday: High, 88; Low 57
Tuesday: High, 82; Low 58
Precip: Friday 0.00 inches
Saturday 0.00 inches
Sunday 0.00 inches
Monday 0.00 inches
Tuesday 0.16 inches
Month: 0.16 inches
Year: 20.69 inches
Normal: 17.71 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Thursday 7:21 a.m. 8:00 p.m.

District tackles swine flu, capital outlay tax levy

From "DISTRICT," Page 1

Lloyd Theimer, a south-county farmers who has often opposed tax and spending plans, said he was surprised this issue had come up again. Theimer said commodity prices, especially for farm products, plunged to Depression-era levels this summer. This would be the wrong time to impose a new tax, he said.

Board President Janice Frahm said that even with a levy of 2 mills, the district could not take care of every maintenance project or purchase on its to-do list. Board member Stan Molstad suggested holding a special election next year to decide on a levy. In the meantime, he said, the board should continue to talk about the issue and try to raise public awareness. In the end, the board tabled the discussion.

In other business:

- Krannawitter said the change to the grade school pick-up zones – first grade parents now drive through the bus loading zone at the south end of the playground – is going well.
- "I've had the chance to talk to several parents," he said. "They really like the way that's been working out."
- High school Principal Don Krebs said the first dance of the year had gone well. Krebs said he was concerned after all the publicity over dances in Salina, which have recently been in the news over that school's ban of "sexually suggestive dancing."
- "But the Student Council put on a very nice dance," he said.
- Instead of a normal cover charge, he said, the council gave students the choice of either paying or bringing a can of food to get in. Krebs said they raised \$116 and 160 pounds of canned food for the Genesis food bank.
- Ross said the new pick-up and drop-off zones at the middle school are also working well. The only problem, he said, is that some parents want to pause and talk in the front parking area, rather than making room for others.
- Curriculum Director Diana Wieland said the district is switching course codes. The state, she said, recently converted to the national course-code system, and the district's codes have to be changed to match the new ones. Wieland said matching the current courses to the new codes is time consuming, but important so that teachers know exactly what licenses they will need to hold.
- Weiland said the district has been awarded a "clean diesel" grant from the Kansas Department of Health and the Environment. The district was the fifth to receive the grant, but only awarded \$18,000 out of the \$100,000 it had applied for. The program passes out federal stimulus money to reduce diesel emissions.
- Weiland said the district is looking at modifying the grant, maybe suggesting it buy a half-sized diesel bus instead of a full-sized one.
- The board adopted a resolution to al-

low refinancing of the district's outstanding bonds. Business Manager Jo DeYoung said the district has received an A rating from Standard and Poor's, which means it will save \$97,484 by refinancing at current interest rates.- The board approved fund-raising activities for the 2009-2010 school year. Krebs said the dance team and the marching band are both planning new fund raisers this year, since they have scheduled big trips. If they can raise enough money, the dance team will be headed to Memphis, Tenn., to perform at the Liberty Bowl, and the marching band will be headed to Washington to perform in the Independence Day Parade.
- The board also approved out-of-district field trips. Harrison said there are fewer requests than last year, and teachers are working hard to come up with field trips that won't strain the budget.

Colby musician to perform on stage at Kansas State Fair

The Kansas State Fair draws people from all over the state. This year, along with a variety of livestock and 4-H exhibits, Thomas County will be represented musically as Lenay (Rundel) Marteney takes the stage on Saturday.

This is her third appearance at the fair and she plans two completely different shows. She'll begin with classic country hits at noon in the AT&T arena. Her second show will be at 4 p.m. on the Lake Talbott stage where she'll do a more current set.

Marteney said she loves to see the look on people's faces as they enjoy a song they haven't heard in

a long time, or a song that brings back memories. She likes her shows to be one big sing along and a walk down memory lane.

As a 1999 graduate of Colby High School her voice is a familiar one to many in the area. Her singing career started at an early age, as her mother Pam was her first children's choir leader at the Methodist Church. She was active through high school and college in show choir and concert choirs. Currently, she lives with her husband in the Manhattan area but returned home to perform at Picnic in the Park this past July.

Schools delay Obama speech

From "SPEECH," Page 1

Obama spoke from an assembly at Wakefield High School in Arlington, Va., where he told students they need a good education for many careers.

"No matter what you want to do with your life, I guarantee that you'll need an education to do it," he said. "You want to be a doctor, or a teacher, or a police officer? You want to be a nurse or an architect, a lawyer or a member of our military? You're going to need a good education for every single one of those careers."

Obama also acknowledged the difficulties that students have.

"You won't love every subject you study," he said. "You won't click with every teacher. Not every homework assignment will seem completely relevant to your life right this minute. And you won't necessarily succeed at everything the first time you try."

"No one's born being good at things. You become good at things through hard work."

"You're not a varsity athlete the first time you play a new sport. You don't hit every note the first time you sing a song. You've got to practice. It's the same with your schoolwork."

"You might have to do a math problem a few times before you get it right, or read something a few times before you understand it, or do a few drafts of a paper before it's good enough to hand in."

The administration announced the speech last week, almost im-

mediately coming under fire from critics who charged it would be political and not suitable for K-12 students. Other controversy surrounded the White House's suggested lessons plans, which even Education Secretary Arne Duncan admitted were somewhat heavy handed.

After it aired, the speech received praise from Republican leaders, including Newt Gingrich and former First Lady Laura Bush.

Harrison told the Colby School Board on Tuesday that she was impressed with the President's speech, and felt that it challenged students to do better in school. She said she has not personally received any calls from parents either for or against showing the talk.

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