Area/State

Weather



National Weather Service Tonight: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68. Breezy, with a south wind 10 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 4 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 95. Southwest wind around 5 mph becoming north in the afternoon.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. East wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 87. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 87.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67.

Monday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 89.

Monday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66.

Tuesday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 87.

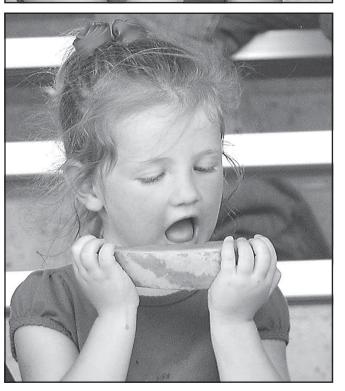
Tuesday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66.

Wednesday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 84.

Wednesday: High, 90; Low 64 Precip: Wednesday None Normal: 13.61 inches

Anticipation ...







Aircraft company lands big contract

By Roxana Hegeman Associated Press

WICHITA - Newly reorganized Beechcraft Corp. said Thursday it's received a nearly \$1.4 billion order - believed to be the largest propeller aircraft order by value in general aviation history.

The Wichita-based plane maker won a contract to build up to 105 King Air 350i aircraft, valued at \$788 million, from Wheels Up, a New York Citybased private aviation membership company. Beechcraft was also named comprehensive maintenance provider for Wheels Up in North America and Western Europe, a contract worth \$600 million.

The first 35 planes, built in Wichita, will be delivered between now and mid-2015, with nine scheduled for this year, Beechcraft said in a news release. The deal includes options for 70 more aircraft as Wheels Up expands over the next two to three years.

"It is the largest propeller aircraft order, by value, and it is quite exciting to see the restructured Beechcraft have such a win," said Jens Hennig, vice president for operations at General Aircraft Manufacturers Association, the industry's trade group.

Over the past year, the industry has seen "positive movement" in deliveries for all types of propeller aircraft, Hennig said.

"It seems like the propeller market has finally shook off this past recession and are producing positive results," he said.

School buses switch to natural gas fuel

Students in a suburban Kansas about \$11 million over 10 years, ing in buses powered by natural first two new buses were delivmajority of its buses and many calendar year. district vehicles.

The Lee's Summit School costs less," said Linda Thomp-District will have 106 new yel- son, district transportation dilow buses on the streets this rector. "It's the perfect formula." month and within 10 years the The district will use the savdistrict plans to have at least 139 ings to invest in more technolof its 149 school buses operat- ogy, including \$5 million for the ing on natural gas instead of die- coming year. sel, with the others converted to be switched to natural gas. million, with substantial private The Kansas City Star reported investment and public incen- (bit.ly/17VC43m).

The King Air 350i has standard seating for nine passengers and is touted by Beechcraft as one of the "greenest" business aircraft because of its fuel efficiency and low operating costs.

Wheels Up is a membershipbased aviation program established by its former Marquis Jet founder Kenny Dichter and other investors. The company charges customers an initiation fee and annual dues, and then charges an hourly fee for private air travel.

"The Beechcraft King Air 350i is the perfect aircraft for Wheels Up due to its proven track record of tremendous flexibility and efficiency for regional travel," Beechcraft CEO Bill Boisture said in a news release.

Beechcraft Corp., formerly Hawker Beechcraft, emerged in February from bankruptcy protection.

The company no longer builds business jets after shedding those unprofitable manufacturing operations in the bankruptcy, and is in talks with several interested parties in the sale of those assets. The reorganized company is focusing on special mission, trainer and light attack airplane markets for the military, while continuing its turboprop and piston airplane manufacturing.

While the value of the Beechcraft contract may be the largest single order for propeller aircraft, at least one other aircraft manufacturer has actually sold more planes. In 1997, Wichitabased Cessna Aircraft sold 300 single-engine aircraft to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Hennig and Cessna said.

LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo. (AP) - tives, but the move should save City school district will be rid- school district officials said. The gas this school year, as the dis- ered this week, and more will trict switches to the fuel for a arrive through the end of the

"It's quieter, it's cleaner and it

The deadline for Briefly is noon the day before. Items submitted in the morning will be set up for the next edition, space available. The deadline for Monday's paper is noon Friday.

Library's book sale lasts through Sunday

The Pioneer Memorial Library's Book Sale Blowout continues through Sunday. Markdowns get better every day, with free books Sunday. For information call the library at 460-4470.

Volunteers needed for carnival rides

Volunteers are needed for the carnival at the Thomas County Fair Saturday evening. Shifts can be two or four hours. For information or to volunteer, call the Chamber office at 460-3401.

Colby Schools to hold enrollment

Enrollment for students returning to the Colby Public Schools will be from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday in the High School Commons. New students enroll from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. next Thursday in their respective buildings. For information call the district office at 460-5000.

Badges battle for next blood drive

There will be a "Battle of the Badges" blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday and 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. next Thursday at the Colby Community Building. Each donor can vote for his favorite badge and enter a drawing. To schedule an appointment, go to redcrossblood.org or call (800) RED-CROSS.

Sacred Heart School schedules enrollment

Sacred Heart School will hold its preschool through fifth grade enrollment from 8 a.m. to noon Monday in the gym. Preschool and new students will need copies of their immunization records. social security card, birth certificate and a physical. Tuition, registration fees and lunch money information may be found on our website. For information call the school at 460-2813.

Health center offers free sports physicals

Family Center for Health Care in Colby is offering free sports physicals from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15, at 310 E. College Drive. In-town students will be seen from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and out of town students from 5:30 to 7 p.m. For information contact the clinic at 462-6184.

Hospital reception to be farewell to doctor

(K-State Experiment Station) Sunrise and Sunset Friday 6:45 a.m. 8:55 p.m. Moon: waning, 15 percent (U.S. Naval Observatory) Colby Water Use Wednesday 2,057,000 gal. (Colby Public Works)

HEATHER ALWIN/Colby Free Press Anticipation was half the pleasure as Yvette Higerd decided on the best mode of attack to be made on her slice of watermelon at the free barbecue Wednesday, part of the Thomas County Fair.

The Lee's Summit district is another type of fuel. Nearly 50 not the first public entity in the district trucks and vans also will area to switch to compressed natural gas, although it's the The district will spend \$20.3 most comprehensive program,

Citizens Medical Center and Family Center for Health Care invite the public to a farewell reception for Dr. Brewster Kellogg from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Friday. Aug. 16, in the Citizens Medical Center Cafeteria at 100 E College Drive. For information call Tama Unger at 462-6184.



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