

Weather
Corner



Wind gusts
up to 30 mph

The forecast

Tonight — Partly cloudy, with a low around 21. Blustery with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. **Friday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 53. West wind around 10 mph. **Friday night** — Mostly clear with a low near 26. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high around 60. Southwest wind around 10 mph. **Saturday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 27. **Sunday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 60. **Sunday night** — Partly cloudy and blustery with a low around 26. **Monday** — A chance of snow or rain. Mostly cloudy and breezy with a high around 40.

Temperatures
Wednesday's high, 74
Low this morning, 23
Records for this date, 81 in 1953, -28 in 1912
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.0
January's precipitation, 0.03
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Bonding plan
clears another
legislative hurdle

TOPEKA (AP) — Department of Transportation officials won a key legislative endorsement Wednesday for a plan to issue \$210 million in bonds this spring to prevent already-promised highway projects from being canceled.

The department drafted the plan after concluding the state won't receive enough federal highway funds to sustain the state's 10-year highway program, which started in 1999 and is committed to spending \$13.2 billion.

The House Transportation Committee voted unanimously to approve \$150 million of the bonds, and its Senate counterpart also will have to give its approval under a 2004 law that contemplated the bonding but set a slower schedule for issuing them.

The joint Legislative Budget Committee approved the other \$60 million in bonds in December. The council is scheduled to meet Jan. 19.

Briefly

Foundation workshop next week

A three-day foundation workshop will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Thomas County Office Complex conference room, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby. Dr. Don Udell, workshop instructor, will focus on helping participants by creating local foundations as one option in looking at state and federal money. For those who have already started a foundation, the workshop can also help. There is a cost for the three-day workshop. For details or to register, call Western Prairie RC&D, (785) 462-2602.

Scouts plan feed Saturday

Boy Scout Troop 141 is sponsoring a pancake and sausage feed from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, at the Colby Community Building. Free-will donations will be accepted. Proceeds from the event will help buy troop equipment and support activities, said Alan Sager, scoutmaster.

Heartland Share delivery Jan. 21

Heartland Share delivery is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21 at Sacred Heart School gym. The food menu is smoked sausage, chicken thighs, 18 ounce fish stick filets, bacon,

deli sliced roast beef, popcorn chicken, cauliflower, lettuce, potatoes, apples, oranges, grape fruit, pears and American sliced cheese. There are a few shares left. If interested, call 460-3579. A share is \$18.50 plus two hours of volunteer time of your choice.

Dog training classes begin

Dog training classes, sponsored by the Thomas County 4-H Dog Program, began this week with an orientation meeting at the 4-H Building in Colby. For this first meeting, participants were asked to bring current vaccination papers on their animals and a \$60 registration fee, but no dogs, said Carrie Bredemeier, 4-H dog leader. For those unable to attend the first meeting, but would still like to participate should call 460-3816.

Deadline near for farmer's program

Farmers with irrigated cropland in areas of Thomas County might want to take advantage of a conservation provision by converting to non-irrigated croplands, but the deadline to apply is Friday, Jan. 20. In addition to the regular Environmental Quality Incentives Program, producers across the

state may apply for financial assistance through the Ground and Surface Water Conservation provisions of EQIP, said Andrew Burr, district conservationist with the United States Natural Resource Conservation Service in Colby. For details or to apply, either call Burr at 462-7482 or stop by the conservation service office, 915 E. Walnut in Colby. Information is also available on the Web site: <http://www.ks-nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2006>.

Rep to help Meadowlark Manor

Rosalie Seemann, helping with tax programs, will be at Meadowlark Manor on Friday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to assist persons with Food Sales Refunds, Homestead and Low Income Energy Assistance Program. Those that have booklets are asked to bring them to the Manor.

German shorthair needs home

The Colby Animal Clinic, 810 E. 4th St., has a female german shorthair, liver and white in color that is either lost or in need of a home. If someone knows who the dog belongs to or is interested in adopting this purebred, clinic officials are urging they stop by the facility or call 460-8621.

Colby to host Central Plains Irrigation Conference

MANHATTAN — Colby will host the Central Plains Irrigation Conference and Expo, Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 21-22, as part of the Kansas State University Research and Extension statewide agricultural conferences and field days.

For questions or details about the event in Colby, call (785) 462-7574.

Other conferences or expositions include: Monday, Jan. 16, Ag Profitability Conference in McPherson; Tuesday, Jan. 17, Limited Irrigation/Grain Sorghum School in Leoti; Wednesday, Jan. 18, Limited Irrigation School in Garden City and a No-Till, Reduced Till, Dryland Cropping School in Minneola.

Monday, Jan. 23, two events will be held in different locations.

One is Indepth Nitrogen School in Lakin and the other Cattlemen's Seedstock Showcase and Conference in Phillipsburg; Tuesday, Jan. 24, Ulysses will host Dryland Cropping School; Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 25-26, McPherson plays host to a two-day Precision Ag Conference; Thursday, Jan. 26, a Sprayer Technology/Drift School in Greensburg is scheduled and on Friday, Jan. 27, Lewis will host an Ag Profitability Conference and Lakin plans to present a Sprayer Technology/Drift School.

In addition to the conference and exposition in Colby, other February agricultural event are Tuesday, Feb. 7, a Swine Profitability Conference in Manhattan; Wednesday, Feb. 8, Ag Profitability Conference in

Value-added grants available

TOPEKA — More than \$19 million in grants is available to support the development of renewable energy and value-added agricultural business ventures, said Chuck Banks, state director, USDA Rural Development.

The agency's *Value-Added Producer Grant Program* is part of a comprehensive energy strategy to help farmers and ranchers mitigate the impact of high energy costs and develop long-term solutions.

"Value-added projects under this year's program will bring new opportunities for agricultural producers to develop alternative energy sources, as well as create additional value-added products that provide needed investment in our Kansas communities," Banks said.

"These funds will provide valuable support in the areas of renewable energy and value-added development where the agricultural sector continues to be a leader in forging important new solutions."

Informational meetings covering the Agency's Value-Added Producer Grant Program will be held in February.

Under this year's program, he said, the amount that can be awarded to a producer in the form of a working capital grant has been doubled to \$300,000, and \$1.5 million is also being allocated to provide grants of \$25,000 or less to eligible producers.

The grants may be used for planning activities, such as feasibility studies, marketing and business plans needed to establish a viable value-added marketing opportunity for an agricultural product, or to provide working capital for operating a value-added business venture, marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy projects. Eligible applicants are independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

Awards will be made on a competitive basis, and applications must be received no later than Friday, March 31. For detailed information and program requirements, call (785) 271-2744.

Boy Scout Troop 141
Pancake & Sausage Feed

January 14th ~ 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Colby Community Building

Free will donations will be accepted.

Proceeds to be used for troop equipment & activities.



Welcome to the
2006
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KEEPING
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You!

Saturday, January 14th
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Colby Community College Union

Come out and enjoy a fun-filled, educational
Saturday morning!

Some highlights for this years Fair are: activities for children, blood testing results, group discussions by local physicians, cancer screenings, colorectal screening kits, women's health screenings, and diabetes information!

ADMISSION - \$5.00 registration fee

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Thursday-Friday, Noon to 9 pm
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JANUARY 11th - 15th

Wednesday.....January 11.....4:00-9:00
Thursday.....January 12.....4:00-9:00
Friday.....January 13.....12:00-9:00
Saturday.....January 14.....10:00-9:00
Sunday.....January 15.....12:00-6:00

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