

Weather Corner



Warmer, but wind persists

The forecast
Tonight — Clear with a low around 22. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 64. South wind around 10 mph. **Saturday night** — Mostly clear with a low near 28. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west. **Sunday** — Partly cloudy with a high around 59. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Sunday night** — Mostly cloudy and blustery with a low around 26. **Monday** — A chance of snow or rain. Mostly cloudy and breezy with a high near 39. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.
Monday night — Mostly cloudy and blustery with a low around 20. **Tuesday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 44.
Temperatures
Thursday's high, 46
Low this morning, 22
Records for this date,
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.04
January's precipitation, 0.07
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Briefly

Wellness Fair Saturday

The Colby Wellness Fair is Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Colby Community College Student Union. Admission is \$5 and children under 12 are admitted free. Everyone is encouraged to start the new year off right by attending the fair and learning about healthy choices in 2006, organizers said. Anyone having taken blood tests prior to the fair will be given results Saturday with healthcare providers sharing general explanations of the test results at 9:15 and 10:15 a.m. and again at 11:12 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. A presentation on diabetes will also be held at 10:30 a.m.

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.

College meeting Monday

The regular meeting of the Colby Community College

board of trustees will be held at 5 p.m., Monday, in the board room of the Administration Building. Agenda items include the audit report, approval of livestock proposal and employment contracts. Also negotiations will be discussed and the board will hear reports from the interim president, deans and trustees. For an agenda or question, call 462-3984.

School board to meet Monday

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the board room in the Administration Building. Items on the agenda include approval of the consent agenda; reports on the 2004-05 financial audit, superintendent, principals and curriculum director; curriculum presentation on Thomas County Academy; technology upgrade; coordinating council course recommendations; Drug Free Schools subcontract; Rawlins County Neighborhood Revitalization plan; high school coaching parameters; school facility improvements; emergency substitute license and personnel issues, if necessary. The meeting is open to the public.

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.

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.

Policy on examining foreign mail creates new fears

LAWRENCE (AP) — As an Army officer working in Manila during World War II, Grant Goodman sliced open soldiers' mail, looking for passages that could tip an enemy off to troop positions.

He never thought the tables would turn — much less in modern-day America.

But when a longtime friend of the 81-year-old retired history professor sent a letter from the Philippines last month it did not arrive untouched to the retirement complex he lives at here. The red-and-blue-bordered air mail envelope was cut open and resealed with the broad green tape of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

"This is totally shocking," he said. "This is an unexpected invasion of privacy."

Long-standing policy makes foreign mail destined for the U.S. subject to examination, CBP spokeswoman Suzanne Trevino said. The screening is meant to enforce duties

I felt kind of violated. The fact that somebody intercepted the bra and kept it for weeks — it was both threatening and funny at the same time.

Jennifer Winter, waiting on her mail

on imported goods and weed out illegal food, plants and drugs, among other things.

"Our job is to keep bad things from coming into the country," Trevino said. That sometimes means opening mail that is completely harmless.

Jenifer Winter, a 36-year-old communications professor at the University of Hawaii, learned that lesson, too. She couldn't wait to receive the Anna Kournikova anti-bounce bra she ordered from Britain, but it didn't arrive for weeks

after the company said it would.

When it did, the white plastic envelope carrying it had been cut open. It was closed up with that familiar green tape.

"I felt kind of violated," Winter said. "The fact that somebody intercepted the bra and kept it for weeks — it was both threatening and funny at the same time."

Winter said the soft plastic envelope made it easy to determine what its contents were.

"I couldn't imagine what kind of terrorist device it could have con-

cealed," the Honolulu resident said. "I couldn't help but wonder if they just wanted to see the bra."

Caroline Fredrickson, the director of the American Civil Liberties Union's legislative office in Washington, wondered whether foreign mail was being intercepted more than the past and if it was being done for the right reasons.

News of the screened foreign mail comes as some question the government's secret eavesdropping program and other anti-terrorism measures that civil libertarians say infringe on privacy.

"We're concerned because it's part of a general trend in this administration," Fredrickson said. "Far as we know, it's possible that they are like many other Americans — being spied on."

Trevino said the screening was simply in place to protect the American public and that respect for privacy is a great concern.

"We do not specifically read cor-

respondence if it's just a letter," Trevino said. "The only way we could read correspondence is if we have a search warrant or have written authorization from the sender or the addressee."

Agents screening foreign mail have seized all manner of illegal and harmful items. In the last several weeks, Trevino said intercepted parcels have included bloody chicken feathers from countries with avian flu and hundreds of illegally imported packages of Tamiflu that actually were phony doses simply containing Vitamin C.

She would not say how much foreign mail is opened, but she gave a clue. Last year, mail containing controlled substances alone totaled 72,000 pieces, Trevino said.

Still, Goodman can't help wondering why his mail was chosen to be checked. Because it was from a country feared as a terrorist training ground? Was it his military intelligence background? Is he in trouble?

Goodland resident wins \$120,000 jackpot

GREAT BEND — Sandy Cotten has purchased a \$1 Quick Pick for every Super Kansas Cash drawing for the past year or so, and her perseverance has paid off. The 47-year-old Goodland woman hit the Super Kansas Cash jackpot on January 9 and won \$120,000!

"I checked our ticket on the Kansas Lottery's web site Monday night after the drawing," said Cotten.

Gov. Sebelius asks Rumsfeld for new Guard supplies

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Five days after Christmas, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius sent a wish list to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, asking the Pentagon to step up efforts to replenish equipment left by the National Guard in Iraq.

Her list contained several thousand items — tents, computers, trucks, semitrailers, machine gun mounts and even a complete latrine.

She urged the Pentagon to take notice before the state faces a crisis, adding her voice to a chorus of concerns about the Guard's ability to handle stateside duties.

"We must be able to maintain a high level of readiness, because no one knows when disaster will strike," Sebelius wrote. "Anything that weakens the Guard, whether it is failure to re-equip a unit after redeployment or a force structure change eliminating key response capabilities, is of concern to me as a governor."

A Defense Department spokeswoman would neither confirm nor deny that Rumsfeld received Sebelius' letter, citing policy against disclosing communications with the agency's officials.

Adjutant General Tod Bunting said the National Guard can't rely on the Kansas farm tradition of "duct tape and baling wire" to get by.

"It's time to get us something out here where we can move forward. We're down to the bare minimums," said Bunting, a major general. "We need to see real results and real equipment start to arrive and not promises of equipment coming sometime."

While equipment has been a 25-year issue, National Guard Bureau spokesman Jack Harrison said reliance on states in the war in Iraq, when they still have homeland missions, is getting Washington's attention.

"It's certainly come under a bright light. There's some movement in the right direction," he said.

"It's not unusual for us to match one or two numbers, sometimes three. When I saw that they all matched, I started screaming for my husband!"

Not wanting to let their winning ticket out of her sight, Cotten said she slept with it that night. The next day the Cottens were able to check the ticket at a retailer and confirm that it was the jackpot winner. They claimed the ticket today at the

Lottery's Great Bend office.

"Goodland is a small enough town that we didn't have to call too many people to tell them the good news," Cotten said. "The news is already all over town, and people are calling me!"

Cotten is the head cook at the Goodland Senior Center. She and her husband, Robert, have three grown children and six grandchil-

facet you haven't seen," Peck said.

Bunting said regional equipment pools for the Guard, or reducing troop levels to offset costs, are unacceptable.

"That isn't anything better than a short-term solution. The solution is to reset each state," he said.

The General Accounting Office has raised concerns for the past two years that the demands on the National Guard are taxing its equipment and readiness. An October report noted that 220 high-demand items were scarce, such as night-vision equipment, trucks and radios.

The Army estimated in June that it would cost \$15.6 billion to convert most of its Guard units to new missions. Since then, the Army has developed a \$20 billion program to replenish Guard equipment over five years.

Sebelius told Rumsfeld governors need action sooner.

"Quite frankly, I find little comfort in a replacement plan that pushes a significant amount of the program beyond the five-year mark," she wrote.

Before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Guard had about 75 percent of the equipment it needed, Harrison said. That figure has

dren. Their plans for the prize money include becoming totally debt-free and making some investments.

"It's not enough to buy all our kids new houses," said Cotten. "But it pays off our bills and lets us live comfortably, which is wonderful."

Sandy Cotten purchased her winning ticket at Kabredlo's Cenex 259, 320 E. 8th St., Goodland.

dropped to 34 percent, though some pieces of equipment are in greater supply than others.

But Harrison noted that more than 50,000 Guard soldiers and airmen went to the Gulf Coast within a week after Hurricane Katrina.

"This is why we need a strong, robust equipped National Guard," Harrison said.

On the Net:
Governor's office: <http://www.ksgovernor.org>
Adjutant general's department: <http://www.accesskansas.org/ksadjutantgeneral/>
General Accounting Office: <http://www.gao.gov>

Come and Go Farewell

for Rose Nudson

Tuesday, Jan. 17th

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Ernie Seemann Residence
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German Shorthair is either lost or needing a home.

Two dogs lost or needing homes

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. In addition, a full-blooded adult, female, Bloodhound with leather collar with spikes was

found and brought to the clinic.

If someone knows who either dog belongs to or is interested in adopting the bloodhound or shorthair, clinic officials are urging they stop by the facility or call 460-8621.



THANK YOU

The Saint Francis Academy would like to thank everyone who gave generously so that area foster children might experience the joy of Christmas.

Your gifts made a difference.



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