

Weather Corner



Highs near 46 and lows 26

The forecast
Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 26. West wind around 10 mph. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 46. North wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Thursday night** — A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy with a low near 25. Northeast wind around 10 mph. **Friday** — A 50 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy with a high around 36. North wind around 10 mph. **Friday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 16. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 43.
Temperatures
Tuesday's high, 49
Low this morning, 17
Records for this date, 73 in 1920, -23 in 1984
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
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

Gaither Concert Sunday

The Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine, will have a Gaither Video Concert at 6 p.m., Sunday. This week's concert will feature "A Gaither Homecoming Rivers of Joy Concert." All gospel music concerts are open to everyone and viewed on the big screen.

Commodities distribution next week

United States Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1:30-3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25 at the RSVP office in the Senior Progress Center. Eligible people may receive them according to income guidelines on teh above date and time only. No other arrangements for pickup will be made. Distribution is on a first-come, first-served basis and may not begin until the advertised time. Participants are asked to not arrive at the distribution site before 1 p.m. Eligible people who are not able to attend may send a signed permission slip with another person to pick up their commodities. Items include beef stew, peanut butter, green beans, apple juice, macaroni, cranberry juice and sweet potatoes. Call 462-6744 for information.

School to dismiss early Wednesday

Colby Public Schools are reminding parents and/or guard-

ians that classes will be held Wednesday, Jan. 25, until 12:30 p.m., said Kirk Nielsen, superintendent. The reason for the notice is to alert families that the activity calendar had incor- rectly stated there was no school on that day next week. Bus- es will run their normal routes with the early dismissal.

Parents wanted to complete survey

The Thomas County Interagency Coalition and Regional Prevention Center is mailing a "very brief" survey to parents of middle school and high school students in Colby and Brewster, said Diane Stithem, prevention center. The purpose of the survey is in finding out information on what parents know about underage drinking and gthe laws. "All you need to do is complete the surve and mail it back in the self-ad- dressed stamped envelope provided," she said. "Surveys are completely confidential with the first survey received at Greenbush winning \$50." The goal this year is an 80 percent return rate and if the goal is met, more prizes wll be awarded.

Heartland plans benefit barbecue

Heartland Christian School, 1995 W. 4th St., Colby, is plan- ning a benefit barbecue and open house from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday. The menu includes pit barbecue meat, sloppy joes, corn, baked potato, rolls, green salad, and dessert bar. Ev-

ryone is welcome with free-will donations accepted.

Share delivery Saturday

Heartland Share delivery is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21 at Sacred Heart School gym. The food menu is smoked sau- sage, chicken thighs, 18 ounce fish stick filets, bacon, deli- sliced roast beef, popcorn chicken, cauliflower, lettuce, po- tatooes, 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.

Deadline Friday for farm 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. In addition to the regular Environmental Quality Incentives Program, producers across the state may apply for financial assistance through the Ground and Sur- face Water Conservation provisions of EQIP, said Andrew Burr, district conservationist with the United States Natural Resource Conservation Service in Colby. For details or to ap- ply, either call Burr at 462-7482 or stop by the conservation service office, 915 E. Walnut in Colby.

Logan County to meet with landowners

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Logan County Commissioners and their attorney will meet with landowners threatening to sue them during a public meeting on Jan. 31.

Commissioners Doug Mackley, chairman, Nick Scott and Carl Uhrich will host a 2 p.m. meeting to talk to Gene Bertrand, Larry Ha- verfield and Robert Barnhardt, and their attorney, Randall K. Rathbun of Wichita.

The three landowners claim the county is overstepping its role in trying to control prairie dogs. After

Haverfield found a dead red-tailed hawk, he and Bertrand and Barnhardt retained Rathbun to re- present them in their claim.

According to Logan County Clerk Pat Schippers, the meeting will take place in the commission room unless the amount of public attending requires it being moved to a larger room in the courthouse basement. Schippers said results of the hawk's death have not been re- leased to the county.

"The importance of this meeting is to try to reach some type of agree- ment that we all can live with and to try and avoid a potential lawsuit

that these people have warned us they will initiate if we pursue our initial plan of action," Schippers said.

Earlier this year, the county be- gan a process of taking measurers to control prairie dogs if landown- ers didn't show significant efforts of doing so themselves.

"As we have stated over and over again, it is the obligation of the board of county commissioners to control these prairie dogs in accor- dance to state law," Schippers said. "If the landowners choose not to freely eradicate their own prairie dogs the county has the authority to go on the land, eradicate the rodent

and bill the landowner."

Unless the bill is paid within 30 days of notice to the landowner, the costs are assessed against the prop- erty of the landowner. According to state law, county commissioners who fail to perform any of the du- ties imposed upon them are deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction are subject to a fine of not less than \$50 nor exceeding \$100 for each offense.

Expected to be at the meeting will be Rozol representative Ted Bruesch. Bruesch will addresses issues raised about the application of the chemical and the alleged death of the hawk.

Thank You!

Thank you to family and friends for all the cards, calls and visits on the occasion of my 95th Birthday.

Augusta Robben



Westar asks regulators to reconsider

TOPEKA (AP) — The state's largest electric utility asked state regulators Tuesday to reconsider recent decisions that would keep the company from adding tens of mil- lions of dollars to consumers' rates this year.

In its request, Westar Energy Inc. said a December rate-setting order from the Kansas Corporation Com- mission would deny the utility rev- enue it needs and reverse progress Westar has made over the past two years to improve its finances.

Attorneys representing Westar customers have said decisions by the KCC could cost consumers an additional \$75 million this year. However, Westar had hoped to col- lect an additional \$81 million or so

from new rates likely to appear on customers' bills for February.

"If rates are set artificially low today, customers will end up paying even higher rates in the future," said Jim Haines, Westar's president and chief executive officer. "We believe it is in everyone's best interest for fair prices to be established today."

In its order, the KCC said it was allowing Westar to increase the an-

nual rates it charges its 655,000 cus- tomers by \$3 million, while Westar proposed an \$84 million increase.

However, neither figure takes into account Westar proposals to pass along fuel and environmental costs to consumers, which the com- mission approved. Those decisions will cost customers far more than the stated rate increase, consumer advocates have said.

Pet News

The Colby Animal Clinic has a male, yellow lab, with two-inch black collar at the facility.

The animal has either strayed away from home or is in need of a

home. Clinic officials said the dog was found two miles north of the Colby Municipal Airport. For questons, call the clinic at 460-8621 or stop by the facility , 810 E. 4th St.

Thank You

J&R Marketing would like to thank the following sponsors, ticket outlets and helpers for the help they gave in making our Rappin'& Rockin' New Year's Eve event possible.

Without these businesses and people, this event would not have been possible. We are sure God will bless their efforts and we appreciate all of them so much. Please let them know that you appreciate them, also.

Our promoters that donated some time and space on the air or in print: KGCR—KXXX-KQLS, KPRD-Hays, KSNK-Oberlin, Colby Free Press, Leroy's Printing-you are awesome!

Schools that provided buses: Colby Community College, St. Francis Public Schools, Burlington Public School, Sacred Heart School, Roger Karspeck with Lazy K Coach Co.-Burlington.

Facilities for events to take place: Heartland Christian School, Colby Community College, Colby Community Building, Colby Bowl.

Our Ticket Outlets: All First National Bank locations, Jamu Books, Shay Realty, Farmers National Insurance-Oakley, Dave's His Shop and F&M Bank-Dillons, New Life Christian Book Store-McCook, The Good Book Store-Hays.

Businesses and individuals that donated prizes or money: J&B Meat Market, Colby Bowl, McDonald's, Donelan's Jewelry, Dr. Larry Washburn, Janet Myers, Xi Zeta Zeta Sorority, Mr. & Mrs. Doren Follis, Mr. & Mrs. David Wicks, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Lee-Fowler, Ks., Mr. & Mrs. Lavelle Palmgren-Levant, Anonymous donors, A&W-Oberlin, The Dresser-Oberlin, Shear Creations-Oberlin, Sharon's Hallmark, Horlacher's Jewelry, Palace Drug, Bank West, The Bank-Selden, Sports Shoppe, frontier Equity Exchange, TJ's Tire, Lori Lynn's Hair Salon-Goodland, Roger Kough, Dr. Morrison & Wahlmeier, W.O.W., Someplace Special, John Deere, Rasure Lumber, Napa Auto, Arby's, Montana Mike's, Vanderbilts, Orschelns, J-J Oil, Dougherty's, Case I-H, Colby Lumber, Kansas Quick Lube, CK Lumber, Wark's, Colby Police Department, Mike Baughn-Thomas County Sheriff's Department, Jay Hawk with Quality Inn, Subway, Dillons, Baskin Robbins, Quizno's, Oasis Travel Center, Pizza Hut, Kirk & Holly Young, Ben Duell

People who helped and without their help it could never have taken place. Thank you so much!! Eugene and Kathy Robert, Eli & Shaun, Tom Nickols, Pastor Brad Herndon, Pastor Gene Rothfuss, Suzi Calliham, Pastor Tim & Becky Morehart, Tawny Stover, Karen Merriman, Randy & Melissa Regier and Kale, Tamara Ziegelmeier, Carol Horinek, Rob & Kelly Riccetelli, Leland & Roxie Wilson, Jesse Vincent, Todd Stramel, Chase Cloe, Everett Robert, Becca Bargman, Frissy Sowers, Janelle Sowers, Lacy, Shane Timson, Kim, Chance & Tell Benson, Kathy & Andrew Myers, Shannon Myers, Dan & Vicki Oard, John Jones, Lance Leebrick, John & Jennifer Van Nostrand, Gary Parker, Hans Krohn, Will Wilson, Kandace Rathner, John Brannick, Doren Follis, Keith & Lori Haberer, Keith & Melissa Horney, Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie Selby, Kayla Wilson and George Kramer. We also would like to thank Heartland Christian School for taking on the concession stands. We appreciate all of you so very much. We'd like to thank the workers at the Community Building. You guys are awesome!! **X-tra thanks** to Kay & Kim Zweggyardt-St. Francis, Mike & Janelle Cooper-Hoxie, Jon & Jenny Reeverts-Burlington, Doug Mason-Oberlin, Mr & Mrs. Tom Satterly, Mr. & Mrs. Dave Williams, Mike & Evelyn Johnson, Danny & Andy. God Bless all of you!!**A VERY SPECIAL THANKS** to Brian & Shannon Moore and the BBC students that took care of the lock-in. They were terrific and the event would not have happened without them. We'd like to thank our children, Paul Jackson, Kacy & Jim Griffin, TJ & Kristi Powell, Keni & Vanessa Epp, Kody Epp and Bobbie for putting up with our fears, tears, joy, lack of sleep, and our frustrations. You really stepped up and we love you all. We thank our grand-children Kiana, Donte and Alexis who have been so good through it all. **LAST OF ALL we thank our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is our source and our strength. We want HIM to have all the glory.** If we have missed anyone we are truly sorry.

Judy & Rich Epp
J&R Marketing

you're on the right track in the CLASSIFIEDS!

Schwan's

Truckload Sale

Friday, January 20th

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

New Customers Welcome!

At the Deep Rock Cafe
South Range Ave.



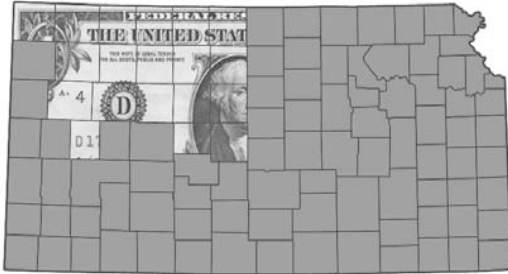
Schwan's has been delivering premium ice cream, entrees, appetizers, side dishes and desserts directly to families since 1952. Over 300 delicious and easy to prepare frozen food are just a call or click away.

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PROPERTY TAX REPORT

At Rural Telephone and Nex-Tech, we aim to be good corporate citizens of the region. We understand the need for property taxes to help support our schools and other public resources. For the year 2005, we paid **OVER \$1.6 MILLION** in property taxes in the following counties.



Barton	\$28,581	Rawlins	\$7,180
Decatur	\$14,516	Rooks	\$106,452
Ellis	\$240,854	Rush	\$435
Ford	\$781	Russell	\$3,601
Gove	\$74,614	Saline	\$81
Graham	\$199,401	Scott	\$15
Jewell	\$750	Sheridan	\$22,212
Logan	\$5,079	Smith	\$87,955
Neosho	\$17	Thomas	\$7,401
Ness	\$24	Trego	\$125,176
Norton	\$438,070	Wallace	\$27
Osborne	\$146,096		
Phillips	\$122,345	Total	\$1,631,663

These property taxes together with the dollars we spend on services, payroll and upgrading our plant facilities help support the local economy.

We'd like to thank those of you who continue to put your trust and hard- earned dollars into products and services from Rural Telephone and Nex-Tech. We realize you have a choice when making purchases such as directory yellow page advertising and other telecommunication products and services. When you choose Rural Telephone and Nex-Tech, you're keeping your dollars in the local economy supporting **YOUR SCHOOLS** and **YOUR PUBLIC RESOURCES**.



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