

Weather
Corner

Wind gusts
in the forecast

Tonight — Mostly cloudy with a low around 35. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 57. Breezy with a south wind between 15 and 25 mph with gusts as high as 35 mph. **Thursday night** — Partly cloudy then gradually becoming clear with a low near 24. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Friday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 57. Calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph. **Friday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 28. **Saturday** — A chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy and breezy with a high around 44. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Temperatures
Tuesday's high, 54
Low this morning, 24
Records for this date, 71 in 1970, -12 in 1957
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.48
January's precipitation, 0.55
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Briefly

Golden Buckle square dance
Ron Snyder of Colby will call the Golden Buckle square dance at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Community Building. Visitors are welcome.

‘Daffodil Days’ are back
Colby is participating in the annual “Daffodil Days” sponsored by the American Cancer Society. This year’s coordinator, Cathy Harrison, said all proceeds go to help the society’s mission in research and finding a cure. Daffodils are the first flowers of spring and a symbol of hope for a world free from cancer. With six different options available, people have many choices to fit their budgets. A bunch of daffodils is \$10; Cheer bokay with vase, \$15; Bear and A Bunch, \$25; 12 bunches, \$175; 25 bunches, \$250; and 50 bunches, \$350. For questions, call Harrison at 460-2501 (home); 462-2331 (office); fax 462-6242 or email: harrison@st-tel.net. Deadline for placing orders is Friday, Feb. 24.

College pool hours announced
The Colby Community College’s swimming pool hours differ somewhat from day-to-day and Kipp Nelson, athletic trainer/pool manager, is revisiting the facility hours. Those

who prefer lap swimming, the hours are from 5 to 7 a.m., Monday through Friday and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Exerciser hours run from 6 to 7 a.m., Monday through Friday and 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Open swimming hours are 4 to 8 p.m., Monday and Wednesday; 4 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; 4 to 6 p.m., Friday; 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday; and 1 to 3 p.m., Sunday.

County annual reports due
Shelly Harms, Thomas County clerk, has forwarded notices and annual report forms to the township, cemetery and fire districts so they may begin compiling the information for the annual report on Nov. 30, 2005. The report contains information on all income and expenses in each fund. It provided certification from the financial institutions on their ending balances in each fund. The reports are due in the office of the county clerk no later than Tuesday, Jan. 31.

Irrigation conference planned
The Central Plains Irrigation Conference and Exposition, sponsored by the association of the same name, will be held Feb. 21-22 at the Comfort Inn in Colby. Registration postmarked by Friday, Feb. 3 will have discounts and all fees

include admittance to all sessions and the equipment exposition, a copy of the proceedings, two lunches, breaks and a social hour. Some of this year’s topics include *Wastewater Utilization, Residue Management for Efficient Water Use and Limited Irrigation Crop Options*. For a registration form, hotel accommodations, or for information, interested persons can go to www.oznet.ksu.edu/sdi/REvents/cpia.html. Registration forms and payments should be mailed to Donna Lamm at 760 N. Thompson, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Tax help available
Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. 4th, will be the location on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and until April 15 assisting with tax returns for the elderly or low to middle income families and individuals. Alvin Volk is coordinating the project in Colby and will help in tax preparation at no charge. For information, call 460-2645.

Kansas Day celebration Sunday
The Prairie Museum of Art and History is planning a Kansas Day celebration, Sunday, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the facility, 1905 S. Franklin Ave., Colby. The event will feature demonstrations, crafts, and other activities about the High Plains. For questions, call 460-4590.

Two women vying for Hoxie mayor’s position

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Hoxie voters will decide between two women as their next mayor. Incumbent mayor Lori Horesky is being challenged by Cindy Eller in the April 4 non-partisan election. Horesky filled the unexpired

term of Gary Horinek when he resigned in July 2002, and she ran for the seat in 2003. Eller is the library director for Sheridan County and the daughter of the Harold Timken, Hoxie city commissioner who died in December. “I have always been interested in the city and county and believe this is a prime opportunity to enhance

the overall aspects of the community,” Eller said. Eller said she checked with Sheridan County Clerk Paula Bielser and Secretary of State Ron Thornburg’s office and nothing in Kansas law precludes her from running for office and being employed by the county. “I’m not an employee of the city

and do not receive payroll benefits from the city,” Eller said. “According to state law it’s not a conflict of interest.” Eller was advised to abstain from voting on issues involving the library, such as the dollar amount the city contributes to its budget. Bielser corrected a statement she made last week that there would be

no elected hospital board seats up for election in May. Bielser said Tuesday Randy Farber and Richard Krannawitter have filed for two of the three seats up for grabs this year. Sheridan County Health Complex trustee Ross Carder did not file for re-election. Despite missing the filing deadline, Carder could still run as a write-in candidate.

Remodeling at Colby healthcare facility continues

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

The remodeling project at Family Center for Health Care has moved into a new phase and is expected to be done by mid-February. “All walls have been removed and the receptionist windows have been cut,” said Janice McCart, administrator for Citizens Medical Center, Inc.

“The remaining task included replacing wall and floor coverings of the existing clinic, completing the floor coverings in the basement, and finishing the children’s area.” McCart updated trustees at



J. McCart

their board meeting on Jan. 5, during which time the fire safety policy and management and administrative service policies were talked about. “The fire safety policy was updated to reflect current practice and new fire codes,” McCart said. She said the management and administrative services policy was revised to reflect current practice and to delineate scheduling of the

education room, now located at Family Center for Health Care. The board approved concrete upgrades at the hospital and clinic in the amount of \$5,530. McCart said upgrades will be made to entrance areas in front of the hospital and clinic, as well as the sidewalk form the clinic to the hospital driveway to the emergency room. She said a new sidewalk will be

installed from the east end of the front parking lot at the clinic to the back door on the east side of the clinic to provide a walk way for people to get to the education room for meetings in the basement of the clinic without going through patient area of the clinic. The concrete projects are expected to be done as soon as weather permits. For information on the project, call the hospital.

Soldiers say they agree
with staying the course

MANHATTAN (AP) — Fort Riley soldiers returning from Iraq say its citizens are making progress in stabilizing their country and that President Bush is correct in staying the course. About 800 soldiers were on hand Monday when the president spoke at Kansas State University, outlining his desire to stand firm in the nearly three-year-old war. It has claimed the lives of more than 2,200 Americans, including 65 from Fort Riley and three from the Kansas National Guard. Lt. Col. Oscar Hall, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, said he saw progress being made in Iraq in his tour that concluded Thursday. He said one example was the reduction of the number of roadside bombs from 14 a day when he arrived in 2005 to only about two a day on average now. “The conditions on the ground have gotten a lot better. “We have set the conditions for a democratic election and the coun-

try has taken off,” Hall said. Hall said one appreciable change was in the support Iraqi security forces provided in his area. “I was lucky to get a squad or a platoon to accompany me on company level missions,” Hall said, recalling the situation when he first arrived.

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