

Weather
CornerScattered
flurries possible

The forecast

Tonight — Scattered flurries after 1 a.m. Partly cloudy with a low around 20. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Tuesday — Scattered flurries before 1 p.m. Partly cloudy with a high around 44. Breezy with a north wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph.

Tuesday night — Partly cloudy with a low near 18. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy with a high around 38. North wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Wednesday night — Mostly clear with a low around 19.

Thursday — Mostly sunny with a high near 50.

Temperatures

Sunday's high, 38
Low this morning, 20
Records for this date, 73 in 1963, -22 in 1982
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.03
February'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.

Briefly

Massage clinic starts today

The Physical Therapist Assistant students at Colby Community College are hosting a massage clinic from 5-9 p.m., Monday, and again the following Monday, Feb. 13. Massages will be held in the Health Sciences Building on the college campus, room 804. Proceeds will go toward helping the programs. For questions, call Pat Erickson, director of the program, 462-3984.

Tax help Wednesdays

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.

Fair board meets Thursday

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include Thomas County extension agent report; bills and financial report; committee reports on the buildings and

grounds, carnival, rodeo, parade, demolition derby, races, fair book and advertising; a discussion on the fair barbecue and 4-H Building rules and regulations, event sponsor contracts; display cases for open class and the Thomas County Community Foundation fair breakfast. The meeting is open to all.

College trustee position open

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees has announced a vacancy and anyone interested in serving on the board of trustees should submit a letter of application and summary of qualifications to Glenn C. Sharp, Interim President, Colby Community College, 1255 South Range, Colby, KS 67701 by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15. For questions, call Sharp at (785) 462-3984, ext. 201.

College student to help with taxes

Colby Community College student Gary Stewart, who is also the director of social services at Infinia of Colby, will be assisting the elderly and other students with tax preparations on Tuesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. in Larry Koon's office located in the Bedker Memorial Complex building on the college campus. Those who need help can call him in Oakley, (785) 672-4421. There is no charge for the service.

Van available to county residents

The Thomas County transit van is available to all Thomas County residents, said County Clerk Shelly Harms. The van operates from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. County residents needing to use the service need to call 460-2901 to schedule pickups.

Starting in January the van will pick up the first and third Tuesdays in Brewster at 9 a.m. at the Brewster Senior Center, 327 Kansas Ave., returning Brewster residents by 3 p.m. The second and fourth Tuesdays, it will pick up at 9 a.m. at the Red Barn Senior Center, 305 Main St. Residents will be returned by 3 p.m. for those that need to come to Colby for appointments or shopping.

A \$1 fee is requested to help with fuel costs and upkeep of the van. Harms said the transit van isn't available to make emergency runs. "If you are in need of an ambulance, call 911," she said.

The van driver, Inez Overton, is not qualified to transport emergency calls. The van is available to for getting individuals to doctor appointments at either clinic, appointments at the hospital, dentist, grocery shopping, etc.; but if you have an emergency, call 911, they are qualified to treat and transport if needed. For questions about the van, call 460-2901 or the clerk's office at 450-4500.

State cites Colby restaurant for code violation

A Colby restaurant, along with 22 other eating establishments, were notified of food violations by the state.

The Prairie Rose Restaurant, 1950 S. Range Ave., which is now closed, was assessed a fine for civil penalties Jan. 17 by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

"This was a minor infraction," said Cecilia Cooper, owner and manager of the Prairie Rose Restaurant today regarding the violation.

She added that closing the restaurant and the violation had nothing to do with one another.

Her reason for closing the facility on Wednesday, Feb. 1, was due to personal health reasons, she said.

Currently, she is looking to sell the restaurant and its re-opening would depend on whoever bought it.

Other facilities named either received similar penalties or were required to stop operations immediately or were given emergency suspension orders.

In addition to the Prairie Rose Restaurant, the following civil penalties were assessed for: Pablos Noriega Café, Ramada Inn Downtown, Church's Chicken #657 and Topeka Snacks El Mexicano, all four of Topeka; Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Ya Ya's Euto Bistro and Chung's Rainbow Restaurant, all three of Overland Park; Sonic Drive In, Holton; Minsky's Pizza, Lea-

wood; El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant, Neighbors Restaurant & Bar, and Papa John's Pizza #1242, all of Wichita; Pizza Hut, Fredonia; Blue Devil Deli, Kansas City; Lotus, Hutchinson; El Mezcal, Ottawa; Jalisco Mexican Restaurant, Hays; CC's City Broiler, Overland Park; Taco Tico, Fort Scott; Chinese Chef Inn, Independence; Barnyard Café, Alta Vista; Chapala Mexican Restaurant, Olathe; and New Town Chinese Restaurant, Kansas City.

Notice of Intent to Suspend was issued on La Fiesta in Salina with a Final Order of Suspension (requires closure of restaurant for 3-5 days) for Timer Creek Restaurant, Louisville.

Lucille's Café in Williamsburg

had its suspension order lifted.

The department seeks to work constructively with licensed establishments to ensure compliance with the Kansas Food Code, which protects the public from the risk of foodborne illness, said Sharon Watson, communication officer.

Whenever a food safety inspector identifies a violation, the inspector immediately notifies the person in charge and advises them on the proper way to make a correction. Violations are often corrected in this manner during the inspection. Where critical violations are not corrected with the inspector on-site, an unannounced follow-up inspection is conducted.

When an inspector documents

the same Food Code violation(s) on consecutive visits to the same establishment, it is the state's policy to issue fines. The fine for an individual violation can range up to \$500 per violation for each day the violation is documented. All fines are subject to appeal as governed under the Kansas Administrative Procedures Act.

By statute, an establishment has 20 calendar days from the date the order was mailed, plus three days for mailing to file for an appeal or to pay the fine. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's purpose in issuing this advisory is to promote awareness of the Kansas Food Code requirements and state licensing requirements.

Police Department uses technology to catch criminals

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

Colby Police Department Sgt. Gary Shull found two sex crime suspects using the Internet and charges have been filed against both of men.

Shull located Andrais Thornton, 20, and Ontario McKee, 21, using the Internet search engine Google to help Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick charge both with sex crimes.

"I knew after they left Colby Community College they went to a college in western Missouri," Shull

said. "Then I lost contact with them, but I kept using Google doing searches for them."

Shull said, at first, he used Web sites available to only law enforcement officials to hunt the two men and came up empty.

"I checked the sites for driver's licenses and those to see if they had been arrested for anything but found nothing," he said.



G. Shull

Shull said after the two men left Colby Community College he knew they enrolled at a university in Missouri for the 2004-2005 school year. When the semester ended in May, he lost track of both Thornton and McKee, but located them until just recently.

Shull entered Thornton and McKee's names on a portion of the Google Web site which searches for information. The particular portion of Google's Web site e-mails the person requesting information if anything is found. Once the two men were located, local authorities were able to issue arrest warrants.

"I contacted both university police departments to verify they were there," Shull said. "Then we issued warrants using their university addresses."

Thornton was arrested Monday in Cape Girardeau, Miss., at Southeast Missouri State University where he's a starter on the basketball team. According to the Southeast Missourian, Thornton was suspended from the basketball team until his case is resolved. He has not been suspended from the school and his scholarship remains effective. If charges are dropped or Thornton is acquitted, he will return to the team,

according to the Missourian.

McKee was arrested Jan. 22 at San Angelo University in San Angelo, Texas. He pleaded guilty Jan. 26 to the lesser charge of sexual battery and was placed on probation. Information about his university or team status was not available.

Shull said technology is an asset to law enforcement and it's proven itself in these two cases.

"Technology helps a lot because not only do I stay in contact with prosecutors and other investigators more quickly, but research is so much easier than digging into a file or 3- by 5-inch card file and then going to a cabinet," he said.

Topeka man convicted of murder in fatal explosion

SALINA (AP) — A Topeka man has been convicted a second time of murdering a woman and her 13-month-old son in an Emporia apartment explosion in July 2001.

Jurors in Salina on Friday convicted Wallace L. Dixon III, 35, of two counts of felony murder. Dana Hudson, 19, and her son, Gabriel, were killed in the fire after an explosion in an adjacent apartment in the Eastgate Plaza complex.

Dixon was convicted of the same charges in Lyon County District Court in May 2002. He won a new trial last June when the Kansas Su-

preme Court found prosecutorial errors in the original trial.

Dixon's new trial was set for Lyon County. But Chief Judge Merlin Wheeler in December ordered the trial moved. It was reassigned to Saline County District Court with Lyon County officials traveling there.

The case with a Saline County jury began Jan. 23 before Wheeler. As in the original trial, Lyon County Attorney Marc Goodman shared prosecutorial duties with two lawyers from the Kansas Attorney General's office. On Friday, Good-

man said the jury spent about eight hours deliberating the case and brought back a verdict around 1:30 p.m. Jurors found Dixon guilty of two counts each of felony first-degree murder, aggravated battery and burglary and single counts of felony criminal damage to property and misdemeanor theft.

The jury acquitted on additional charges of aggravated arson, aggravated assault and two counts of aggravated battery. Dixon was sched-

uled to be sentenced in Lyon County District Court on April 24. In June 2002, Wheeler sentenced Dixon to two life terms with no possibility of parole for 20 years for the murder convictions.

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David L. Browne III & Jennifer L. Van Eaton
550 N. Franklin Ave, Colby, 785-462-3388

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