

Weather Corner



Partly cloudy and warmer

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 16. Northwest wind around 5 mph. **Friday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 43. West wind around 5 mph becoming southeast. **Friday night** — Partly cloudy with a low near 24. Southeast wind around 5 mph. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy with a high around 50. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Saturday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 31. **Sunday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 55. **Sunday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 29. **Monday** — Partly cloudy with a high around 54..

Temperatures
Wednesday's high, 28
Low this morning, 21
Records for this date, 88 in 1910, -1 in 1898
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
March's precipitation, 12.7
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Senate overrides gun bill veto

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas, one of four states that don't allow some residents to carry hidden weapons, moved closer Wednesday to allowing that after the Senate overrode Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' veto of a gun bill.

The 30-10 vote gave supporters three votes above the needed two-thirds majority. The key was six of Sebelius' 10 fellow Democrats joining 24 Republicans to override the veto.

"The decision by a majority of Democrats to stand opposed to their governor made the difference," said Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, R-Independence.

The House is expected to vote Thursday, and supporters need 84 votes. If the bill's backers succeed in the House, Sebelius will be the first governor in 12 years to have a veto overridden.

"It improves my chances. It's going to make the flippers think twice," said Rep. L. Candy Ruff, D-Leavenworth, the gun bill's chief supporter in the House.

Asked if she had the votes, Ruff said, "I'm worried about six and praying for 84."

House Speaker Doug Mays, R-Topeka, said he thinks his chamber has an even chance of overriding the veto. When Sebelius spiked the 2004 version, the override effort started in the House, where it fell seven votes short.

Before the Senate vote, Sebelius said in an interview, "I need to do what I think is the right thing for the people of Kansas. And I think legislators need to do what they think is best."

The whole override process took about 10 minutes, starting with sponsoring Sen. Phil Journey urging colleagues to set aside the veto.

"It's about making Kansans safer," said Journey, R-Haysville.

"It's about trust. It's about trusting law abiding citizens to make this choice. It's about trusting the people."

He said senators "voted their districts and came up with the right answer."

In her veto message Tuesday, Sebelius cited opposition from law enforcement officials and business leaders in rejecting the bill, which allows U.S. citizens over 21 living in Kansas to obtain four-year permits from their local sheriffs.

The legislation still bans hidden guns in some locations, such as churches, libraries, schools and courthouses.

Briefly

School board meets Friday

The Colby School Board is holding a special meeting at 7 a.m. Friday, in the board room of the Administration Building. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss personnell issues, including resignations and nonrenewal of a tenured teacher's contract. The meeting is open to the public.

Heartland Share delivery Saturday

Heartland Share delivery begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the Sacred Heart School gymnasium, 1150 W. 6th St., Colby. For information, call 460-3579 or 460-8640.

Swim Club meeting April 2

The Colby Swim Club will hold a parent's meeting at 4 p.m., April 2, in the Health Science Building (Room 803) on the campus of Colby Community College. Registration, fees, and information will be provided and following the meeting, children will swim at 5 p.m. "Swimming is a life-time sport that everyone can enjoy and is a great activity for families" said Stan Strange, Swim Club co-president. For questions, call Emily or Stan Strange, 462-8331.

Public transportation available

The general transportation van is available to anyone in

Thomas County for trips to the doctor, visiting friends, going to a meal site and more, said Shelly Harms, county clerk. The van services are provided to Colby, Brewster, Gem, Menlo, Rexford and a portion of Oakley as needed from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. For reservations, call 460-2901 or 443-9208 by 11 a.m. the previous business day if possible.

Childbirth classes begin in April

Citizens Medical Center is offering childbirth classes in April, July and October, 2006, said Jeanene Brown, RN, coordinating the program. The next series of classes will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. on Thursdays, April 6, 13, 20 and 27. All classes are held in the education room located in the lower level of Family Center for Health Care, 310 E. College Dr., Colby, Kan. For questions or to register, call Brown at (785) 460-4850.

Town meeting next week

The Thomas County Interagency Coalition is hosting a town meeting for all residents interested in curbing underage drinking. The event starts at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, at the Colby Community Building. The meeting is also being coordinated with many other towns across the nation. For questions, call Vicki Beiser or Diane Stithem at the Prevention Center, (785) 460-8177.

Square dance planned Saturday

Bob Tucker of Wichita will call the square dance for the Golden Buckle Club beginning at 8 p.m. Saturday. It will be held at Colby Middle School, 750 W. Third. St..

School plans information night

Enrollment information night for eighth grade students and their parents will be held at 7 p.m. Monday in the Colby Middle School cafeteria. Counselor Joni Clark-Leiker and Principal Robb Ross will present enrollment information for the 2006-2007 school year.

Bank offers historic exhibit

Farmers and Merchants Bank, 320 W. 4th St., is hosting an exhibit on the history of the U.S. currency, featuring historic notes and coins on loan from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. The exhibit will be displayed from now until April 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Workshop planned March 31

A two-day workshop, "Real Deal Building Local and Regional Business in Entrepreneurial Agriculture," will be held March 31 and April 1 in Atwood. Workshop fees and questions can be directed to Chris Sramek, Rawlins County Economic Development director, (785) 626-3640.

Digging out



Jan Katz Ackerman/Colby Free Press

Joe Cooper shoveled snow in front of his house in Hoxie on Monday afternoon. Cooper said he tried to keep ahead of snow which continued to fall most of the day.

Senate wrestles with human cloning debate

TOPEKA (AP) — A proposed ban on using taxpayer dollars to support embryonic stem cell research failed Wednesday in the Senate, as consideration of a proposed state budget turned into a passionate debate over human cloning.

Sen. Tim Huelskamp, R-Fowler, proposed an amendment to the \$11.7 billion budget to prevent the state from subsidizing what he described as the creation of human embryos only for research purposes.

His proposal would have prevented state agencies from spending money on cloning or to "participate in an attempt to perform human cloning."

Because it would have been included in a budget bill, it would have applied only for a year, starting July 1.

But senators voted 25-15 against Huelskamp's amendment after some of them said they didn't have

enough information to understand the complicated scientific issues involved, or what ramifications it would have for medical research. The proposal had some senators using laptop computers to search the Internet for information from their desks.

"We don't know what we're doing here today," said Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, R-Independence, who voted against the measure. "We are debating matters that are beyond the knowledge of nearly every member."

But Huelskamp insisted that the issue was simple: whether the state would allow tax dollars and state employees to participate in human cloning.

"I personally find cloning morally offensive," he said. "Do you want your tax dollars to be used to create human embryos for the purpose of research — to dissect, to cut up, to extract?"

Pet Adoption

Clinic good place to start when looking for lost pet

The Colby Animal Clinic is one of the first places to call when an animal is lost. In addition to animals who may have strayed from home, the clinic also provides an adoption service with the only cost being immunization shots.

For questions about lost animals or adoptions, call the facility at 460-8621 or stop by 810 E. 4th, Colby. Lost animals not claimed after one week will be eligible for adoption.

Bridal Registry

Stephanie Wieland & Brett Mead

March 25th, 2006

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When: Wednesday, March 29 @ 7:00 p.m.

Where: City Limits Convention Center

Please RSVP by 3/24/06 785-460-3321

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