

Weather Corner



Overcast with morning fog, highs near 50

Tonight — Patchy fog before midnight. Otherwise, partly cloudy with a low around 22. Eat wind around 5 mph.

Saturday — Patchy fog before 9 a.m. Otherwise, partly cloudy with a high around 47. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy with a low near 29. South wind around 115 mph.

Sunday — Partly cloudy with a high near 52. Southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 29.

Monday — Partly cloudy with a high near 53.

Monday night — Mostly clear with a low around 28.

Tuesday — Mostly sunny with a high near 55.

Temperatures
Thursday's high, 34
Low this morning, 10
Records for this date, 85 in 1907, -2 in 1974
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.

Briefly

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.

County health to attend workshop

The Thomas County Health Department nursing staff plans to attend the "Community Preparedness for the Next Pandemic in Kansas," said Juanita Gatz, administrator. The workshop is Monday in Hays, which means nursing support will not be available at the health department. For questions, call (785) 460-4596.

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 lifetime 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.

Blood drive Wednesday

Colby High School is sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive, Wednesday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the high school commons area, said Jackie Stephens, co-coordinator. "March is Red Cross Month," she said, "which would be a great time to start giving the gift of life or to celebrate an already established good habit." Requirements for giving blood include weighing at least 110 pounds and being in generally good health. Donors must be 17 years old. To make an appointment, call toll-free (800) 448-3543. Walk-ins are also welcome.

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 scheduled

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.

How can I help you?



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Nathalie Higerd, left, a librarian at Pioneer Memorial Library, helped Leah Staats with a computer Thursday. The library offers many services, including computers for public use, movies for check-out, and now, wireless Internet. The library is also having story time for children each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday through May 4. The library will also continue to stay open until 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday through Memorial Day.

Sheridan County's hospital has bad year

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

"We had a horrible year last year," said John Harris, accountant and auditor for the Sheridan County Health Complex.

"But everyone knows we had a horrible year."

Harris works with Baird Kurtz and Dobson accounting firm of Wichita that stated the complex suffered a loss of \$410,811 in 2005.

"Hopefully 2006 will prove you can make a go of it and Joe (Stratton) is fully aware of that," Harris said.

Having a new doctor on staff at the hospital, long-term care facility, assisted living apartment wing and medical clinic is the reason behind Harris' hope for this year's budget. "Basically in February there were zero hospital patients and having Dr. John France on board will turn that around," Harris said. "It's already happening."

Dr. France joined the staff in February when he moved to Hoxie from New Mexico.

Trustees Richard Krannawitter, Charlie Schwarz, Craig Cooper, Randy Farber and Allen Neal listened to Harris' report. Also present

at the meeting were complex administrator Stratton and chief financial officer ReChelle Kennedy.

A line item called "purchased services and professional fees" in 2004 in the amount of \$343,235 for patient care provided by Dr. Celestine Ofoma, Olathe-based Docs Who Care, as well as Colby professionals, Dr. Bruce Kellogg and nurse practitioner Jenny Niblock.

Ofoma left the facility in late 2004, leaving the complex under-served. That line item in 2005 jumped to \$676,689 when only temporary doctors were paid out of complex budgeted money.

Sheridan County taxpayers contribute \$325,000 toward the annual \$4.8 million dollar worth of operating expenses.

According to the annual report of the complex, there is an average of 1.96 patients in the hospital, an average of 35 people per day in the long-term care facility and all eight units of the assisted living wing remain full all year round.

"At least we can sit here today and know you are started on the right path and that's got to be a huge weight off," Harris said.

Community and police work together on homicides

WICHITA (AP) — Two separate shootings on the same night within a mile of each other in one of Wichita's most dangerous neighborhoods have police and residents saying enough is enough.

O.B. Donta L. McDonald, 26, and Christopher Lamont Spain Bey, 28, were shot about two hours apart Monday, although police are still investigating whether the shootings were related.

Both occurred in a neighborhood extending from 13th to 21st streets and from Interstate 135 to Hillside, near the Wichita State University campus, and in an area where police say underlying problems lead to high crime rates.

"It's just not fair how much crime seems to fester in this area," Deputy Police Chief Tom Stolz said. "It's time to do something more holistic and on a bigger scale."

Wichita officers surveyed residents in February and are meeting with neighborhood groups to help form a plan to revitalize the area, beginning with increasing the safety of residents living there.

The long-range plan of the so-called "Redevelopment of 44 Beat" will include more strictly enforcing housing codes and calling on the city to address blight, vacant housing, trash and the dearth of economic activity in the neighborhood.

But while Stolz said money from the city's capital improvement program and community development block grants could help pay for the program, right now there is no additional funding.

"This area has had its complexities as far as crime goes for as long as most people can remember," said Capt. Felecia Norris. "It's been this way for decades."

Eight of Wichita's 32 homicides in 2004 were in the area, and while some residents say they are optimistic of change, others advocate more drastic measures.

"Demolish the northeast area and build it up right, instead of putting up raggedy junk," said Ruth Syms, a community member. She said bringing jobs to the area could also make a difference. "Look out west. It's beautiful there."

In the aftermath of Monday's shootings, a prayer walk has been scheduled for Saturday, passing by the homes where Spain Bey and McDonald were killed. And community members say they are more committed than ever to changing the perception of their neighborhood.

"We need to quit bringing in the usual suspects," said Rhonda Lewis, a Wichita State University associate professor who has analyzed the area. "We need to find the person who's doing the drive-bys to find out what's really going on."

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A message from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Cancer Information Service, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and American Cancer Society.

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CITY LIMITS

MON: Mexican Buffet
TUES: Italian Buffet
WED: American Buffet
THUR: Steak Dinner (USDA Choice 10 oz Strip with baked potato, salad, and roll) No Hot Buffet available.
FRI: Seafood Buffet
SAT: BBQ Buffet

462-6565

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2006 • 11:00 A.M.

Public Auction

LOCATION: From Osborne, KS 8 miles West on Hwy. 24, then 1/4 North, 1/4 East. From Alton, KS 6 miles East on Hwy 24, then 1/4 North, 1/4 East. **Watch for AUCTION ONE signs!!**

SELLER: MICK FARMS

<p>FARM MACHINERY</p> <p>Great Plains Solid Stand 3 Section 45 ft. Grain Drill Double Disc, 10 in. Spacing, 2 Markers Great Plains 3 Section, 30 ft. Grain Drill 10 in. Spacing, Single Disc, Left Hand Marker John Deere 6 Section 48 ft. Hoe Drill 12 in. Spacing, Spear Points John Deere 1 Section Hoe Drill 12 in. Spacing John Deere 8300 Disc Drill, 10X16 Kent Series V Field Cultivator 60 ft. w. Harrow Attach. Quinstar Fallow Master 42 ft. 1990 Model Flex King 7x6 Undercutter w/Dual Application-Liquid/Anhyd. John Deere Model 330 - 27 ft. Tandem Disc Sunflower 36 ft. Chisel w/Time Harrow</p>	<p>IHC 4-18 Roller Plow Flex King 27 ft. Fert. Applicator Anhyd./Liquid 18 in. Spacing John Deere 7000 Planter w/Yetter Residue Managers Orthman 6 Row Bedshaper w/IHC air module Sidewinder 15 ft. Roto-Tiller Miller 20 ft. Offset Disc, Heavy Duty John Deere 900 Subsoiler, 9 Shank Flex King 4x6 Undercutter, w/Treader John Deere 3100 6x16 Plow John Deere 15 ft. Flail Shredder IH 4-16 Plow Mayrath 27 ft., 6 in. Grain Auger w/ 3hp. Elect. Motor 6 Orthman Planter Row Units</p>	<p>SHOP EQUIPMENT</p> <p>Alkota High Pressure Washer Model 214-2A w/Heat Lincoln Ranger 8 Portable Welder 225 Amp. AC/DC w/Kohler 20 hp. Puma Portable Air Compressor w/5.5 hp. Honda Engine 2 Knipco Space Heaters 150,000 BTU Olson Bandsaw Model 12X16 2 - Pickup Tool Boxes</p>
<p>GALVANIZED SHEET METAL</p> <p>25 pc.'s 3 ft. x 24 ft. 25 pc.'s 3 ft. x 29 ft.</p>	<p>TRAILERS</p> <p>Donahue 48 ft. Machinery Trailer w/4 Axles Donahue 32 ft. Machinery Trailer Horse Trailer, Bumper Hitch, Single Axle 53ft. Drop Deck Semi Trailer Beaver Tail 235-85-R18 Tires</p>	<p>BOAT/TRAILER</p> <p>Steury Bass Boat 16 Ft. Tri-hull, w/Evenude 115 Hp. Engine</p>
<p>TRACTORS</p> <p>Caterpillar 75C Challenger Serial #4KK02423, Dec. 1996 Has D Series updates; 35 in. Belts 4 Hyd., 10 sp. Trans, 3949 Hrs. John Deere 4240 Serial #4240H-003994R Quad-Range; 5716 Hrs. 18.4-38 Rears Steiger Panther 4WD Serial #EA1478; 5273 Hrs. CM325; 4Hyd.; 24.5-32 Tires - 19.5 Model; Caterpillar Engine Minneapolis Moline GB Tractor LP</p>	<p>TIRES & RIMS</p> <p>2 - 30.5 x 32 Rice Combine Tires on JD Rims 2 - 24.5 x 32 Rice Combine Tires on JD Rims 2 Sets of Tractor Duals 18.4x38's 18.4x34's 4 Used 20.8x38 Tires 1 Used 18.4x38 Tire</p>	<p>TANKS</p> <p>1,000 gal. Fiberglass Nurse Tank w/5hp. 2 in. Pump 300 gal. Tractor Saddle Tanks for JD Tractor, 2-150's Fiberglass 5500 gal. Fert. Tank</p>

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