

Weather Corner



Rain possible; lows near 40

The forecast
Tonight...A chance of showers and thunderstorms between 7 p.m. and 1 a.m. then a chance of showers after 1 a.m. Areas of fog after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy with a low in the high 40s. Northeast wind between 4 and 7 mph becoming calm. **Friday...**A 30 percent chance of showers before 7 a.m. Patchy fog before 1 p.m. Partly cloudy with a high in the high 70s. South southeast wind between 8 and 18 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph. **Friday night...**A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 7 p.m. Partly cloudy with a low in the mid 50s. **Saturday...**A 20 percent of showers and thunderstorms after 7 p.m. Partly cloudy with a high in the high 70s. **Saturday night...**A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low in the high 40s. **Sunday...**A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in the morning. Partly cloudy with a high around 69. **Sunday night...**A chance of showers before 7 p.m. Partly cloudy with a low around 43. **Monday...**Partly cloudy with a high near 75.
Temperatures
 Wednesday's high, 99
 Low this morning, 57
 Records for this date, 97 in 1939, 24 in 1983
 Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
 September's precipitation, 0.04
 Soil temperature, 76
 A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Briefly

Tootsie roll drive nears

The Colby Council of the Knights of Columbus will be handing out "specially marked" Tootsie Rolls on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Oct. 14-16, while seeking donations for those people with intellectual disabilities, said Dick Parnell, chairman for the drive. For those who are not contacted by a Knights of Columbus member, donations may also be sent to the local Knights of Columbus Council by making checks payable to: Tootsie Roll Program Fund, c/o Dick Parnell, Tootsie Roll chairman; 2820 N. Range Ave., Colby, Kan. 67701. All donations are tax deductible.

Drama department plans comedy

The Colby Community College drama department will present the comedy Love Thy Neighbor on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Nov. 3-5 in the Cultural Arts Center located on campus. Advance tickets will be available at the Campus Bookstore. Tickets will also be available prior to each performance at the door.

EMT class enrollment still open

Kathi Wright, EMS director with the Thomas County Emergency Medical Service, said there is still time to enroll in the EMT class, which will begin Monday, Sept. 26, starting at 6 p.m. at the EMS building 1275 S. Franklin, Colby. The first meeting this week was informational, she said, and no classroom work has started yet. If interested,

call 460-4585 for an information packet concerning class dates and times, meeting places, college credit and fees, textbooks and lab equipment needed, and of course the requirements. Financial assistance is available, Wright said.

After Harvest Festival Sept. 27

The social problems class at Colby Community College will sponsor the 37th annual After Harvest Festival, starting at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 27. The festival will be held in the Community Building Little Theater. The event is for all those 55 years and older. Activities include bingo and cards at 3 p.m., followed by dinner at 5:15 p.m. and a dance from 6:30-7:30 p.m. No reservations are required. For transportation or other questions, call Deb Koon, 462-6617.

Health department offers safety event

The Thomas County Health Department is again offering its "Kids for Safety," from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the Colby Community Building. Highlights of the event include water safety demonstrations, music and other learning experiences. Everyone, young and old, is encouraged to attend, said Juanita Dewey, administrator.

Red Cross plans potato bar

The Thomas County American Red Cross Chapter is sponsoring a potato and dessert bar, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 23, at Fairview Estates, 1630 Sewell Ave. All pro-

ceeds will go to benefit Thomas County people in need. Free-will donations will be accepted and everyone is welcome. For questions, call Pat Sloan, one of the organizers, at (785) 460-7495.

Airport schedules annual 'fly-in'

The Colby Municipal Airport is sponsoring its sixth annual open house, Saturday, Oct. 1, beginning at 6:30 a.m. at the airport. In addition to a fly-in breakfast, airplane rides, incoming helicopters, experimental aircraft, powered parachutes and more will be featured. Eagle Med, Med-Star, the Kansas State University Aviation Department, Air Care, Rans Aircraft and the Kansas Highway Patrol will also have exhibits available for spectators. The pancake feed will be served by Colby Boy Scout Troop 140 and airplane rides will begin from 1 to 3 p.m.

Old cell phones wanted

Colby Grade School is collected old cell phones with proceeds going toward the purchase of new playground equipment, said Tami Brown, coordinating the project. Drop-off sites are located at Gavons Electronic, 1870 S. Range; the service desk at Dillons, 1605 S. Range; Unicel, 1933 S. Range; Beringer Hardware, 165 W. 4th or at the grade school, 210 N. Grant. In addition to helping the school, she said, those donating will also be helping the environment through recycling efforts. For questions, call 460-5100, ext. 1305.

Hearing for doctor, administrator rescheduled

By JAN KATZ ACKERMAN
 Colby Free Press

The final date for a due process hearing in Hoxie for the former doctor and hospital administrator didn't turn out to be final after all.

When Dr. Margarita Hammeke and her husband, Paul Hammeke, failed to show up for their due process hearings on Aug. 22, trustee Ross Carder made a motion that Monday night's date was "final." But a schedule conflict with the board's attorney, Steve Schwarm, Topeka, has extended the hearing to Sept. 26.

Trustees Richard Krannawitter, Ross Carder, Craig Cooper, Charles Schwarz, Mary Karnes, Randy Farber and Allen Neal are still giving no reason why the couple were let go.

Dr. Margarita and Paul Hammeke were employed by the complex from late April to late May. They were to have given the trustees a five-day notice whether they planned to be at Monday night's meeting.

"Steve won't come unless we get notification from the Hammekes that they are coming on the 26th. I just talked to Steve and he's heard nothing, and we've heard nothing," said ReChelle Kennedy, chief financial officer at Sheridan County Health Complex. If the Hammekes do not show up at next week's due process hearing, it will be con-

Investigation continues into Hoxie Medical Clinic break in

By Jan Katz Ackerman
 Colby Free Press

ReChelle Kennedy, chief financial officer and person who served as interim administrator until Joe Stratton was hired, said the investigation of the break in at Hoxie Medical Clinic continues.

"Richard Krannawitter and I had a meeting with Undersheriff Brian Fenner on Sept. 2," Kennedy said. "He came up and interviewed us and asked whether (the sheriff's office) could look at our tape."

Kennedy was contacted about 11:30 p.m. on the night of June 1 by nursing staff that a stranger was in the building. A nurses' aid identified the alleged suspect of the break-in as former administrator Paul Hammeke. Found missing were one personnel file, one

physician contract, five transcribed medical clinic notes and one patient chart.

Kennedy said surveillance tapes monitor the hospital, long-term care unit and medical clinic and those tapes are under review. She said she, along with Krannawitter and Fenner tried to view the tape which is believed to have captured the image of an unauthorized individual in the complex the night of the break-in. Recorded on time lapsed mode, Kennedy said the tape displayed too quickly and the three of them were not able to determine who the individual on the tape was.

"Brian said the Kansas Bureau of Investigation had the equipment to view and he'd have to send it to either Great Bend or Topeka," Kennedy said.

ducted without them, Kennedy said.

Kennedy is helping Joe Stratton ease into his new job as administrator. Stratton officially took the helm on Sept. 15, and he said he's excited about making the move from a Salina dental clinic to the complex in Hoxie.

"We've got our own unique challenges because of what goes on in a rural community and with what has gone on in the past," Stratton said. "One particular challenge is a low labor pool."

Stratton said requirements placed on individuals who are licensed or certified makes it difficult to keep

those positions filled. "We are continuing to look for a physician to work full-time here at the healthcare facility. We interviewed a few people, but there's no offer on the table," Stratton said.

Charles Weintz, Salina, had been heading up the list of candidates being considered for recruitment after he finished medical school. But Kennedy said he's signed a contract to work in Hays at a family practice clinic.

Kennedy said Weintz plans to continue covering the emergency room one weekend a month through December. He, along with temporary doctors from Olathe-based Docs Who Care and doctors and mid-levels from Colby continue to assist Kaylee Watkins with coverage.

"Outpatient services continue to do well, which is good for our community," Kennedy said. "Right now, we are only about \$423,000 in the red and the obvious reason is we don't have our own physician."

Kennedy said it costs the complex on average of \$43,000 per month for having the temporary clinicians, who also work at Hoxie Medical Clinic while in Hoxie covering the emergency room.

"This is a very good healthcare system, but we need to improve

some things and we need to get a doctor or doctors. We really have to get that taken care of in the next few months and I think we can do that," Stratton said.

Both Kennedy and Stratton said many positive things are taking place at the complex.

"We have \$500,000 in reserves and we haven't had to make a transfer out of reserves since March. And we've received all the Medicare reimbursements from that one patient in April," Kennedy said.

The reimbursements Kennedy referred to were ones the complex had to challenge the Medicare system for, but the outcome was successful to the tune of almost \$300,000. Stratton said there is one open apartment at the assisted living wing of the complex. The cost to rent the apartment is \$1,050 per month for a single person and \$1,200 for two people.

In other business, the policy on disruptive conduct for doctors was tabled again until a second doctor has privileges. Currently the only doctor having full-time staff privileges is Dr. John Rand Neuen-schwander, who is in private practice in a downtown clinic.

The next meeting for the trustees was set for 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 17.

Study shows state not positioned for any long-term prosperity

TOPEKA (AP)—Kansas hasn't been doing as well economically as most other states and isn't in a position to enjoy long-term prosperity, according to a new Wichita State University study.

Those conclusions, based on economic data from 1994 through 2003, were disputed Wednesday by a top aide to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

Her administration contends job growth this year suggests the economy is recovering steadily from problems following the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

But the leader of the study team said it covered both good and bad years and that it likely shows the state depends too much on mature industries, such as agriculture and aircraft manufacturing, that won't produce rapid annual job growth. "Fundamentally, our economy is

not growing as fast as we want it to," said Janet Harrah, director of the university's Center for Economic Development and Business Research, which conducted the study.

The study, released Tuesday, examined six measurements of economic performance for Kansas, other states and the District of Columbia.

They were population growth, total personal income growth, per capita personal income growth, growth in earnings by place of work, change in average earnings by job and increases in full and part-

time employment.

In a statement accompanying the study, Harrah said: "It clearly indicates that the state's economy is not on the growth path necessary for long-term prosperity."

In all categories except employment growth, Kansas ranked in the bottom third, including 43rd for its average annual growth in personal income, 4.5 percent. The national average was 5.1 percent; Nevada did best, averaging 8.4 percent.

Kansas was 30th in its average annual employment growth, with 1.4 percent.

Sacred Heart Church auction set for October

Plans are underway for this year's Sacred Heart Parish/School annual benefit auction with the theme, "South of the Border."

As in year's past, Sacred Heart officials will reach out to the business community asking for whatever support they can provide.

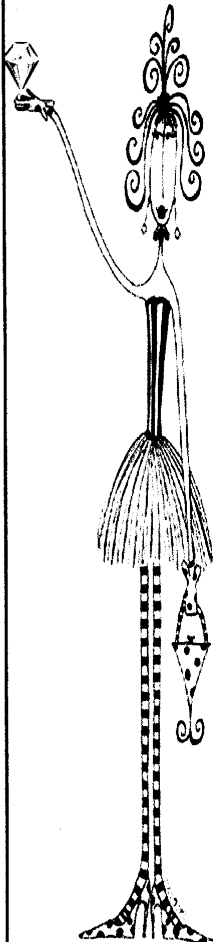
Anyone interested in giving cash, items or service, is encouraged to stop by the church office, 585 N. French, Colby, Kan. 67701 and fill out an auction donation form.

The auction date will be Saturday, Oct. 15, at the TNT Building. For questions or information, call 462-2179.

Feeling Fall Fashion Challenged?
 You are in luck!
Premier Designs has just debuted their new Fall Line of High Fashion Jewelry!
 You are invited to view the New Fall Line!
**Sunday, September 25
 2:30 P.M.
 at the Quality Inn in Colby**

**Plan to attend for great Fall Fashion Ideas, and beautiful accessories!
 R.S.V.P. to
 Vera Sloan 460-6696**

Lynda Schneider - Independent Distributor for Premier Designs



Faced with a Drinking Problem? Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous Can Help
 Meetings are Open to the Public
 City Hall Basement
 Mondays & Thursdays - 8:30 p.m.

d
 It looks like the perfect d. The only problem is, it's a p.
 It's dyslexia. A reading disability where some kids confuse their d's with p's, b's and q's. But, with help most of these kids can go on to do well in school. Call 1-888-GR8-MIND now. There's no reason to be held back.
 Ad Council

September Sweater Sale
 Buy 1 Sweater get 2nd Sweater Half Price!
 (Second sweater must be of equal or lesser value.)
 Sale going on through the month of September.
CJ's Boutique
 Southwind Plaza • 1105 Taylor Avenue
 Colby, KS • 785-460-0337
 Hours: M-S 10-6, Sun 12-6

Celebrating Boy Scouts!
SHOW & DELIVERY ~ POPCORN SALES STARTING FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

33% of the cost of popcorn stays w/ the local troop or pack plus more that stays with the council - all for scout related activities. Popcorn Sales help pay for camps, fun days and some registration cost. The popcorn is to support the individual kids. This is the only fundraiser that the cubs do and biggest fundraiser for the Troops.



Pictured: Nick Larmer (Troop 140), Matthew Barnum (Pack 140), Braden Sager (Troop 141) and Mayor Warren Hixson.