

Weather Corner



Highs near 60, lows in the 30s

The forecast
Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 28. South wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 60. South wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. **Saturday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 32. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west. **Sunday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 53. North wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Sunday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 31. **Monday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 59. **Monday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 32. **Tuesday** — Mostly cloudy with a low around 21.
Temperatures
 Thursday's high: 69
 Low this morning: 28
 Records for this date: 75 in 1915, 0 in 1950
 Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
 November's precipitation, 0.00
 A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-8367.

Briefly

Commodity distribution Wednesday

United States Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1 to 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office at the Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park. Distribution is on a first-come, first-served basis, said Laura Withington, coordinator. Participants are asked not to arrive before 12:30 p.m. Those eligible, but unable to attend may send a signed permission slip with another person to pick up their commodities. Items this month include milk, cherries and beans. For questions about eligibility, call 462-6744.

Parade deadline Friday

The annual Christmas light parade will be held at 5:30 p.m. Sunday in downtown Colby. The theme for this year's parade is "The Magic of Christmas." The parade will run from Second and Franklin to the Scout hut in Fike Park. Registration forms are available at the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce by calling 460-3401. For convenience, form requests can also be faxed or sent by mail. Registration deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1.

Prairie Land Food sign-up

Prairie Land Food sign-up for December begins Monday, continuing through Saturday at State Farm Insurance, 905 E. Fourth St., Colby. A food share is \$20.50 plus two hours

of volunteer time of choice, said Gene Griffin, one of the organizers. The menu includes six meats, eight fruits and eight vegetables. Delivery is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at Sacred Heart School gymnasium, 1150 W. Sixth St.

Singles dance Friday

A singles dance will held from 8 p.m. to midnight Friday at the American Legion, 1850 W. Fourth, Colby. Entertainment is provided by Jim Christensen. Everyone is welcome and door prizes will be awarded.

Trash pickup resumes Saturday

The city of Colby's sanitation department did not run trash routes Thursday or Friday, said Chris Bieker, director of public works. However, those who normally have trash pickup on Thursday or Friday are asked to leave trash at the curb by 7 a.m. for a Saturday pickup.

Decorating contest continues

The Colby Promotions committee will again sponsor the Christmas decorating contest, which will include business and residential categories. Nominations for each category will be accepted at drop boxes located at Dillons and Wal-Mart. Prizes will be awarded for each category. Residential first place is \$100; second place is \$75. Business first place is \$75 and second place is \$50. Nominations will be judged the evening of Saturday, Dec. 9. Organizers said this is dif-

ferent than in year's past because residents will be casting votes for their favorite locations.

Gaither video Sunday

The Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine St., is showing a Gaither video concert at 6 p.m., Sunday. The featured concert is "Christmas Homecoming." The event is free and open to the public.

Santa Workshop, gift sale slated

The Thomas County Community Foundation will sponsor a Santa's Workshop Christmas Gift Sale from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Dec. 9, at Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 West Fourth, for children ages 3 to fourth grade. Each gift is \$4, with a limit of four per family. All proceeds go to benefit Thomas County non-profit organizations. For questions, call (785) 460-9152 or E-mail: tcfcf@st-tel.net

Group requests donations

The Northwest Kansas Family Readiness group is asking for donations to give soldiers currently deployed to Iraq from northwest Kansas. All items will be mailed by the group and a collection box is available at Wal-Mart. For questions on donations or the organization, call Melanie Fortin, (785) 460-2995 in Colby; or Lisa Varney, (785) 890-6939 in Goodland.

Requests for concealed gun permits below expectations

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansans so far aren't flocking to get permits to carry concealed guns like supporters had anticipated when the law was put on the books earlier this year. But they say the numbers may pick up before the end of the year. So far, the attorney general's office has received nearly 3,600 applicants for gun permits under the law enacted this year at the rate of about 40 a day, said Chuck Sexson, director of the Concealed Carry Handgun Licensing Unit in the attorney general's office. He said about 2,600 permits have been approved and rest are going through the approval process, adding that none have been rejected. "I think at the beginning we were

projecting 20,000 to 25,000 in the first couple of years based on other states. I don't know what might hold folks off from applying," Sexson said. "It's probably less than we had anticipated when we started. Maybe it'll increase as we get closer to January." Sen. Phil Journey, who sponsored the concealed guns legislation, said one reason for the less-than-expected number of applicants is the process itself. Before sending an application to the attorney general's office, an applicant first must complete an eight-hour training course by any of 347 certified trainers and be fingerprinted by their sheriff's office. "We have had a problem getting

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enough trainers. They had to go through their own training to be certified. There has been a significant waiting period but they are catching up," said Journey, R-Haysville. Journey estimated some 1,000 people are in the process of being trained or submitting fingerprints. Applicants must pay for training which Sexson said averages about \$150 and the four-year permit cost another \$150. "Hopefully it's not a pricing issue that is keeping people from getting the permits," Journey said. "You could see a rush before the end of the

year. There are classes going on all over the state." Sexson said about three-fourths of the applicants have been men. "What we're finding out is that applicants are coming from all walks of life. What motivates them to want that level of protection is a personal thing and varies from person to person," Sexson said. "Some of have been victims of crimes. Some feel it's their constitutional right." Much of the training involves explaining the law regarding carrying a concealed gun including when deadly force can be used.

"Carrying a concealed firearm has a tremendous responsibility with it," Sexson said. "We hope everybody with a license will take it seriously and there won't be any issue with it." After training, the application is submitted to the attorney general's office and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation conducts a background check. Sexson said it takes about two weeks to complete the checks although it could be longer if additional investigations are needed. He said the police chief or sheriff where the person lives can submit a report stating why the person shouldn't be issued a permit, although that hasn't happened. That could cover such situations as a person being charged recently with a felony and that information not being in a database. Kansas is among the 48 states allowing concealed guns with Wisconsin and Illinois the two exceptions.

Tips provided for smart shopping

Dear Attorney General Kline: I'm starting my holiday shopping soon. Could you please provide me with some tips on becoming a smarter shopper and not becoming a scam victim?



Phill Kline
 • Consumer Corner

Dear Kansas Consumer: During this especially hectic time of the year, you need to make well-educated decisions, whether you're trying to get the most for your money or you just want to avoid falling victim to con artists. To help you reduce the chance of being scammed during the holidays, here are some suggestions you should consider:

- Do not pre-print your driver's license, social security number or phone numbers on your checks.
- When asked to provide your account numbers to anyone, especially over the telephone, always be cautious.
- It's a good idea to treat your financial information like the keys to your house, because they are the keys to your bank accounts and your financial well-being.
- Pay extremely close attention to your credit card and bank statements during and after the holiday shopping season. Watch for charges or debits that you do not recall making and for duplicate charges. Most credit card companies and financial institutions provide access to your accounts online or over the telephone.
- This makes it easier to monitor your transactions throughout the month rather than waiting until you receive your next billing statement. If you discover a discrepancy, immediately notify your credit provider or bank to preserve your legal rights.
- Don't buy an item that is the subject of a recall or negative reviews as it relates to product safety issues.
- You can check with the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (www.cpsc.gov), the Federal Citizen Information Center (www.pueblo.gsa.gov) and Consumer Reports Magazine before making any "big ticket" purchases.
- Understand the merchant's return or refund policy BEFORE you make a purchase. Return policies can vary widely from store to store, and many offer in-store credit or exchanges only.
- Catalog or Internet purchases may not allow any returns, or may require the shopper to pay the cost of return shipping.
- If you buy used items, be aware that many safeguards such as the Kansas Consumer Protection Act and recourse to the Better Business Bureau do not exist when buying

from an individual and not a retail store. It is a good idea to get assurances in writing that an item sold as "used" will function as it is represented.

- Gift cards are becoming more and more popular, but ask about redemption policies.
- Most times these handy gifts cannot be redeemed for cash and sometimes there are other restrictions and limitations, including expiration dates.
- It's a good idea to buy gift cards or gift certificates from reputable merchants because if a merchant goes out of business, the gift card is worthless.
- Rebates can save you money but only if you submit them properly and in a timely manner. Read the fine print on the rebate form before you make a purchase and submit it immediately. You should also keep a copy of everything that you send in with the rebate coupon and get some kind of proof of delivery to show when you mailed the forms and when it was received by the company.
- By following these suggestions you should be able to have a safe and secure holiday shopping season.

Editor's note: Attorney General Phill Kline offers this public service to help people avoid becoming victims of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints. For information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kan. 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, (800)-432-2310.

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HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Jackie, Mike and the entire staff at Someplace Special invite you to join them for their **20th Holiday Open House** "A Season to Celebrate" this Sun., Nov. 26th. The festivities are from 2-6 p.m. and we'd love to see you there!

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