

Weather
Corner

Cloudy, cold

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 10. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday — Partly cloudy with a high near 28. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 6. North wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Sunday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 30. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Sunday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 14. **Monday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 48.

Monday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 21. **Tuesday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 44.

Temperatures
Thursday's high, 28
Low this morning, 2
Records for this date, 80 in 1917, -1 in 1985

Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00

December's precipitation, 0.00

Current temperatures are available by calling 460-8367.

Briefly

Rexford Lions holding soup day

The Rexford Lions Club is holding a soup day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Rexford Community Hall on Main Street. Proceeds will be used for youth projects, such as HOBY and Lions state band.

Lion's pancake feed Saturday

The Colby High Plains Lions Club is sponsoring a pancake feed, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, at the Colby Community Building, 285 E. Fifth. Members are also reminding anyone interested in donating eyeglasses or hearing aids to bring them to the feed where collection boxes are set up.

School warns of advertising scam

Colby school officials are reminding businesses to beware of out-of-town companies, groups or individuals soliciting advertisements using Colby High School, Colby Middle School or Colby Grade School and their athletic/activities programs to make sports calendars, seat cushions, and other items. For questions, call Larry Gabel at 460-5300.

Holiday cookie sale planned

Kappa Upsilon is sponsoring a holiday cookie sale from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17 at Puddle Duck Preschool. Proceeds will go to community projects.

Flag pole dedication Saturday

The public is invited to attend the dedication of the new flag pole at the Masonic Hall, 215 N. Franklin Ave., in Colby. The time of the ceremony has been changed to 2 p.m. Saturday and will be presented by the Grand Lodge officers of Kansas. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be performed inside the hall.

Remote controlled car races set

The RC Club, Racing for Christ, is sponsoring remote control car races from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday at First Baptist Church of Colby, 615 W. Webster.

Work behind schedule on Wichita River project

WICHITA (AP) — A \$20.6 million beautification project at the confluence of the Arkansas and Little Arkansas rivers is more than two months behind schedule but remains on budget.

The project, which began in May 2005, had been expected to be done in October but is about 75 days behind schedule. It is now projected to open to the public in early spring, with a formal dedication set for May 18.

The project's centerpiece, the Keeper of the Plains statue, remains majestically perched atop a rock outcropping behind the Mid-America All-Indian Center. Its pedestal is complete, and the flagstone plaza at its base is almost finished.

Work on two suspension bridges that will connect riverbank pathways to the site of artist Blackbear Bosin's statue has yet to be done. Crews began attaching cables between the support towers and bridge deck last week.

"The bridges are just going to be gorgeous," said Stan Breitenbach, special projects coordinator for the

city of Wichita. "I think the public is really going to be surprised when we turn the lights on this at night."

The delay has been blamed on defective concrete bridge decks that had to be recast.

Observation plazas near Veterans Memorial Park are complete. A new sidewalk and limestone support walls extend along the riverbank below the Westar Energy building. Art work and descriptive plaques

remain to be installed on two "interpretive walls" shading the plaza.

"The interpretive walls will have a series of artifacts that will be built depicting objects of the plains Indians," said Chris Brunner, a sculptor

working on the project. "Graphic granite panels will explain their lifestyle; why they chose this place as sacred; their relationship with the buffalo; their relationship with the

Officials: Commissioner needs experience

TOPEKA (AP) — The next education commissioner needs experience as a school administrator and must be able to work with all political factions on the State Board of Education, public school officials say.

The state board is looking for a new commissioner because of last week's resignation of Bob Corkins after a little more than a year on the job.

Corkins, hired in October 2005 by the board's conservative Republican majority, was the state's first top education administrator in more than 80 years not to have served as a local superintendent first.

"We really need to regain our focus," Brenda Dietrich, superinten-

dent of the Auburn-Washburn district in Shawnee County, told The Topeka Capital-Journal.

Corkins' appointment upset many educators, partly because he had run two small think tanks before the board hired him and had lobbied against large increases in education funding.

As commissioner, he reorganized the Department of Education to create a new school innovation division, and he advocated allowing more charter schools, set up by school districts but free from regulations to stimulate innovation.

"We saw Bob Corkins as a vehicle for change," said Sandy Lassiter, a member of the Kansas Association of Public Charter

Schools. Lassiter's group helps would-be charter schools develop proposals to submit to local school districts and was supported by Corkins. She worries that the next education commissioner won't be as supportive of charters.

This year's elections overturned the board's 6-4 conservative majority, giving a coalition of Democrats and moderate Republicans a 6-4 advantage when two new members take office in January. The new moderate majority was expected to fire Corkins.

Board member Bill Wagnon, a Topeka Democrat who hopes to be the board's next chairman, said it should conduct a national search for a new commissioner.

He also said he wouldn't be opposed to candidates who have experience outside public schools, as long as they also have extensive education experience.

"I don't think we need to have any artificial boundaries," he said.

Among the candidates passed over when Corkins was hired were Alexa Posny, Kansas' former No. 2

For the Record

The following arrests or incidents have been provided by either the Thomas County Sheriff's office or the Colby Police Department. All suspects were booked into the county jail and are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The Thomas County Jail is used by the towns of Colby and Oakley and Logan and Thomas counties.

Colby Police Department
Tuesday, Nov. 21

• **Animal complaint:** Police were advised at 1:09 a.m. of a cat in a trap in the 600 block of North Court. An officer disposed of the animal and took the trap back to the law enforcement center.

• **Theft:** An officer at 12:09 p.m. filed a report of checks being stolen in the 700 block of East Fourth Street.

• **Service rendered:** A woman called at 4:17 p.m. saying she had fallen and wanted an officer to help her in the 1600 block of Sewell Avenue.

• **Theft:** An individual called police at 5:44 p.m. saying a dog kennel was stolen in the 500 block of East Pine.

• **Suspicious person:** A clerk at J & J Oil advised police at 7:14 p.m. about an older homeless man walking on College from Range Avenue.

• **Phone harassment:** Police were advised at 10:56 p.m. of a male juvenile calling their residence in the 100 block of East Walnut.

Wednesday, Nov. 22

• **Criminal trespass:** A woman called at 12:52 a.m. advising someone had gone into her home in the 600 block of West Sixth Street. Police were unable to locate the intruder.

• **Suspicious person:** An employee at Kansas Quick Lube called at 7:56 a.m. about a person sleeping behind their building. Police said the person would be moving on.

• **Deer accident:** A Colby resident advised police at 6:26 p.m. of hitting a deer on Range Avenue at the railroad tracks.

• **Open door:** Police were advised at 11:13 p.m. of a golf cart shed door open at the Colby Country Club.

• **Noise complaint:** Management at Comfort Inn advised police at 11:20 p.m. of employees at Village Inn riding an all-terrain vehicle and disturbing the motel customers.

Thomas County Sheriff
Saturday, Nov. 18

• **Probation violation:** Bryce Clair Clark, 19, of Colby, was arrested at 11:10 a.m. on U.S. Highway 24 for misdemeanor proba-

tion violation in Thomas County.

• **Possession of marijuana:** Paul Anthony Medrano, 28, of Goodland, was arrested at 6:54 p.m. on I-70. The charge pending is possession of marijuana with intent to sell in Sherman County. Medrano remained in Sherman County custody until August and was transported to Thomas County and held until released to a boot camp in Labette.

Sunday, Nov. 19

• **Possession of drug paraphernalia:** Maldonado Israel Lopez, 19, of Indio, Calif. and Aquiles Contreras-Orosco, 31, of Tijuana, Mexico, both were arrested at 3:26 p.m. by the Thomas County Sheriff's office on I-70. The charge pending was possession of drug paraphernalia.

• **Probation violation:** Marshall William Carson, 23, of Goodland, was arrested at 10:58 a.m. by Colby police at the Thomas County Courthouse. The charges pending included a probation violation through Northwest Kansas Correctional Center and possession of cocaine.

Monday, Nov. 20

• **Animal complaint:** A deputy was advised at 8:25 a.m. of two cows out on U.S. 83.

• **Suspicious person:** Authorities

were called at 9:07 a.m. about a hitchhiker on Kansas Highway 25 and County Road P.

• **Traffic complaint:** A 911 caller at 12:53 a.m. advised of broken down vehicle at County Road 27 and U.S. Highway 24.

Santa's Gift
Workshop

(For preschool to 4th grade)

Organized by the TCCF

SATURDAY, DEC. 9TH
Pioneer Memorial Library
Conference Room, Colby, KS

9 a.m. to Noon

Tickets sold at the door!

\$4 per gift, limit of 4 gifts.



Elf helps kids shop for Mom & Dad gifts with a "homemade" touch.

Questions:

Call Vanessa Eicher

at 460-8852

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