

Weather
Corner



Warmer temps
will continue
through Friday

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 24. West wind around 10 mph.

Thursday — Partly cloudy with a high near 63. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 26. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming south.

Friday — Mostly sunny with a high near 66. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday night — Mostly clear with a low around 25.

Saturday — Mostly sunny with a high near 50.

Saturday night — Mostly clear with a low around 23.

Sunday — Mostly sunny with a high near 49.

Temperatures
Tuesday's high, 56
Low this morning, 23
Records for this date, 78 in 1921, -14 in 1961
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
December'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.

Republicans
pick Kline

LENEXA (AP) — Republican activists picked Attorney General Phill Kline as Johnson County's new district attorney Monday night to replace the Democrat who ousted him from statewide office last month.

The tally among Republican precinct committee members who gathered at a Lenexa church was 316 for Kline to 291 for Steve Howe, who is an assistant district attorney in the state's most populous county.

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Briefly

Former mayor undergoes by-pass

Former Colby Mayor Warren Hixson, now living in Hutchinson, underwent open heart surgery Monday to by-pass five arteries. According to City Manager Carolyn Armstrong, Hixson is recovering and expected to be discharged from the hospital Monday.

For those who would like to send him a card, his home address is: 129 West 23rd, Hutchinson, KS 67502.

Piano recital Saturday

A Christmas piano recital is planned at 4:30 p.m., Saturday, at the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin. The performance includes piano students of Pat Ziegelmeier. A variety of holiday solos and duets will be featured, Ziegelmeier said. Everyone is welcome.

Soup supper Tuesday

The Colby High School All-Sports Booster Club is sponsoring a soup supper starting at 5 p.m., Tuesday, at the Colby

Community Building, 285 E. Fifth St. Chili and chicken-noodle soups will be served. Free-will donations accepted.

Fair board to meet Thursday

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include Thomas County extension agent report; bills and financial report; committee reports on the buildings and grounds, rodeo, parade, demolition derby, races and fair book; a discussion on Pickin' on the Plains bluegrass festival contract terms and the Thomas County Community Foundation fair breakfast. The meeting is open to the public.

No trash pickup Dec. 25

For those residents who have trash pickup on Monday, the city of Colby sanitation department is reminding those to leave trash out Tuesday, Dec. 26, because of the holiday. All trash should be at curbside by 8 a.m., For questions, call 460-4420.

Clerk of district court to close early

The Thomas County Clerk of the District Court will close at noon, Friday, Dec. 29, for its end-of-the-year accounting. The office will reopen at 8 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 2. For questions, call 460-4540.

'Diamonds' to perform in Colby

The Western Plains Arts Association will present the Diamonds at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, in the Colby High School auditorium. Admission is with season pass or at the door: \$15 adults; \$8 children.

School urges caution with ads

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, foam fingers and other items. For questions, call 460-5300.

Holiday gift cards: Treasurer warns
sometimes they are no a gift for anyone

TOPEKA — With the expected increase in gift card sales this holiday season, Kansas State Treasurer Lynn Jenkins, CPA warns Kansans who plan to purchase gift cards to be aware of possible fees and card expiration dates which can take effect as early as six months after the purchase dates.

Recent legislation passed by Kansas lawmakers will make it a violation of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act to sell a gift card or gift certificate containing an expiration date less than five years from the date of purchase and also prevents merchants from charging a fee within 12 months of issuing the

card or certificate.

The law does not impact gift cards and certificates purchased for this holiday season as it will not go into affect until Jan. 1, 2007.

"Kansans need to make sure they understand the policies that govern gift cards," said State Treasurer Jenkins.

"Also take notice of the various transaction, service, inactivity and convenience fees that may be imposed on the cards that could result in decreased monetary value."

"Kansans need to be cautious and read the fine print," she continued.

The National Retail Federation (NRF) estimates that gift card sales

across the country for the 2006 holiday season will total about \$24.81 billion this holiday season. This is an increase of \$6 billion over last year.

State Treasurer Jenkins urges citizens to use gift cards as soon as possible to reduce the chances of the cards being lost, stolen, or becoming expired.

She also said that Kansans should carefully read the policies of each business from whom they purchase gift cards because many gift cards have restrictions or service fees that reduce their value over time.

Jenkins, a former State Representative and Senator from Topeka,

was re-elected to her second term as Kansas State Treasurer on Nov. 7, 2006.

During her time as Treasurer, Jenkins has expanded investment options in Learning Quest and oversaw the re-bidding of the nearly \$1.5 billion program, returned an average of \$9 million a year in unclaimed property to Kansans, initiated multiple financial literacy programs, and eliminated the reliance on state general fund dollars to operate the office.

She is a Certified Public Accountant and former small business owner.

Seantor says room for gay right backers among GOP

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback, among the most conservative of the potential Republican presidential candidates, said Tuesday there's room in the GOP for candidates who favor gay rights, but he warned that such politicians wouldn't be welcomed by the party's conservative base.

"It's a big-tent party and has been for a long period of time, particularly since Ronald Reagan talked about this being a party of different viewpoints," said Brownback. "If somebody agrees with you 80 percent of the time, he's not your enemy."

Brownback, in the midst of another visit to Iowa, was asked about criticism that Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney was getting from conservatives over his writings years ago that suggested he backed gay

rights.

While there's room in the party for such candidates, they will face a tough sell with conservatives focused on social and religious issues, said Brownback, who hopes to base his bid for the GOP nomination on such voters.

Asked if favoring gay rights would doom a candidate in the GOP primary season, Brownback said: "I don't know about that. I mean, where are you on taxes? The base of the party is issue-oriented and issue-driven, so those are significant things."

Brownback said it's far too early to dismiss candidates because of

their views on volatile issues such as gay rights.

"We are way, way early in this process, so I wouldn't rule anybody out or in at this point in time," said Brownback.

Brownback has made several visits to Iowa, where precinct caucuses launch the presidential nominating process. On Tuesday, he held private meetings with key activists before attending a Christmas party with local Republicans.

Brownback last week announced he was forming an exploratory committee allowing him to travel and raise money as he explores the potential of seeking the GOP nomi-

nation. The day after he announced the formation of that committee, he met with Republican activists in eastern Iowa and vowed to campaign heavily in the state.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE!!

Stock Realty & Auction Co. would like to invite you to drop by their office at 390 N. Franklin anytime during the day on Friday, December 15th, and enjoy treats for their Holiday Open House.

GATHER 'ROUND FOR CHRISTMAS!

Let all creatures great and small rejoice in the holiday spirit.
Merry Christmas!

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What: A **Lock In** featuring Christian Rap & Rock Concerts, Speakers, Food, Prizes & FUN!!
Where: Colby Community Building, Colby, KS
When: 9:00 p.m. Dec. 31st until 6:00 a.m. Jan. 1st. Doors open 7 p.m.
Who: Middle, High School and College Students (parents too, of course)

TICKETS: \$30 each in advance by Dec. 30th, At the door \$40

Tickets available at His Shop and Farmers and Merchants Bank's Dillons branch in Colby, Ben Coats at Calvary Gospel Church in Goodland; Kary Zweygardt in St. Francis; Doug Mason in Oberlin; Trent Richmond in Norton and Jason Schmidt at the Christian Church in Oakley.

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