

### Weather Corner



### Snow possible Tuesday

**The forecast**  
**Tonight** — Mostly cloudy with a low around 18. East wind around 5 mph becoming north-east. **Tuesday** — Snow likely after noon. Mostly cloudy with a high near 34. Calm wind becoming southeast between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible. **Tuesday night** — Periods of snow. Low around 27. East wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent. **Wednesday** — Snow likely. Cloudy with a high near 32. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. **Wednesday night** — Snow likely. Cloudy and breezy with a low around 19. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. **Thursday** — A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy with a high near 31.  
**Temperatures**  
Sunday's high, 37  
Low this morning, 19  
Records for this date, 76 in 1980, -11 in 1983  
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.

Briefly

**Family History Center closes**  
The Family History Center at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be closed Dec. 21 and Dec. 28 for the holidays.  
The center is normally open Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. or by appointment, said Maxine Nelson, one of the coordinators. For questions or information call Donna Schielke 460-9022 or Nelson 462-3571.

**Colby College plans auditions**  
Auditions for the Colby Community College spring play will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, Jan 17-18 in the Frahm Theatre in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center.  
No experience or advance preparation is required, said Deb Bickner, theater department director.  
“Those who audition will be reading from the comedy fantasy Card Play, which is a family play suitable for all ages,” she said.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to audition. The play performances will be March 2-4.

**Brewster honoring center president**  
The Brewster Senior Center is having an open house from 2 to 4 p.m., Thursday, honoring Jack Faber’s 26 years as the center’s president, said Betty Jo Baird, one of the coordinators of the event.  
“Come in and enjoy some hot apple cider and cookies, and help us celebrate this occasion,” she said. Even though Faber is stepping down as president, she said, he will continue as a board member. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Taxes, tag deadlines near**  
The Thomas County Treasurer’s office is reminding taxpayers that the first half of their 2006 taxes are due by Wednesday, said Donita Applebury, treasurer.  
In addition, persons requiring license plate tags with the last name beginning with U through Z need to buy them no

Former Oakley man sentenced to 27 years in prison

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

A former Oakley man was immediately sent from the courtroom in Hutchinson to the prison in El Dorado after sentenced on Friday for raping his adopted daughter.  
Reno County District Judge Richard Rome sentenced Ryan Bloom, 29, to 27 and one-half years in prison on one count of rape against 12-year-old Cheyenne Bloom.  
Rome also sentenced Bloom to 61 months on six counts of aggravated indecent liberties with the girl and another seven months on one count of lewd and lascivious behavior with her. All of the sentences will run consecutive to each other, with the maximum time Bloom will be behind bars being 330 months, which is two times the most severe sentence for the rape charge.  
Rome said Bloom was crying as he apologized to his family during a sentencing hearing.  
“He was very emotional,” Rome said.  
Before sentencing Bloom, Rome denied a motion filed by Bloom’s attorneys asking for a new trial. Rome said when Sarah McKinnon and Kiehl Rathbun argued for a new trial he did not hear anything he had not heard before.

Sheriffs weigh in on Oakley man’s case

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn said he empathizes with Ryan Bloom’s family in light of his sentencing on Friday.  
“I certainly have empathy for the victims and any of the family that were involved,” Baughn said.  
Baughn said any time a law enforcement office is involved in

criminal activity it casts a shadow on career. “It’s certainly unfortunate any time something like this happens to a law enforcement officer and it gets a lot of attention,” Baughn said. “But, if a person commits a crime it really doesn’t matter if he is a law enforcement officer. We are a nation of laws and the laws apply to everyone.”  
Logan County Sheriff Pat Parsons agrees with Baughn.  
“It makes us all look bad, but ev-

ery profession has its bad apples,” Parsons said. “Any time this happens in law enforcement it’s high profile, but it’s not different than a company CEO being charged with a crime.”  
Parsons said he knows Bloom from him having grown up in Logan County and has followed the case and expects Bloom to appeal his conviction.  
“But if he’s truly guilty, he got what he deserved,” Parsons said.

2005.  
Until arrested earlier this year, he worked as an instructor at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson.  
Bloom’s wife, Jessica, and his mother-in-law, Barbara Johnson, were charged for their involvement in Bloom’s case.  
Jessica Bloom pleaded guilty to conspiring to have the couple’s two children hidden by Johnson so the 12-year-old daughter could not testify against her father.

Judge orders picketing outside tire plant

TOPEKA (AP) — A judge imposed restrictions on union picketing at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. plant, after accusations of harassment and vandalism.  
A restraining order, issued by Shawnee County District Judge Charles Andrews, prohibits the

United Steelworkers from having more than 25 pickets in front of the plant at any time. It also bars union members from damaging property or harassing temporary employees.  
The order, issued Thursday, was prompted by Goodyear’s allegations that strikers threw nails, im-

Johnson fled with the girl and her 3-year-old step brother, Tyler Bloom, and were later located and returned to their mother’s custody.  
Rome said Jessica Bloom was scheduled to be sentenced on Friday, but just prior to her hearing filed an oral motion saying she wanted to withdraw her guilty plea. He said she told him she wanted to change her plea due to the fact she wanted her children and pleaded guilty just to get the case over with.  
However, this morning Rome denied her motion to change her plea and sentenced her to 18 months supervised probation. Should she violate the probation, Bloom will be required to serve a prison term of eight months for aiding a felon and six months for conspiring to help her husband with a crime. Rome is not the presiding judge in Johnson’s case and no information about it was available at press time.

Colby residents remember Jennings’ involvement in community

From “JENNINGS,” page 1

was that ‘it’s not about him.’ Dave had the ability to bring people together and people wanted his opinion — he was important to a meeting,” he said.  
Regina Rydquist worked as Dave’s employee for more than a decade.  
“He was a generous man and he spoiled his customers,” she said. “I know I had the best boss in town.”  
The holiday season, Rydquist said, was what Dave considered his “harvest” and since his death she said if it weren’t for the kindness of many, she wouldn’t have been able to keep the store open.  
“We have had wonderful volunteers keeping things going,” she said, “to include Tawny Stover, Wanda Spresser, Jennifer Van Eaton, Larry McDonald, Terry Stover, Rich Epp, Gina Jennings and Julia Jennings.”  
“I don’t know what I would have done without their help,” Rydquist said.  
Although many will miss Dave, one memory that will live on was his part in making high school proms special. How many young men were fitted with tuxedos, Rydquist could only guess between 4,000 and 5,000 — and that was just in the months of April and May since 1971.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong talked about Dave’s commitment to his community.  
“It is hard to express what the loss of Dave Jennings means to our community,” she said. “In this culture of instant gratification and self-interests, Dave was a shining example of giving more than you receive,” she said.  
Armstrong recalled her first introduction to Dave.  
“From the first day I met him,” she said, “he was working for the good of his community with every waking hour.”  
Armstrong said he served on the airport board from 1990-96 and on the economic development advisory board from its creation. A formal organization was eventually created.  
“Dave was a board member you could count on to attend the meetings and share his opinion on the topics under discussion,” she said. “When you disagreed with Dave, he still considered himself your friend.”  
Dave’s wife also talked about the hard times and how they struggled in the late 1980s when interest rates soared.  
Through the good and bad, Donna said her husband was resilient and they made it through.  
Another difficult time in his life was when his son, Jeff, died in 2001.

Hildyard talked about how hard that was on Dave.  
“Dave experienced some difficult times but with his deep religious commitments and faith he was able to rebound and become even more committed to the development of accessible quality health care for the community and surrounding areas,” Hildyard said. “This was done without personal sacrifice, including personal attacks and loss of business,” he said.  
As for as Dave’s health complications, Hildyard said what struck him most was how he remained committed and upbeat about the situation at the Colby Medical and Surgical Center.  
“Over the last three his health was failing,” he said, “he always appeared to be more concerned about our well-being than his own.”  
Dave’s 59th birthday would have

been Sunday. The day was bitter-sweet.  
“David was a friend and neighbor for 30 years and he will be missed not only by his family and friends, but by the entire community,” said Sharon Kriss of Colby.  
“It is hard to imagine Colby, Kansas and Harvey Court without the humor and support of David Jennings. He was a very special person and a wonderful friend,” she said.  
“I will always remember Dave as a friend, confidant and will cherish the good times and reflect on the bad times,” Hildyard said. “My relationship with Dave Jennings was a delight and has been reinforced, for me, several basic beliefs and philosophies for living — commitment to faith and belief in God and family; common welfare above self-interests; and principles before per-

sonalities,” Hildyard said.  
“Dave will be sorely missed by his family, his friends, and the entire community,” Armstrong said.



### Tee Shirt Sale

**\$3.50 to \$9.50**  
Dec. 18th - 23rd  
from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
**NEW OWNERSHIP**  
**Friendly T's etc.**  
405 North Franklin



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### EAT HEARTY.....

### STEAK FRY

**Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.**  
*Your choice of Potato and Salad*

### COLBY VFW

MEMBERS & GUESTS WELCOME!





### Christmas Open House

**December 20th - 22nd**

Member FDIC

*Together... Making a Difference.*



- F&M 2007 Calendars
- Cookies, Donuts, Hot Cider, and more!
- Candy Canes for the Kids




**NOW SHOWING**  
*Dec. 15th - 21st*

**DEJA VU**  
PG-13 2 hour, 10 min.  
Friday 7:00 & 9:25  
Saturday 4:00 & 7:00 & 9:25  
Sunday 4:00 & 7:00  
Monday - Thursday 7:00

**CHAROLETTE'S WEB**  
G 1 hour, 45 min.  
Friday 7:00 & 9:00  
Saturday 4:00 & 7:00 & 9:00  
Sunday 4:00 & 7:00  
Monday - Thursday 7:00

**4:00 Matinees**  
Admission \$4.00 Ages 3 & up



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