

Weather  
Corner



Snow, ice  
continuing

**Tonight** — Periods of snow with widespread blowing snow. Low around 24. Blustery with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100 percent. New snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches possible.

**Thursday** — Periods of snow with areas of blowing snow, mainly before noon. High near 31. Blustery with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

**Thursday night** — Scattered flurries before midnight. Mostly cloudy with a low around 12. North wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Friday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 33. North wind around 10 mph.

**Friday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 15.

**Saturday** — Partly cloudy with a high around 33.

**Temperatures**  
Monday's high, 37  
Low Tuesday morning, 17  
Records for this date, 73 in 1894, -13 in 1924  
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

**Taxes, tag deadlines near**  
Weather conditions closed the courthouse today but the first half of the 2006 taxes can still be paid Thursday without penalties. In addition, persons renewing license plate tags with the last name beginning with U through Z need to buy them no later than 4 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 28. For questions, call the treasurer's office at 460-4520.

**Babysitting fundraiser planned**  
The Colby Sweet Thunder 14 and Under softball team is sponsoring a New Year's Eve babysitting event to help raise money for travel expenses, uniforms and other items during summer games. The babysitters will provide food, fun, and games for children from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the Ascension-on-the-Prairie Episcopal Church, 1170 Wheatridge Dr. To make reservations, call Evelyn or Sara Martin, 462-3041; Buzzy and Bailey Koerperich, 460-8261; or Karen and Tera Raymond, 460-3694.


**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.

**Former mayor recovering**  
Former Colby Mayor Warren Hixson, now living in Hutchinson, underwent open heart surgery last week to bypass five arteries. He is now recovering at home. For those who would like to send him a card, his address is: 129 West 23rd, Hutchinson, KS 67502.

**County health, other offices closing**  
The Thomas County Health Department, 350 S. Range Ave. and all other county offices at the Thomas County Courthouse will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25-26 and Monday, Jan. 1, 2007. The county landfill will also be closed those dates, and Sunday. 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.

**Medical fund established in Oakley**  
A fund was established at Farmers State Bank of Oakley, 100 Center Ave., to benefit Richard and Gloria Pabst of Colby. For questions, call Megan Stephenson, (785) 672-4400.

And when the bough breaks . . .



JAN KATZACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

At tangled mess was left in the yards of Joe and Marlene Cooper's home in Hoxie after an ice storm crept through northwest Kansas Tuesday and today. One Sheridan County resident had a 2-foot diameter tree limb downed because of ice. Moisture reports today ranged from .38 at Brewster, .92 in Colby, to .94 at Hoxie and .96 inches in Oakley.

**Ethanol plant approved**

DODGE CITY (AP) — The Ford County Commission has approved a conditional permit for a disputed ethanol plant, and opponents said they will decide soon whether to go to court over the issue.

Developers want to build a \$185 million plant that will produce 110 million gallons of ethanol per year. The developer, Boot Hill Biofuels, said it hopes to start building the plant a mile east of Wright in July 2007 and have it running by September 2008.

The conditional permit allows the industrial development in an area zoned for agriculture. Now, developers must seek an air permit and begin an equity drive for the plant, said Gary Harshberger of Boot Hill Biofuels.

"I feel very good about it," commission Chairman Kim Goodnight said after the meeting. "Like one of the other commissioners said, we support new ventures. We want to be proactive. I want to wish them a lot of luck." Commissioner John Swazey said he supports having an ethanol plant in the county, but he doesn't agree with the site.

Consumer questions legitimacy of employment ads

Dear Attorney General Kline:  
I noticed a classified ad in my local paper which offered "positions available evaluating customer service." Admittedly, I was curious but did not follow through. Are ads like this legitimate?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

There are many ads placed in newspapers across Kansas that can lead to employment opportunities. The specific one you refer to though appears to be part of what my office warned consumers about just last week as being a "Secret Shopper" scam.

In just a 24 hour span of time, my Consumer Protection Division received numerous complaints about this scam being operated by a company in Canada.

The scam begins innocently enough when Kansans respond to a classified ad in their local newspapers looking for secret shoppers.

That's the point where anything legal under Kansas law ends.



**Phill Kline**  
• Consumer Corner

The company - which operates under several names, including "Secret Shoppers," and "Quality Mystery Shopper" - then sends those wanting the job a packet of information that includes a cashier's check.

The company asks them to cash the check and wire most of the money back to the company. A few days later those hoping to become secret shoppers then learn that the check is bogus and they owe their banks the money.

Kansas consumers should always be wary of any company or persons who send them a check or money order that they don't know personally - especially if that company is located outside the United States.

It's a sound practice to give your bank at least 10 days to evaluate any such document because it sometimes takes that long for the bank to catch a fraud.

Anytime that anyone who you do not know personally asks you to wire money or send certified funds you should be wary.

This is the standard procedure common to many different scams.

If you believe you have fallen victim to this or any other scam, contact my Consumer Protection Division toll-free at 1-800-432-2310.

*Editor's note: Attorney General Phill Kline offers this public service to help people avoid becoming victims of consumer fraud.*

For further information or to file a complaint, please write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310.

News items? Give us a call at 462-3963

Tee Shirt  
Sale

\$3.50 to \$9.50

Dec. 18th - 23rd  
from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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CORECOMM



Eat, THINK, And Be Wary...  
Don't Drink And Drive!

Too much "Holiday Spirit" can be deadly!

Pain is a GREAT TEACHER but most of us would rather learn some other way.

A TIMELY REMINDER:  
Don't Drink & Drive

Thomas County  
Alcohol & Drug Abuse  
Council  
ADAC  
1523 W 4th • Colby • 785-462-6111

Morton Bldgs

Winter Special

2x6 place  
85%  
in GSN  
ad in truck

Raymond  
James  
Oliver &  
Ass.  
2x6  
place ad  
85%  
ad in truck