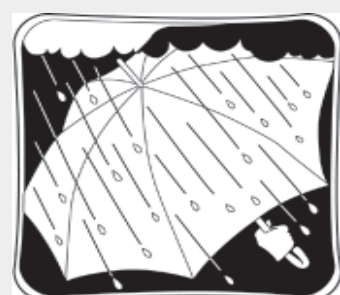


**Weather Corner**



**Breezy and warmer**

**The forecast**  
**Tonight** — Partly cloudy with a low around 49. East wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 69. Southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. **Thursday night** — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 48. Breezy with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. **Friday** — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a high near 78. Breezy with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. **Friday night** — A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy with a low around 56. **Saturday** — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. High near 80. **Saturday night** — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 50.  
**Temperatures**  
 Monday's high, 87  
 Tuesday's high, 69  
 Low this morning, 40  
 Records for this date, 97 in 1902, 20 in 1967  
 Precipitation last 24 hours, 0.05  
 May's precipitation, 0.05

**Briefly**

**Vocal concert planned Thursday**

The Colby Community College Music Department has scheduled two spring concerts in May. The vocal music concert is at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center. The instrumental music concert, also at 7:30 p.m. is scheduled for Tuesday. The Vocal Music Concert will include the concert choir and the Sunflower Singers under the direction of Dr. Phillip Shuman. The concert band will be led by Bradley Herndon. There is no charge to attend either event.

**Prairie Land Food sign-up**

Prairie Land Food sign-up is available until Monday. Sign-up can be done by calling Marguerette Edmundson at 460-8640, Gene Griffin at 460-3579 or Mary Schroeder at

462-7525. Food pick-up is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 19 at the Sacred Heart School gym. A food package is \$20.50 plus two hours of volunteer service. This month's menu includes Honesuckle White turkey tenderloins, ground beef patties, deli sliced smoked turkey breast, cheese pizzas, bratwurst, breaded chicken tenders and 6-8 fruits and vegetables. A Memorial Day meat combo or "sizzlin' steak special" are also available for \$16 each and one additional hour of volunteer service

**Dance scheduled Friday**

The public is invited to attend a dance sponsored by the Colby Singles Group from 8 p.m. to midnight, Friday, at the American Legion Hall, 1850 W. Fourth St., Colby. Entertainment is provided by Swing N Country.

**Heartland School plans speaker**

Danae Dobson, daughter of Focus on the Family founder Dr. James Dobson, will speak 2 p.m. Saturday at Heartland Christian School, 1995 W. Fourth St., during the school's spring tea.

Danae Dobson has written 22 books on a variety of topics. For ticket information, call 460-6419

**Ribbon cutting Saturday**

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a ribbon cutting ceremony for The Last Horse Thief, a new furniture consignment store and other miscellaneous services and items.

The event begins at 10 a.m., Saturday, at its location in Southwind Plaza. Everyone is welcome.

**Sheridan County hospital losing patients to other facilities**

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
 Colby Free Press

Sheridan County taxpayers may have to decide how important a hospital is to them.

Sheridan County Health Complex Administrator Joe Stratton told county commissioners Keith Kennedy, Doyle Kauk and Ron Schamberger it is time to get serious about spending more tax dollars for the facility.

"According to the Kansas Hospital Association," Stratton said, "50 percent of the residents in Sheridan County go elsewhere for healthcare."

Stratton, administrator for the past 20 months, said residents seeking healthcare outside of the county is only part of the problem which caused a \$446,524 loss in 2006. He said the number of days patients are in the hospital, not enough equipment and an aging facility is causing financial strain on the complex.

"In 2004, we had 660 patient days at the hospital," Stratton said. "In 2005 that fell to about 300, and in 2006, it was about 353. We'd hoped that number would have been better, but we have some better stability with Dr. John France and Kaylee Watkins."

Stratton said after Dr. Celestine Ofoma left Hoxie in 2004, Kaylee Watkins, a nurse practitioner, worked along side doctors on a temporary basis.

He said it was not until France arrived in 2006, that inpatient numbers started to climb. Stratton also said since France's arrival in the community, patient visits have increased at Hoxie Medical Clinic.

"There were 204 new patients at Hoxie Medical Clinic in 2006," Stratton said. "That's patients who have not been in the facility or have not had care in five years."

Despite some things "going well" at the complex, Stratton said not having a CT-scan and sonogram machines is forcing some patients to use other hospitals for medical tests, and if needed, hospitalization. He said it would cost between \$250,000 and \$600,000 to purchase a CT-scanner, the lesser amount for a reconditioned one compared to a new one.

Kauk asked if having a CT-scanner at the complex would help generate income that is currently going out of the county.

"I know if we had one we'd use it," Stratton said. "But if you need something now, we don't have it." Currently, Hays Medical

Center's mobile unit is used in Sheridan County for scans at the complex which consists of a hospital, medical clinic, assisted living apartments and long-term care unit under one roof.

The hospital portion of the building was built in 1952, with other parts added later, the latest being the clinic in 1996.

Kauk asked Stratton, as well as trustees Richard Krannawitter and Randy Farber what they wanted from the commissioners. Krannawitter said they were asking for input as to what options they had to "get some cash" for the facility. Stratton said while there is not an immediate risk of the complex closing, steps need to be taken soon to keep the hospital viable.

"It's inevitable without some help," Farber said. "But we aren't sending up any red flags yet," Krannawitter said.

The annual appropriation of \$325,000 for Sheridan County Health Complex has remained the same since 1998.

Stratton, Krannawitter and Farber, as well as the commissioners, asked County Clerk Paula Bielser what it would take to raise more in tax money for the complex. "I would have to research

it," Bielser said.

State law does not allow a hospital to exceed six mills without asking taxpayers for additional funding. In Sheridan County, one mill currently equals about \$35,000, based on a 2006 valuation of \$35,315,783 dollars.

Sheridan County currently budgets 8.164 mills for its hospital. Bielser said if taxpayers were asked to support an increase in the mill levy for the hospital, Stratton and the trustees would have to bring solid figures to the commissioners soon. "If you want something for next year," she said,

"You are going to have to get busy," Stratton said. The complex employs about 120 people, 85 work full time.

**Public Notice**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of MURREL MARIE PANTLIK, Deceased Case No. 2007-PR-9

**NOTICE OF HEARING NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on April 13, 2007 a Petition was filed in this court by the undersigned.

The Petition states that the undersigned is an heir, devisee and legatee, Executor named in the Last Will and Testament of the decedent dated November 26, 1999 and the Petition requests that the Will be admitted to probate and record; that Cindy Marie Hake be appointed as Executor and be granted Letters Testamentary without bond.

You are further advised that the Petitioner in this matter has requested administration pursuant to the Kansas Simplified Estates Act, and if such request is granted the court may not supervise administration of the estate and no further notice of any action of the Executor or other proceedings in the administration will be given except for notice of final settlement of the decedent's estate. Should written objections to simplified administration be filed with the court, the court may order supervised administration to ensue.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before May 22, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. of said date, in this court in the city of Colby, Kansas at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four (4) months from the date of first publication of this notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Cindy Marie Hake  
 Petitioner

Willard W. Miller, Jr.,  
 Administrator

Ken Eland  
 Attorney for Petitioner  
 SLOAN & ELAND  
 Attorneys at Law  
 P. a Box 565  
 736 Main Street  
 Hoxie, KS 67740  
 (785) 675-3217  
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 FLIPSE & FLIPSE  
 485 West Fourth  
 P. O. Box 606  
 Colby, Kansas 67701  
 (785) 460-3365  
 Attorney for Petitioner

(Published in the Colby Free Press April 18, 25, and May 2, 2007)

**Sheridan hospital board may stay at five members**

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
 Colby Free Press

The number of hospital board members will likely remain at five due to lack of interest in membership.

"If it's a doable thing," Richard Krannawitter, chairman of the Sheridan County Health Complex board of trustees said Monday. "It's perfectly fine for us."

Sheridan County voters in 2000 made the decision to move from an appointed board to an elected board. At that time, it was decided that the membership would be re-elected

**Enrollment open**

Thomas County Academy is accepting applications for fall 2007 enrollment. Parents are invited to check out what the charter school has to offer at informational sessions by visiting the school's classroom, 710 W. Third St. (The former middle school industrial arts room.) Parents can browse the classroom from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, with a presentation at 8 p.m. Saturday they can visit from 10:30 a.m. to noon. They can also visit from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, with a presentation at 8 p.m.

For information, call principal Diana Wieland at 460-5004.

three, three and one person at a time. Allen Neal was the only one of three incumbents. Craig Cooper and Mary Karnes being the other two, to file for re-election in the April 3 election. Despite not filing, Cooper was re-elected to the board through write-in votes. Karnes' decision not to run again leaves the board with one of two vacancies, the other being that of Shirley Slover who left the board in April to move to Topeka.

Krannawitter, along with trustee Randy Farber and Joe Stratton, administrator, talked with Sheridan County Commissioners Keith Kennedy, Doyle Kauk and Ron Schamberger at their meeting Monday in Hoxie. Kennedy asked Krannawitter and Farber if they saw a problem with the commissioners taking no action to fill the open seats

on the board of trustees. Both Krannawitter and Farber said they believed the smaller board could function as efficiently as the previously larger one.

Kauk said he would like to see formal action by the trustees asking the commissioners to leave the hospital board at five members. "You do your action and we'll do ours,"

Kauk said.

Krannawitter said at the May 21 trustee board meeting in May he, along with Charles Schwarz, Craig Cooper, Ronnie Kauk, who was elected April 3 by a write-in campaign, and Farber will talk about formally asking the commissioners to drop the number from seven to five board members.

**Yellow Brick Road Candle Co. Gifts & More**

is now open at 175 W. 3rd (Downtown). Come in and check out all they have. Soy Candles, lotions, jewelry, gifts for everyone, even PETS. Most products made right in the store. Free gift wrapping & gift delivery in Colby. HUNGRY? Stop in for a Bierock or 2, many different flavors to choose from, even Breakfast. Cheesecakes, pies, cookies, hot tea, coffee, & much more!  
**Hours are M, T, Th, F 8:30-5 & Sat 9-4.**



**Introducing the Newest Member Of Our Cardiac Team!**

Richard Rigmaiden, III, M.D., Interventional Cardiologist



Dr. Gary Benton  
 Cardiovascular Surgeon



Dr. Jeffery Curtis  
 Interventional Cardiologist



Dr. Christine Fisher  
 Interventional Cardiologist

**Welcome, Dr. Rigmaiden!**

**We're Pleased You've Chosen DeBakey Heart Institute!**

DeBakey Heart Institute welcomes Dr. Richard Rigmaiden to the heart team that includes Cardiovascular Surgeon Dr. Gary Benton, and Interventional Cardiologists Dr. Christine Fisher and Dr. Jeffery Curtis. Combined, these highly skilled specialists in heart surgery, cardiovascular diagnosis and treatment represent many years of experience in cardiac care.

Dr. Rigmaiden completed medical school at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver. He completed his cardiology fellowship at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha and is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Rigmaiden is now accepting appointments for new patients. For more information, call Toll Free 888-625-4699 or ask your primary care physician.



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 www.haysmed.com

HealthGrades™, the nation's leading independent reviewer of healthcare quality, has ranked The DeBakey Heart Institute at Hays Medical Center among the Top 10 Hospitals in Kansas for Heart Surgery, and the Top 10% Nationwide for Coronary Interventional Services.



**NOW SHOWING**  
 April 27th - May 3rd

**FIREHOUSE DOG**  
 PG 1 hour, 55 min.  
 Friday 7:00 & 9:10  
 Saturday 4:00, 7:00 & 9:10  
 Sunday 4:00 & 7:00  
 Monday - Thursday 7:00  
 Adopt-A-Pet, drawings and giveaways all week.

**TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES**  
 PG 1 hour, 30 min.  
 Friday 7:00 & 9:00  
 Saturday 4:00 & 7:00 & 9:00  
 Sunday 4:00 & 7:00  
 Monday - Thursday 7:00



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