

## Weather Corner



**Tonight...**Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of light snow. Lows around 12. North winds 10 to 20 mph.

**Thursday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 30s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Thursday night...Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows around 12. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Friday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 40s. Southwest winds around 10 mph shifting to the west in the afternoon. Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 16.

**Saturday** and Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Lows around 18.

**Sunday** and Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Lows around 19.

**Monday...**Mostly sunny. Highs around 40. Monday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light snow. Lows around 17.

Tuesday's low, high: 11, 42  
Monday's low, high: 17, 68

## Man plays trumpet as a reminder of future

By John Van Nostrand  
Free Press Publisher  
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A man passing through Colby offered a sample of what he thinks will come in the future.

Richard Jacobson, 63, of New York state played a trumpet late Monday afternoon at the corner of Franklin Avenue and Fourth Street. The music is his reminder of Biblical scripture.

"Before the Lord returns he will sound the trumpet," he said. "The Lord just sent me out," he said between songs. "And I play the trumpet as I go."

For about the past 12 years, Jacobson said he has been crisscrossing the country playing his trumpet wherever he stops. Six of those years he traveled Europe. He has been in Colby since Thurs-

day. He said he has stayed longer in Colby than he thought he would because of peoples' interest.

"I've met people in Colby and decided to stay longer," he said.

Jacobson is a retired landscape gardener. His travels are by bicycle or car and funded by donations and, more recently, his Social Security payments. Jacobson stays in hotels or camps. He said he has not had any dangerous threats while playing.

"The response is usually really good. People love music," he said.

Jacobson said his play list is usually gospel, but does play others from the national anthem to Battle Hymn of the Republic. He is divorced and has an adult daughter who lives in Germany.

"I'm on the stretch for God," he said.

JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Richard Jacobson played his trumpet Monday afternoon near the corner of Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue. On tour of the country, Jacobson said the trumpet playing is a reminder for the second coming of Jesus Christ.



## State to hold meeting about deer disease in Oberlin

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
Oberlin Herald

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks plans to hold an informational meeting on chronic wasting disease at The Gateway next Wednesday, after confirmed reports of the disease in three white-tailed deer harvested this past hunting season.

Bob Mathews, with the department, said Lloyd Fox, big game project leader and Ruby Mosher, wildlife disease coordinator will both talk at the public meeting at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 6 at The Gateway.

The meeting was scheduled after three confirmed cases in white-tailed deer harvested here were released at the beginning of the month. All three deer were killed along the Sappa Creek, north of Oberlin.

There are about 600 more samples from northwest Kansas left to be tested. Last month a confirmed case of chronic wasting disease was reported by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in Red Willow County.

According to information from the department, chronic wasting disease is fatal to infected deer and elk. The progressive disease causes small holes to develop in

the brain. That results in decreased brain function, which means the deer or elk can show signs of depression, a droopy head, staggering, loss of appetite and even a lack of response to humans. That continues into weight loss, drooling and excessive thirst.

The department asks hunters to continue getting deer tested for the disease and asks them not to take deer carcasses away from the area where they lived, especially ones taken in areas where chronic wasting disease has been confirmed. It also suggests not dumping the carcasses where deer or elk can come into contact with the remains, but instead having them double-bagged and taken to a landfill, since the disease can be transmitted by contact with a dead animal or from the soil.

Mr. Mathews said at the meeting department officials will discuss what will happen from here and some of the background on the disease in Kansas. They will also answer questions.

Two years ago, he said, when there was a confirmed case of the disease in Cheyenne County, a department biologist went into the county and in five days took two to three dozen deer, which were all tested. That will probably happen in Decatur County.

Although the three confirmed cases were all in white-tail deer, any deer can contract the disease and both white-tail and mule deer will be harvested for testing. Typically, said Mr. Mathews, the biologist will concentrate on the area within a 20 to 25 mile radius of where the three deer were taken during the hunting season.

Mr. Mathews said the department encourages the public to attend the informational meeting.

## Wichita to end forced busing

WICHITA (AP) — The Wichita school board has voted unanimously to end forced busing for desegregation, ending 37 years of mandatory busing of students from their neighborhoods to other parts of the city for racial integration.

The change, effective in the 2008-2009 school year, will affect roughly 2,000 students.

The board, which approved the change Monday, will now set up policies to allow parents and students to choose their schools.

Starting in the fall, students can begin attending school in their neighborhood and will have the option of continuing to be bused to their current schools.

Wichita's 1971 busing agreement with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights was voluntary, not court ordered.

## Almena strives for grants

By VERONICA MONIER  
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The Almena community is making an effort to improve its town.

Almena Chamber President Glenn Brands said the Chamber has been and is still holding community fund raisers, trying to generate enough cash to use as "match money" for grants. Once they have enough money raised, they will be working

with the city of Almena to apply for community development block grants.

Their goal, he said, is \$250,000. But, they will probably start the grant applications when they have reached \$150,000. At the moment, he said they have upwards of \$70,000 pledged.

The reason for all of the fund raising is for a community building, which will have a new library and offices and replace the old community building.

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