

Weather Corner



**Today:** Sunny. Highs in the upper 70s. North winds around 10 mph.  
**Tonight:** Increasing clouds. Lows in the lower 40s. East winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light.  
**Thursday:** Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.  
**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.  
**Friday:** Mostly sunny. Highs around 80. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.  
**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy. Lows around 50.  
**Saturday, Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. Lows in the lower 50s.  
**Sunday:** Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s.  
**Sunday Night:** Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.  
**Monday to Tuesday:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. Lows in the mid 40s.

McCain pushes for bailout bill

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate John McCain said today the resurrected financial bailout bill isn't perfect but warned that the nation's financial crisis will become a full-fledged disaster if the plan fails.

In an economic speech today at the Truman Library and Museum, McCain said the original proposal that failed in the House was flawed because it did not contain taxpayer protections, limitations on executive compensation and sufficient protections for people's bank accounts.

"I am pleased that these are being added to improve the original bill," he said.

If the revised version, up for a vote in the Senate later today, were to fail, students won't be able to get college loans and families will have trouble buying new homes, he said. Car sales will take a hit and businesses will have difficulty paying employees and securing credit for operations, he said.

"If we fail to act, the gears of our economy will grind to a halt," McCain said.

McCain planned to return to Washington to vote on the bill, which adds substantial tax cuts meant to appeal to Republicans when it reaches the House.

The modest changes include an increase on Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. caps for bank accounts from a limit of \$100,000 to \$250,000.

The FDIC change was a move that McCain and rival Democrat Barack Obama both called for on Tuesday.

More troops needed in Afghanistan?

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top U.S. military commander in Afghanistan said today that he needs more troops and other aid "as quickly as possible" in a counterinsurgency battle that could get worse before it gets better.

Gen. David McKiernan said it will take more than adding troops to stabilize Afghanistan — including efforts to strengthen the Afghan government, improve the economy and build its military and police forces.

Speaking to Pentagon reporters, the head of NATO forces in Afghanistan said there has been a significant increase in foreign

fighters coming in from neighboring Pakistan this year — including Chechens, Uzbeks, Saudis and Europeans. And he said he needs the more than 10,000 additional forces he has requested, in part, to increase his military campaigns in the south and east where violence has escalated.

"The additional military capabilities that have been asked for are needed as quickly as possible," he said, adding that he is hoping to get units that will be able to both fight the insurgents and serve as trainers for the Afghan Army and police.

McKiernan, who is scheduled

to meet with President Bush late today, said he was encouraged by recent Pakistani military operations against insurgents waging cross-border attacks into Afghanistan. But he also said that it is too soon to tell how effective they have been.

He also endorsed the recent suggestion by Afghan Defense Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak to try to create a joint force of Afghan, Pakistani and U.S. forces to secure what is a porous, mountainous, ungoverned border region.

"I think in the future I would certainly support the idea of combined patrolling along that

border," said McKiernan. If it's handled the right way, he said he believes the Pakistanis would go along with the plan.

"There are mutual border security concerns that both the Afghans and the Pakistanis have," he said. "So the more we can work together to approach those concerns, the better off we all are."

Officials have said that violence in Afghanistan is up about 30 percent this year compared with 2007. The Taliban and associated militant groups like the terrorist network al-Qaida have steadily stepped up attacks in the last several years and more U.S. soldiers

have died in Afghanistan already this year than in any year since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

"We're in a very tough fight," McKiernan said. "The idea that it might get worse before it gets better is certainly a possibility."

Defense Secretary Robert Gates said last week that he may be able to send thousands more combat troops to Afghanistan starting next spring.

The general's assessment coincides with a fresh report on the situation by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who expressed dismay that attacks against aid workers have increased in 2008.

Prices, job losses hurt area economy

OMAHA (AP) — Inflation and job losses are weighing on the economy in nine Midwest and Plains states, according to a new survey of business executives released today.

The report also suggested the region's economy won't be growing in the coming months. The overall economic index for the region fell to 49.6 in September from August's 51.4.

Any score below 50 on the index, which ranges between 0 and 100, indicates a contracting economy over the next three to six months.

Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss said business leaders remain pessimistic about their prospects because of problems in the national economy, inflation and job losses.

"There is no way that this part of the country can continue to avoid the fallout from the national housing downturn and related mortgage issues," said Goss, who oversees the survey. "Banks in this part of the country, while not engaging in the reckless activity seen elsewhere in the country, will bear some of the costs in the months ahead."

The report covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Goss said he expects more job losses and higher unemployment through the end of 2008, but it could vary significantly across the region. The employment index slipped to a weak 47 in September from 47.5 in August and 41.4 in July.

The prices-paid index, which tracks the cost of raw materials and supplies, decreased in September but still remained high at 84. That was slightly lower than August's 86.7 and July's record high of 93.9.

Goss said declines in commodity prices helped reduce the prices-paid index, but inflation continues to be a problem in the region.

The supply managers and business leaders surveyed are not optimistic about the economy. The confidence index plummeted to 38.4 in September from August's 50.

"While I don't expect the economy to be as weak as survey participants do, it is clear that we are entering a period of unhealthy economic growth, combined with job losses and elevated inflation — clearly not a good combination," Goss said.

After increasing for seven months, the export orders index slipped to 50.6 in September from

August's 54.3. The import index also fell, to 43.8 in September from August's 55.8.

The other components of September's overall index were:

- new orders at 46.6, down from August's 48.9;
- production at 51.5, down from 53.0;
- inventories at 52.3, down from 55.2;
- and delivery lead time at 54.3, down from August's 56.8.

The Creighton Economic Forecasting Group has conducted the monthly survey since 1994.

The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing Management Association, began to survey its membership in 1931 to gauge business conditions. The Creighton Economic Forecasting Group uses the same methodology as the national survey.

Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce welcomes:

**MILCO Environmental Services, Inc.**  
 And  
**Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers, P.C.**  
 320 W. 4th Colby Ks. Tel: 785-460-1956

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

To have your ad placed in the Business Directory call Jasmine or Heather today at 462-3963.

**H & H Auto Features Limo Services**

930 S. Range Colby, Kansas 67701 Phone: 785-460-0828 Cell: 785-443-1082

**Strength. Stability. Service.**

And us.

That's what you can count on. We're in the business of helping people just like you through all stages of life with insurance and financial products. To learn more call today.

**www.fbfs.com**  
 (785) 462-3388

Auto / Home / Life / Business / College / Retirement

**ROOFMASTERS**  
 Your Local Roofing Contractor

425 East Hill, Colby, KS  
 Licensed - Bonded - Insured

<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	1-800-536-6642	<b>COMMERCIAL</b>
Tamko Shingles	1-785-462-6642	Rubber Single Ply
GAF Shingles		White TPO Single Ply
Wood Shingles		Build Up Systems
Metal Roofs		Modified Systems

**FREE ESTIMATES**

Elastomeric Rubber Coating For Metal Roofs

**FAMILY DENTAL CARE**

The Latest Technology and Most Complete Care Available!

- Root Canals • Orthodontics
- Implants • Wisdom Tooth Surgery

New Patients Welcome  
 No Referral Necessary ~ Financing Avail.

1690 W. 4th St., Colby ~ 785-460-3999  
 Toll Free: 1-866-305-3999

SHAWN D. JENSEN, D.D.S.

Don't miss out on this **GREAT RATE.**

For a limited time only, State Farm Bank® is offering the following promotional term

**CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT**  
 9 Months 3.90% APY\*

Jane W. Johnson  
 State Farm Agent  
 Colby, KS 67701  
 Bus: 785-462-7525  
 jane.johnson.gh2@statefarm.com

\*Annual Percentage Yields as of 08/20/08. Rates subject to change without notice. Minimum balance to open an account and obtain the stated APY is \$500. Fees and charges may reduce earnings on your account. A penalty may be imposed for a withdrawal prior to maturity. Certificates automatically renew at maturity at the then current rate for the next longer standard rate. Some products and services not available in all areas.

WORLDWIDE • Vacation Packages • Cruises • Tours • Groups • Flights • Hotels • Trains • Cars

155 W. 4th, Colby, KS 67701  
 Phone: 785.462.6999  
 Fax: 785-460-0852  
 Toll Free: 1.888.690.7077

CALL IN OR FAX YOUR INTERNET QUOTES AND OTHER ADS! WE CAN BOOK THEM FOR YOU WITH LOCAL, CARING SERVICE!!

**Round Trip Travel**  
**BOOK SPRING BREAK NOW!**  
 Call for Bus Tours Schedules.

VACATION SPECIALS	From	# Nights
LAS VEGAS	Air & Hotel \$250	4
DISNEY WORLD	Air & Hotel \$505	3
MEXICO	Air & Hotel \$800	3
CARIBBEAN CRUISE	Cruise & Air \$1,050	7
ALASKAN CRUISE	Cruise & Air \$1,500	5
HAWAII	Air & Hotel \$740	3
LONDON, ENGLAND	Air & Hotel \$700	3
AMTRAK EXPLORE AMERICA	Air & Hotel \$359	3

All specials may be for specific dates and are subject to availability.

**Advertising Executive**

Are you interested in a better job? A professional position, dealing with the business community?

The Colby Free Press, an award-winning daily newspaper, is looking for an advertising executive. This person will represent the newspaper and the County Advocate with customers in the community as part of a three-person advertising department.

Call Steve Haynes, Publisher, to set-up an interview. EOE

**COLBY FREE PRESS** 155 W. 5th 462-3963

**NEW SYSTEM Professional WINDOW CLEANING**

Colby, KS (800) 611-6735

COMMERCIAL - RESIDENTIAL - FREE ESTIMATES