

Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 15. South wind 5 to 15 mph becoming northwest.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45. Breezy, with a north wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 19. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 58. Breezy, with a west wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 27.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 42.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 16.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 40.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 17.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 43.

Friday: High, 63; Low 21

Saturday: High, 32; Low 14

Sunday: High, 30; Low 10

Precip: Friday 0.00 inches

Saturday 0.00 inches

Sunday 0.00 inches

Month: 0.00 inches

Year: 0.00 inches

Normal: 0.48 inches

(K-State Experiment Station)



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Scott Hilbrink of the Colby Fire Department dangled from a rope on Saturday afternoon during a rope and rescue class.

Fire trailer gives experience to volunteers

From "TRAILER," Page 1

president of the state association.

The higher off the ground you are, he explained, the hotter it gets.

Ellis said his helmet registered 240 degrees when he was in the trailer. He was drinking cold water after he came out in spite of the weather.

"Even during cold weather, we have to worry about getting dehydrated," said Ellis.

Firefighters burned hay and wood pallets inside the trailer to get the fire going, he said.

When firefighters entered the trailer, they went in low and crawled down the hallway, said Ellis. The first thing they encountered was heavy smoke, he said.

They eventually reached the seat of the fire in the burn chamber. After they reached the fire, he said, they used the fire hose to push back the flames, said Ellis.

"The firefighters didn't put out

the fire until the last people went through the trailer," Ellis said.

The fire school began at 8 a.m. Saturday and concluded about 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. Ellis said 51 firefighters attended, about 20 of them from Colby.

There were four classes each day, and firefighters had to choose which of the four classes they wanted to take. Offered on Saturday were defensive driving, farm extrication, rope rescue, wildfire training and search and rescue

personal protective equipment. The classes ran from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Firefighters got an hour break from noon to 1 p.m.

The classes on Sunday included farm extrication, lessons learned, Global Positioning System emergencies and urban search and rescue markings, and a chief officers workshop.

The association holds a school once a month somewhere in Kansas, said Ellis.

Frostbite is hazard in Kansas

MANHATTAN — Frostbite is a winter hazard most people associate with mountain climbing or Arctic excursions, but it can happen in Kansas, as well, said state Climatologist Mary Knapp.

"The term 'frostbite' actually refers to frozen tissue, which can develop during any outdoor winter activity," said Knapp, who directs the Kansas Weather Data Library at Kansas State University. "Children are at greater risk, both because they lose body heat more quickly and because they do not notice the signs in the midst of winter fun."

Frostbite is characterized by white, waxy skin that is hard to the touch. It requires immediate medical attention, she said.

Frostnip is an early warning sign for frostbite. It usually affects areas exposed to the cold, plus extremities such as fingers and toes, Knapp said. Frostnip shows up as white, numb spots, and usually can be treated at home.

"The steps are to get indoors, remove wet clothing and gently warm the affected area in warm — not hot — water until feeling is restored," she said. "Be careful about the water temperature, though. Numbed parts won't be able to detect water that is too hot, so can easily be burned."

More information about Kansas weather is available on the Kansas Weather Data Library page on the K-State Research and Extension's Web site: www.oznet.ksu.edu/wdl. Audio reports of "Weather Wonders" are available on the Kansas Radio Network www.oznet.ksu.edu/radio/ (click on Weather Wonders and scroll).

School gets gift truck

Northwest Kansas Technical College has received an electrical bucket-type line truck, donated by Midwest Energy.

Midwest Energy President Ernest Lehman of Hays and energy analyst Lester Loker presented the truck to college President Ken Clouse for use by the electrical department.

Fred Taylor, Colby, vice president of operations, also represented Midwest Energy.

The truck will give the college training capabilities it has never had, Clouse said. Students will be using the truck for commercial and residential wiring and lighting.

Safety equipment to use with the truck was donated by Interstate Safety Supply Co. Specialty Hydraulic Services of Meade did a complete inspection of the truck and replaced several parts. The college estimated the value of that work at nearly \$6,000.

The college, established in 1964, confers technical certificates and Associate of Applied Science degrees in 18 programs.

The school received its status as a college in 2001 and is governed by the state Board of Regents.

Holiday savings programs need to start now for next year

MANHATTAN — Once upon a time, banks encouraged small annual savings accounts to cover holiday expenses.

With low interest rates and little profitability, the emphasis was on helping people prepare for extra expenses, said Carol Young, financial management specialist with K-State Research and Extension.

Setting up a separate savings account or regular savings system to cover extra expenses remains a wise and financially sound goal, Young said. For example, Kansas Saves — a statewide, Extension-supported savings program — en-

courages depositing coins left lying around in a dish or a drawer at home into an interest-bearing account. "Over a year's time, putting

away \$5 a week will yield \$260," Young noted.

Comparing bank rates of return is similar to comparing prices at a

grocery store or supermarket, said Young. "A return of 2 to 3 percent may not seem like much," she said, "but when paying with cash,

rather than running up a balance on a credit card, the savings on interest and extra fees can yield a significant savings."

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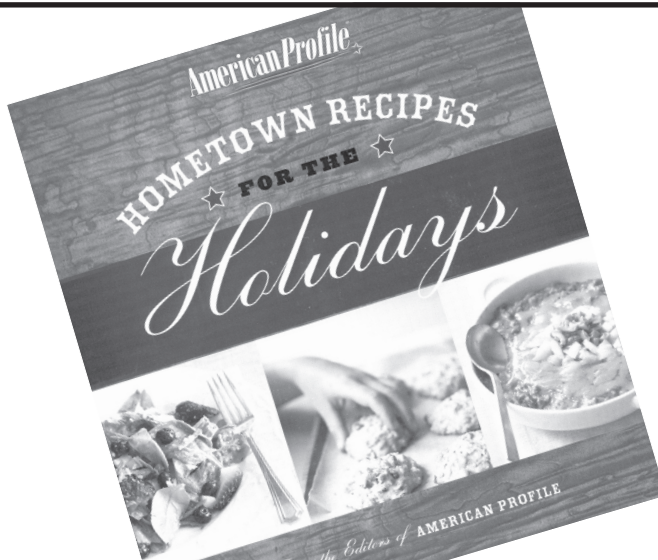
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