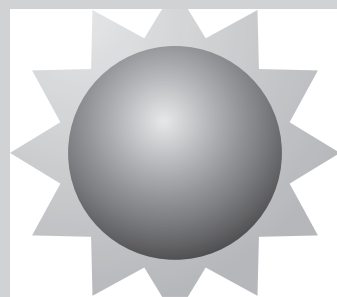


Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32. Breezy, with a north wind 15 to 20 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. Breezy, with an east wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35. Breezy, with a south wind 10 to 20 mph becoming northwest. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 45. Breezy, with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60.

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

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48.

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

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 42.

Wednesday: High, 82; Low 37
Precip: Wed. 0.00 inches
Month: 0.00 inches
Year: 0.64 inches
Normal: 2.15 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Training focuses on safety

About 25 people attended a concealed-carry handgun class at Colby Community College on Saturday for people who wanted to earn eight of the 40 hours they would need to receive a Kansas license.

There was also a four-hour class that evening for those seeking Utah certification, which would allow concealed carry in 36 states including Colorado.

Barry Kaaz, dean of external affairs and facilities management at the college, organized the class. Bob Pabst, a certified instructor with ProFire Protective Services out of Denver led the session, assisted by John Zimmerman, also of ProFire. Leslie King of Miami was there to help with safety.

In the morning session, the students became familiar with the rules and regulations covering concealed carry, places where guns are prohibited and safety.

"People in small towns are too trusting of strangers," Pabst said, pointing out that Colby is right on I-70. A lot of bad people travel the freeway, he said.

"If you are in Wal-Mart park-



MARJ BROWN/Colby Free Press

Bob Pabst (middle), instructor for Profire Company showed people how to hold their hands correctly while holding a pistol.

ing lot at 11 p.m. putting your groceries in your trunk and a stranger starts coming across the lot straight for you," he said, "you should raise your hand and shout at them, in a forceful manner before they get too close, telling them to stop right there.

"Never let them get too close to you before you ask them what

they want. This will give you time to get to wherever you have your handgun. The stranger's knife is a lot faster than your gun if the gun isn't already in your hand and ready to use.

Knowing the law wherever you are is important, he told the students.

"If you are traveling through

several states and are going to be going through some states that do not allow guns," he said, "be sure you always have your carry permit, your course completion certificate, and have your gun secured in the trunk or clear to the back of your van in a case and unloaded.

"If you do all of this, you should

be protected by the Title 18 Interstate Transportation of Firearms Protection Law. However, some states might cause you difficulty, so always know their laws."

In the afternoon, the group went to the shooting range at the Thomas County landfill to practice using their handguns with targets and learn more safety rules.

County forming animal aid

From "ANIMALS," Page 1

she said, and plan to be ready. The statewide Animal Response Team program is a cooperative effort among Kansas veterinarians, law enforcement, animal control, animal rescue groups, wildlife specialists, emergency management officials and many others, she said.

McMahan is asking anyone interested in bringing a program to Thomas County to go to the web site kshealth.kdhe.state.ks.us/VolunteerRegistry, or to contact Sonia Jordan at the state Department of Health and Environment at sjordan@kdheks.gov. E-mail can also be sent to administrator@kssart.org, or call (316) 619-1723 to contact the state organization in Wichita.

Ag law group adds second area native

Wallace County native Kendra M. Robben, a 2000 graduate of Weskan High School, has joined Oklahoma's largest law firm, McAfee and Taft, Oklahoma City, where she will work with a Rexford native.

Robben's practice focuses on family wealth planning and general business transactions, including representation of agribusinesses and a variety of estate planning, corporate and tax matters.

She will be a part of McAfee & Taft's Agriculture and Equine Industry Group, which serves the needs of businesses and individuals in the industry. The group was started and is led by Jeff L. Todd, 1990 graduate of Golden Plains High School, and a Rexford native.

"We are excited to have Kendra with our firm and part of our agriculture group," said Todd, a McAfee and Taft shareholder. "Based on her background and experience, she will make great contributions to our growing agriculture practice."

Prior to joining the firm, Robben was an associate with another Oklahoma law firm. She served as president of Broken Ladder Cattle Co. in Sharon Springs, from 2001 to 2007.

Robben graduated first in her class from the Oklahoma City University School of Law in 2007.

A drunk driver ruined something precious. Amber Apodaca.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



U.S. Department of Transportation Ag Council

Highway permits to be issued

The Kansas Department of Transportation is ready to issue permits to harvest hay on highway right of way.

Applications, available at any department office or on the web at www.ksdot.org/offtransinfo/Form317.pdf, are good for one year or a specific haying season.

Applicants must secure the signature of their county weed control director. Also, mile post locations are now required on the permit form instead of the section lines to identify the area requested.

Those with land adjacent to the right of way will be given priority until March 31. After that date, permits will be issued in the order in which they are received. Permits can be canceled at any time by either party.

For additional information, contact your local office, or call the Bureau of Construction and Maintenance in Topeka at (785) 296-3576.

The office in this area, at Oakley, can be reached at (785) 672-3113.

Blame weather for potholes

MANHATTAN - Pesky potholes capable of ruining a tire or axle seem to open up overnight.

Blame water and the freeze-thaw cycles so common during Midwest winters, said Mary Knapp.

"Water has some amazing properties," said Knapp, state climatologist of Kansas, based at Kansas State University. "It is one of the few substances that expands both as it goes from a liquid to a vapor and as it moves from a liquid to a solid."

It's the transition from a liquid to a solid that makes the number of freeze/thaw cycles a problem, she said.

That expansion can damage roads and foundations. It can heave plants out of the soil, exposing roots to the damaging cold and wind, said Knapp, who heads the Kansas Weather Data Library at K-State Research and Extension.

"Not surprisingly," she said, "Kansas has more freeze/thaw cycles than Mississippi."

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