

Weather
Corner

National Weather Service
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. Southwest wind around 10 mph.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 67. Breezy, with a south wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Friday Night: A 30 percent chance of rain, mainly after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming east.
Saturday: A chance of rain before 1pm, then rain and snow likely. Cloudy, with a high near 44. Breezy, with a north wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.
Saturday Night: Snow likely, mainly before 1am. Areas of blowing snow. Cloudy and windy, with a low around 26. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.
Sunday: Areas of blowing snow and a chance of snow before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 40. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.
Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22.
Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 51.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 31.
Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 53.

Wednesday:	High, 59; Low 18
Precip: Wed.	0.01 inches
Month:	0.01 inches
Year:	1.08 inches
Normal:	3.89 inches

(K-State Experiment Station)

County looks for contractor

From "COUNTY," Page 1

Paul Steele said.

- Heard that the ambulance fund currently has \$160,305.
- "The ambulance department has been very well administered," said Steele.
- Heard a progress report on the roof repair project from Danny Seymour, construction manager for Custom Energy. He said workers covered about 44 squares working from March 16 to 20, but didn't work this week due to bad weather. Some parking spaces will be inaccessible at times during the project.
- "I'm pleased with the effort to make sure everyone is safe," said Steele.
- Heard that Commissioner Byron Sowers and Steele will attend the Retired Senior Volunteer Program banquet and dance on Wednesday, April 15.
- Agreed that commissioners will have a table at the Colby-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce annual banquet and meeting on Saturday, April 18. The cost will paid out of the commissioner's budget, said Steele.
- Heard that a Kansas Association of Counties research report ranked Thomas County's 2008 levy rate at 92 out of 105 counties.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$5.05
Corn (bushel)	\$3.66
Milo (hundredweight)	\$5.52
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College board candidates state platforms

From "COLLEGE," Page 1

She said that because of her involvement on the board and her father's involvement, she has a real love for the college and wants nothing more than to help it progress.

To contact Black, call (785) 460-8170 or send e-mail to cjblack@st-tel.net.

Kenton K. Krehbiel, 59, Colby's postmaster, has served on the board for 20 years. He and his wife Sheila have two daughters, Sharon and Brenda, and four grandchildren.

Krehbiel said believes that the college is a vital part of Colby and that it's important to maintain its viability.

"It is the responsibility of the college to provide a good education," he said, "and as a member of the board, I would continue to encourage that."

Krehbiel said he thinks that the budget is an important aspect of the college. He said he is happy with the way the board has served the college and community over the last 20 years.

He said he would like to wish the other five candidates good luck, adding that hopes to have the opportunity to continue his service to the board.

Shad Metcalf, 36, Colby, handles wholesale business for Crop Production Services. He and his wife Jody have two children, Bryson, 7, and Seanna, 5.

Metcalf says he wants to do what is best for college and supports growth in the school.

"I want the college to grow, not diminish," he said. "I think (President Lynn) Kreider is pushing for positive things, and I feel that the college is exceptionally important to the community and northwest Kansas. I want to be a part of the college's growth into the future."

Metcalf says he thinks many would like to see the introduction of new ideas into the board.

Bill Shields, 46, area manager for Crop Production Services, and his wife Deann. They have four children, Justin, 19; Chelsey, 16; and Keaylee, 7.

Shields says one of the most important things he would like to do is help the college chart a course to a successful and sustainable future, since it is one of the town's bigger assets. He said he thinks bringing students in from outside northwest Kansas is important.

"Where there is a continued decline in the population of rural America," he said, "attracting students to the college is important. ... continue to update our curriculum to have the right focus."

Shields said if elected to the board, he would listen to what

other board members and drive an opinion on the subject at hand. He thinks there is room for new blood and ideas on the board.

Vernon L. Wranosky, 65, a former teacher for the college, said he and his wife Linda have a daughter, Shannon, 34, and a son, Vernon III, 38.

Wranosky says he does not have an agenda going into the election, but believes that the student is the No. 1 consideration and the faculty is No. 2. He said that he wants

to be an independent thinker when it comes to making decisions.

"Accountability, analytical thinking, results, followed by solutions, is how the board should look at things," he said. "I want to be fair to both sides of the issue."

Robert Renner, 59, farms and lives near Mingo. He said he and his wife Connie have five children, Craig, Trent, Travis, Robin and Johnna.

Renner says that dealing with possible state budget cuts, keeping

programs available that are needed, and keeping good instructors are some of the challenges facing the college. He said if elected to the board, he would be a part of the team to run the college.

"The college is important to Thomas County and Colby," he said. "We need to work together to keep a strong institution of higher learning. I hear concerns about what goes on at the college, and I hope I can listen and try and do my best in certain situations."

Renner says he feels the college has a great team and that he believes in education.

"My mother and sister were both teachers, and all my children have college degrees," he said. "My father was on the first elected board at CCC. I hope to carry on the tradition and serve my community."

Renner can be reached at (785) 462-5279 or by e-mail at renner_farm@hotmail.com.

Faulty estimates could torpedo budget

From "BUDGET," Page 1

colleges don't appear to take another — except that the stimulus funds used to achieve the result come with strings that probably mean further belt-tightening for some programs.

The Republican-controlled Legislature had been headed toward a confrontation with the Democratic governor over the budget. GOP leaders had talked about cutting the spending financed with general tax revenues by an average of 10 percent.

"It may not be what I exactly proposed, but it's certainly better than a number of the proposals

that had come out of earlier legislative discussions," Sebelius said of the resulting budget during her most recent news conference.

Republican leaders had worried repeatedly about using stimulus money to pay for programs. The dollars will be available during the state's 2010 and 2011 fiscal years, but there's no promise they will continue. That means, as several GOP legislators noted throughout the budget debate, that the state may simply be postponing difficult decisions rather than solving its budget problems.

"That guarantees that we'll be having these same sorts of discussions for several years to come,"

said Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, an Independence Republican. "What was missed was an opportunity to get the pain behind us, rather than have it linger."

On paper, the budget works without big cuts in higher education or public schools — or any of the tax proposals or the use of licensing fees for unbuilt, state-owned casinos that Sebelius wanted but GOP legislators dislike. Legislative researchers say the state should end its 2010 fiscal year with cash reserves of \$141 million.

But those projections aren't solid. They account for the \$82 million shortfall in projected revenues

from July 1 through Feb. 28, but don't anticipate any further drop.

Some researchers and legislators think it's reasonable to expect revenues to continue to fall short of expectations by about \$20 million each month for March, April, May and June.

If they do, the budget approved for fiscal 2010 will go into the red, because revenue lost in the current fiscal year automatically lowers projected revenues for fiscal next year.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Political Writer John Hanna has covered Kansas government and politics since 1987.

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Corrections

A story on Page 1 in the Wednesday, April 1, *Colby Free Press* stated that Little Texas would be in Colby next Tuesday, April 7. The band will be here April 17. This was a typing and editing error.

☆☆☆☆☆
The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

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