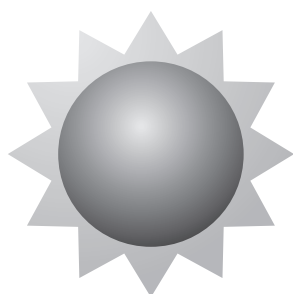


Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 24. West wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Thanksgiving Day: Sunny, with a high near 62. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 28. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 67. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 29.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 49.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 42.

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

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 43.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45.

Monday: High, 38; Low 24
 Tuesday: High, 45; Low 25
 Precip: Monday 0.11 inches
 Tuesday 0.00 inches
 Month: 0.41 inches
 Year: 25.60 inches
 Normal: 19.95 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset

Thursday 7:40 a.m. 5:23 p.m.
 Friday 7:41 a.m. 5:22 p.m.
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

Foggy day for a harvest



STEVE HAYNES/Colby Free Press

One driver walked down the line to talk to a friend Monday while waiting to get to the Cornerstone Ag elevator. After a few days of good weather, the fog didn't deter farm drivers from lining up along Fourth Street to get to the elevator. Snow later that day did put a stop to the harvest.

Governor slashes state budget again

From "BUDGET," Page 1

month.

- \$50 million from the highway maintenance fund. The money will be transferred to the state's general fund.

- \$5 million from the Kansas Bioscience Authority – an organization that oversees bioscience research throughout the state, including the planned National Bio and Agro Defense lab in Manhattan – leaving \$35 million for that organization next year.

- \$2 million from the regents universities.

- Unspent money from state agencies moved to the general fund, including some from the governor's office and the Legislature.

- \$22 million in Medicaid reimbursement rates reduced by 10 percent over the rest of the fiscal year.

- Smaller cuts throughout state agencies, including parole services funding, letting some positions at the Kansas Bureau of Investigation stay open and reducing grants to city libraries.

Other state officials have begun weighing in on the new cuts. Attorney General Steve Six said that, although the state's situation is dire, he was disappointed by the cuts to his office and to Kansas

Bureau of Investigations. "Both agencies play key roles in protecting our families, assisting consumers and preventing fraud in government programs," Six said in a Monday statement. "The money that was cut from our budget is used to fund criminal prosecutions, crime victim services, legal counsel for state agencies and much more."

Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller said the cuts would halt two transportation studies, leave many department jobs unfilled and slash her department's major-project budget to 40 percent of what it has been for the last 10 years.

"Cutting projects will impact jobs, not only of contractors but their suppliers," she said. "It will also eliminate the spinoff spending that happens in communities during construction."

"We're going to do a lot fewer maintenance jobs, and that will result in rougher roads and more vehicle maintenance."

Parkinson defended his actions, saying it is his duty to balance the budget to make it through the session.

"When the Legislature returns in January," he said, "together we must look towards building a solution for the years ahead, or we will permanently damage the foundation of our state."

Santa city grew from humble start to polished event

From "SANTA CITY," Page 1

for a roly poly man in a long white beard and a bright red suit. Above the door, was a little sign that read, "Santa's Hut."

Traditionally, on the day after Thanksgiving, children would dress up like tin soldiers, dolls and teddy bears, and eagerly await the arrival of Santa. Once he got to town, they would parade down Franklin Avenue behind whatever his mode of transportation was for the year. Then they'd wait in line for their turn to sit on the jolly man's lap and whisper in his ear. Not only did they tell him how good they had been all year, but also what they wanted under the tree on Christmas morning.

The little hut has been consigned to history, and in its place, amid the trees in Fike Park, circled with sparkling lights, four-legged critters in holiday garb and magical lighted snow men, stands Santa

City, a holiday wonderland that delights young and old alike.

Leilani Thomas of the Colby Convention and Tourism Bureau said when they started, there were not enough manufactured Christmas trees to take up all the space in the vacant theater, so volunteers gathered giant tumble weeds from behind the Ace Chrome shop. These were sprayed, flocked and decorated with lights to transform what help form a winter wonderland.

Thomas said the Colby Chamber Diplomats used to spend hours picking up dead tree branches, cleaning them and getting them flocked.

"The next year, we'd have to clean off the old flocking and start all over," she said, "but we all coughed and sputtered so much from the old flocking dust that we soon put a stop to that, and found a better way to decorate."

Since that time, she said, many

artificial trees have found their way to the magical little hut, and this year 68, draped in tiny lights, serve as a backdrop as Santa City takes on a "yesteryear" theme to correspond with the 125th anniversary of Thomas County.

"Individuals donate various decorations, and we put them all to good use," said Thomas.

The guest register throughout the years indicates that between 1,500 and 2,000 people tour the display each year. Visitors have signed in from 16 states and three foreign countries, Thomas said.

This year's visitors will be treated to a look at some early-day

plains icons – an Indian tepee, a sod house, characters from the movie "It's a Wonderful Life," the television show *Leave It to Beaver* and all sorts of memories from the past.

And although most of the scenery is at a lower level to meet a child's-eye view, Thomas added, adults get as much enjoyment from the displays as anyone.

Each year it takes about 30 Santa volunteers to help when the jolly old elf can't be there in person, Thomas said.

"We've had so many wonderful volunteers step in when Santa couldn't be here," she said. "Most

people probably remember Vernie Kear, George Weins and Roger Hale, plus many others who have filled in over the years."

This year's decorations are all complete, Thomas said, the place is ready to go. The day after Thanksgiving, Santa will be greeting kids of all ages from 1 to 5 p.m.

Santa's schedule until Monday, Dec. 14, will find him at Santa City from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Beginning that day, he will be greeting visitors weekdays from 6 to 8 p.m., weekends from 1 to 5 and Christmas Eve from 1 to 3.

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