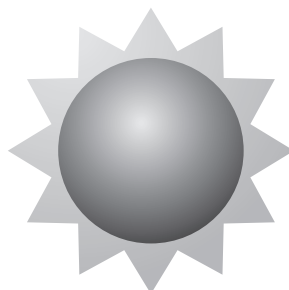


Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 5. Northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 35. West wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 12. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 42. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 17.

Sunday: A 30 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 30.

Sunday Night: A 10 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 12.

Monday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 25.

Monday Night: A 30 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 10.

Tuesday: A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 25.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 13.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 36.

Wednesday: High, 43; Low 11

Precip: Wed. 0.00 inches

Month: 0.00 inches

Year: 25.60 inches

Normal: 20.34 inches

(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset

Friday 7:48 a.m. 5:21 p.m.

(U.S. Naval Observatory)

City council votes 4-3 to raise water and power rates

From "RATES," Page 1

the previous year.

"It would be more prudent for the city to tighten its belt one more notch, then to ask people, especially people on a fixed income to pay more for their water," Voss said.

Voss suggested that the city start with a small increase in water rates, and they should analyze the situation on a yearly basis.

Revenue money the city obtains from water rate taxes go into an overall water reserve fund. This fund is used for operation and maintenance of the water system in town, said Armstrong. This could include things like painting the water tower or buying water rights.

Some of the money gained by the rate increase could also go into an emergency water reserve fund that the council keeps in case something happens that causes the water tower or the standpipe not to work. An example would be if a tornado damaged a few of the city's water wells and they needed money to drill new wells.

City manager Carolyn Armstrong said water rates have not been increased in 15

years and while expenditures continue to rise, revenue has been falling. Since the number of city users has not changed much in the last 15 years, there haven't been any new people pay for the increased water rate costs, she said.

Jerry McKenzie of the consulting firm MGT of America based in Valley Center, completed a study on the water fund. He concluded that under the current rate structure, estimated revenues for next year will drop by more than \$44,000 while costs will increase by about \$72,000. The surplus would be gone by 2011 and the fund would be about \$3 million in debt by 2020.

Water meter charges will increase from \$10 to \$20 for the first 3,000 gallons of water used. After that, the owner will be charged \$1.05 for each 1,000 gallons of water. The current meter rate charge after the first 3,000 gallons is \$.70. An average home uses about 40,000 gallons a month in the summer, which would mean an increase in the water bill from \$35.90 to \$58.85.

Commercial owners will have their meter charges doubled for the first 3,000 gallons used and their bills will increase from \$0.63 to 0.95 every 1,000 gallons after that. For

industrial owners with a water pipe over three inches the amount they will pay after the first 3,000 gallons will rise from \$0.60 to \$0.95.

The city council also has to prepare for the time when the federal government-funded Ace Services Superfund site runs out. The site is currently providing the city with 50 percent of its water.

Ace Services was declared a Superfund site after chromium contamination was found in the groundwater, Armstrong said. She said the water in the site is treated and then put back into the water system where it's used by the public. She said the city started using the treated water about four and a half years ago.

The site provided the city with 224 million gallons in 2008. She said the city might have to buy more water rights in 2012 if the Ace Services site is all cleaned up.

"Once the site is cleaned up we will not get any more water," said Armstrong.

The city will still have access to public well No. 8. The well has been used in conjunction with the Superfund project for the last several years, but the rights to the well are owned by the city. The well provided

the city with 104 million gallons of water in 2008.

Residential owners will have their electric rates increased from \$3.25 to \$3.45, the commercial owners rate will go from \$9.56 to \$10.50 and the industrial owners will see their prices raised from \$22 to \$23.65.

Electric rates for all building owners are based on how many kilowatts they use per hour. Residential building owners currently pay \$0.0928 per kilowatt hour, commercial building owners pay \$0.0878 and industrial owners pay \$0.0711.

Industrial buildings currently have to pay a demand rate of \$5.25 per kilowatt hour. These owners use more water than anyone in the city. Armstrong said some examples of industrial buildings are hotels and grain elevators. The demand rate for owners of these buildings will increase to \$7.25 per month.

The study by McKenzie revealed that the average home uses 1,500 kilowatt hours in the summer. This would amount to an electric bill of \$142.25 under the old rate structure and \$142.50 under the new one.

Colby district students get state reading and math awards

From "AWARDS," Page 1

have been taking the test more seriously, resulting in better scores.

"They know the teachers are working hard and they want to do a good job for them," she said.

Only grades three through six, seven, eight and one class at the high school are tested each year. At the high school, said Curriculum Director Diann Wieland, only students in the geometry are tested, but students in several grade levels will be tested each year.

Because all students are required to take geometry while in high school, she said, they all take the test eventually, and it covers the major subjects.

The results of the test are broken into five groups, from best performance to worst: exemplary, exceeding standards, meets standards, approaches standards and academic warning.

To get this recognition in reading in grades three through five, Wieland said, 25 percent of the students in a grade or building must score at the top level and less than 5 percent at the bottom level. For grades seven and eight, at

least 20 percent must score at the top level and less than 10 percent at the bottom. For high schools, at least 15 percent must score at the top level and less than 10 percent at the bottom.

The requirements for math are a little different. To get the award in math in grades three through six, at least 25 percent of students must score at the top level and less than 5 percent at the bottom. For middle school, 25 percent must score at the top and less than 10 percent at the bottom. For high schools, at least 15 percent must score at the top and less than 15 percent at the bottom.

Each of the groups also has to meet the Adequate Yearly Progress goals for the year, which the Colby School District did.

Harrison said progress goals are required by federal law, though the states set them. The Standards of Excellence awards are given out only by the Kansas department, however.

For each student who scores at the academic warning level, the teachers have to come up with an "improvement program," a plan of special help for that student to

bring their scores up. This program might include more one-on-one time with a teacher or tutor, after-school work or extra study time.

Wieland said the programs are tai-

lored to each student's needs.

Harrison said that because of the time it takes to process the tests, awards this year are for last year's tests. However, because few high

school seniors are tested, most of the students are still in the district the next year to see the results.

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The Colby Free Press is looking for a full-time advertising executive to sell advertising for Nor'West Newspapers. The work week would be 40 hours with occasional evening and weekend duties. Computer skills with Excel, Photoshop, InDesign, and Acrobat helpful but not necessary. Must have good communication skills, and excellent customer service skills with attention to detail. Send a letter and resume to Steve Haynes, publisher, at 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kansas., 67701 or s.haynes@nwkansas.com. This could be the job you've been looking for.



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LOCAL TV LISTINGS

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Saturday Evening												December 5, 2009		
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30				
KAKE/ABC	College Football										Local			
KBSL/CBS	Medium	CSI: NY				48 Hours Mystery		Local						
KSNK/NBC	Parks	The Incredibles				Local		Saturday Night Live						
KSAS/FOX	Cops	Cops	Most Wanted	Local		The Wanda Sykes Show		Sit Down			Local			
Cable Channels														
A & E	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds			Criminal Minds		CSI: Miami		Criminal Minds					
AMC	White Christmas					White Christmas								
ANIM	Dogs 101	Dogs 101			World's Ugliest Dog		Dogs 101		Dogs 101					
BRAVO	Real Housewives OC	The Fugitive				The Fugitive								
CMT	Strict Parents	Wilsons	Wilsons	Wilsons	Wilsons	Strict Parents	Strictest Parents							
CNN	Black in America	Newsroom				Black in America								
COMEDY	Futurama: Wild				Hot Fuzz		Tenacious D							
DISC	MythBusters	MythBusters			MythBusters		MythBusters							
DISN	The Santa Clause 2	Santa Clause 3: Escape		Clause	Montana	Wizards	So Raven	The Suite Cory						
E!	The Sweetest Thing	Sexy Vegas Job				Byte-Women								
ESPN	College Football	SportsCenter				Football Final								
ESPN2	College Football	Score				College Football								
FAM	Harry Potter-Azkaban	Home Alone 3				Home Alone 3								
FOOD	Diner, Drive-In	Guy's Disney Holiday		Diner, Drive-In	Iron Chef America		Guy's Disney Holiday							
FX	Christmas-Krank	Deck the Halls				Sunny		League Damages						
HGTV	Sandra Lee/Christmas	Color	Color	House	House	House	House	Color	Color					
Premium Channels														
HBO	Taken				Boxing									
MAX	Crimson	Harold & Kumar Escape				Gran Torino		Life Top		Busty				
SHOW	Dexter				Transsiberian									
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Sunday Evening												December 6, 2009		
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30				
KAKE/ABC	Extreme-Home		Desperate Housewives			Brothers & Sisters		Local						
KBSL/CBS	The Amazing Race 15		Three Rivers			Cold Case		Local						
KSNK/NBC	Football	NFL Football												
KSAS/FOX	BCS Show	Simpsons	Fam. Guy	Amer Dad	Local									
Cable Channels														
A & E	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds			Criminal Minds		CSI: Miami		Criminal Minds					
AMC	The Green Mile					The Prisoner								
ANIM	Weird	Weird	Untamed and Uncut	The Haunted		Weird	Weird	Untamed and Uncut						
BRAVO	Law Order: CI	Law Order: CI			Law Order: CI		Law Order: CI		Law Order: CI					
CMT	Parents	Strict Parents			Strict Parents		Strict Parents		Strict Parents					
CNN	Black in America	Newsroom				Black in America								
COMEDY	Gabriel Iglesias	Nick Swardson		Com. Cen. Hot		Dunham	Futurama	Futurama						
DISC	Clash of Dino.	Clash of Dino.			Monsters Resurrected		Clash of Dino.							
DISN	Sonny	Jonas	Chronicles of Narnia			Montana		The Suite Cory						
E!	Cutest Child Stars				Girls	Girls	Holly	Chelsea	Girls					
ESPN	Bowl Selection					SportsCenter								
ESPN2	Wm. Basketball	Rodeo				Rodeo								
FAM	Harry Potter	Funnest Home Videos				J. Osteen	Feed							
FOOD	Challenge	Iron Chef America		Chopped		Throwdown-Bobby Flay		Iron Chef America						
FX	Live Free-Die					Sons of Anarchy		Nip/Tuck						
HGTV	Celeb. Homes	House	House	Holmes on Homes		For Rent	Income	House		House				
HIST	Gangland	Jesse James-Treasure												
LIFE	A Christmas Proposal	12 Men of Christmas												
MTV	Jersey Shore				Jackass 2.5		Jackass 2.5		Jackassworld					
NICK	Dora the Explorer	Mr. Troop Mom				Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny The Nanny						
SCI	National Treasure	Alice												
SPIKE	Kung Fu Hustle	Jet Li's Fearless												
TBS	Blades of Glory				Dan in Real Life				Something's					
TCM	All of Me					California Suite		Miss Mend						
TLC	Christmas Light	Cmas Lights			Ice Sculptors		Christmas Light		Cmas Lights					
TNT	War of the Worlds					War of the Worlds								
TOON	Scooby-Doo 2	Grandma Got Run Over		King-Hill	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Robot Chicken							
TRAV	Man/Food	Man/Food	Natives: USA		Meet-Natives: USA		Man/Food		Man/Food					
TV LAND	Griffith	Griffith	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne				
USA	50 Dates	I Now Pronounce You				House		Along Came Polly						
VH1	Tough Love	Tough Love			Sex-Dr. Drew		Tough Love		Sex-Dr. Drew					
WGN	Newhart	Newhart	BarneyM	BarneyM	WGN News/Replay		Cheers		ALF					
Premium Channels														
HBO	Taken				Robin Williams: Weapons				The Wrestler					
MAX	Gran Torino				The Fifth Element									
SHOW	Dexter				Californ				Dexter					
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