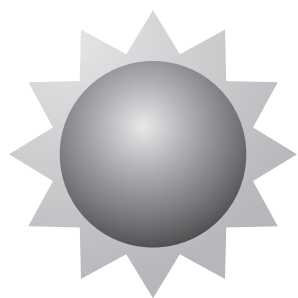


Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 20. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 55. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Tuesday Night: Clear, with a low around 23. South wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 55. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25.

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 43.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 21.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 46.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 19.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 46.

Friday: High, 25; Low -7
Saturday: High, 29; Low 0
Sunday: High, 54; Low 18
Precip: Friday 0.00 inches
Saturday 0.00 inches
Sunday 0.00 inches
Month: 0.00 inches
Year: 0.00 inches
Normal: 0.45 inches (K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
Tuesday 8:04 a.m. 5:42 p.m.
Wednesday 8:03 a.m. 5:43 p.m. (U.S. Naval Observatory)

Exhibit features settlers' stories

From "STORIES," Page 1

a big commitment, who had to build a permanent dwelling, break five acres of ground the first year and more the following years, and live on the land at least half the time to "prove up" a claim.

Alger and Williams took out homestead papers on adjoining land and built dugouts close to one another. They took turns staying in each other's dugouts to combat loneliness and to fulfill their requirement of living on their land half of the time.

Plowing was backbreaking work, done by hand. Plowing the first five acres proved to be a challenge for Alger. Eager to break ground, she hired a man to plow the land for her while she stayed in town and waited for her dugout to be completed. When she visited the homestead to check on the progress, she found that the work had not been completed. The following spring, Alger left nothing to chance. She followed the hired man as he plowed the ground. After the third time working the ground, Alger planted corn.

Neither Alger nor Williams remained alone on their homesteads for long. Williams sold a relinquishment to her property in 1886 and later married John Bean. On Oct. 20, 1886, Alger married James Wallace. That made them the 19th couple to be mar-

ried in Thomas County. After marriage, Melissa Alger Wallace stayed on her homestead with her husband, who walked into Colby each day for his job at the Feehan Meat Market.

Alger's headstone at Beulah Cemetery bears the image of her sod house and the inscription, "The soddy will always be a symbol of the western Kansas pioneer spirit." She was the great-grandmother of Gary Adrian of Colby.

"Melissa Alger and Alice Williams were two of the thousands that came to Thomas County in the 1880s," said Museum Director Sue Taylor. "Their story is just one of the many journey stories that will be highlighted in High Plains Journeys, our companion exhibit to Journey Stories."

The museum plans several Journey Stories programs, including "People in Motion: Migration and Transportation in Kansas," by Isaias McCaffery at noon Thursday, Jan. 21, and "Famous Visitors to Western Kansas" by Evelyn Hoyt Ward at noon Thursday, Feb. 18.

The Colby museum is one of six stops in Kansas for the traveling exhibition, with others in Lindsborg, Glasco, Junction City, Parsons and Atchison. The show is part of the "Museum on Main Street" program through the Smithsonian and the Kansas Humanities Council.

South Kansas town aims to rebuild

ANTHONY (AP) — The south-central Kansas town of Anthony is looking to replace a block-long section of its downtown that burned last summer, hoping to draw businesses back to the area.

The area's remaining shop owners complain that the July 8 fire — which started when a section of alley collapsed, severing a gas line — has hurt business at their stores.

Amy Wells said she's losing customers who would have dropped by her flower and gift store while in town to visit nearby shops that the blaze destroyed.

The city has lost an average of 8 percent of monthly sales tax collections since the fire. But it's unclear how much of that is a direct loss from the missing block, how much from the recession and how much from lost indirect sales.

Town and county leaders predict it will take at least another month before wreckage is cleared.

After that, the city wants to rebuild the block and then offer the

commercial spaces on a lease-to-own plan.

The city hopes to generate money through the creation of a Community Improvement District, which would allow it to increase the sales tax 1 percent if enough businesses agreed to the plan.

That extra sales tax revenue would go toward repaying the building bonds, while the lease payments would be collected to create a revolving loan fund.

"It's not just for the fire," said Harper County Economic Development Director Mike Lanie, "but to create an economic development fund to promote and recruit businesses to come to Anthony."

Opinions of the plan were mixed among business owners.

"When my store burned in '75, I built it back myself," said Larry Olds, owner of Larry's Hometown Market. "I'm not for it."

Wells, whose J-Mac Flowers and Gifts marked the start of its 10th year of business on Main Street last week, backs the pro-

Water main break floods newspaper

From "FLOOD," Page 1

about 3 p.m.. He said he came down to the office to see what the problem was and saw water running out from under the side door.

"The water was 6 inches high in the back room and the basement was totally flooded," he said.

ServiceMaster started cleaning up the back room Sunday morning. The carpet in the back rooms had to be stripped out due to water damage.

City workers arrived on the scene Saturday and worked into the night, digging up the street in front of the office. Colby

street foreman Ron Kogler said the crew finally gave up about 1 a.m. Sunday.

Sunflower Bank also had some water in the basement, but employees were able to just sweep it down the drain, said Vice President Darrell Pabst. City workers said water pressure was weak to businesses in the area of the break, but all were open.

The city crew had just finished dealing with another water leak, at Webster Street and Grant Avenue, discovered about 6 a.m. Friday. The leak has been fixed, and Kogler said he didn't think there was any damage to nearby homes.

Governor to talk taxes in state address tonight

From "GOVERNOR," Page 1

casting station, will provide live coverage of the address. The hour-long broadcast will air at 7 p.m., including a Republican response

by House Speaker Mike O'Neal.

Hosts Tim Brown and Jennifer Schmidt will provide interviews and analysis. In northwest Kansas, the program will air on Smoky Hills Public Television.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table with columns for channel, time, and program titles for Tuesday Evening, January 12, 2010.

Table with columns for channel, time, and program titles for Wednesday Evening, January 13, 2010.

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