

Weather Corner



National Weather Service Tonight: A chance of snow before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 28. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, high near 63. Breezy, with a south wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Friday Night: A chance of rain before 1 a.m., then a chance of rain and snow.

Saturday: A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 45.

Saturday Night: A slight chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, low around 32.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50.

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

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 61.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 34.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 69.

Monday: High, 74; Low 28 Tuesday: High, 58; Low 32

Precip: Monday 0.00 inches Tuesday 0.04 inches

Month: 1.47 inches Year: 2.34 inches

Normal: 1.20 inches (K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset Thursday 7:40 a.m. 8:01 p.m. (U.S. Naval Observatory)

School board trims budget

From "BUDGET," Page 1

tired employees with their Kansas Public Employees Retirement System surcharge. The district currently pays half of the surcharge, which amounts to 20 percent of a retired employee's paycheck.

"We wanted to help these people," said board member Kevan Taylor. "We're just not able to afford it."

Harrison said the district spent \$24,000 on the surcharge for six retired employees in 2009 and the system is always raising the contribution amount. The change will take effect next fiscal year.

The staff also recommended the district charge a fee for the use of school facilities like the gyms or auditoriums, but the board chose to table that and discuss it at the next meeting.

Currently, the district only charges for facility use if an event doesn't involve students. DeYoung said the facilities would probably see less use if there was a fee.

"It would be bad for the community," she said. "But it's a very expensive thing to operate these facilities at the low cost or no cost that we do now."

Board member Tracy Rogers said he had discussed the issue with the Colby Recreation Department and they said if the school put in fees for its facilities, the department would probably charge them in return.

"I just wonder if we're getting into a shouting match we don't want to get into," said board member Omar Weber. "There's got to be a happy medium here."

The recommendation will be discussed again at the April 5 board meeting.

Health care rejection amendment fails to pass House of Representatives

From "HEALTH CARE," Page 1

want to prevent insurance companies from denying coverage to people with pre-existing medical conditions and to keep their young adult children on their insurance — both issues covered by the federal law.

"There are a lot of things that people in my district like," Ward said. "I think in my district and most of Kansas, they think it's premature to do a constitutional amendment."

Tuesday's vote didn't quite kill the measure, because the chamber's rules give members 24 hours to reconsider an action if someone

on the prevailing side asks. One "no" vote was cast by Rep. Virgil Peck, a conservative Tyro Republican who supports the amendment.

Asked about his vote, Peck joked that he'd punched the wrong button at his desk. Then, becoming serious, he said, "There's still some work to be done."

If supporters get the House to reconsider, they also need a two-thirds majority in the Senate to put their proposal on the Nov. 2 general election ballot.

If the House won't reconsider the proposed amendment, supporters have other options.

They could attempt to enact a

new state law to prohibit Kansas from requiring any individual or business to buy health insurance. But they'd have to persuade Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson to sign it, and he said Monday that with the federal law in place, "It's time to move forward."

There's also the possibility of suing the federal government. Kansas Attorney General Steve Six, a Democrat, said he's reviewing the new law.

Coalition to hold town hall meeting soon

From "MEETING," Page 1

and 12 have participated in the Kansas Communities That Care Survey. The following are just a few of the survey results from Thomas County. The students said that during the past 30 days, 27.1 percent of students said they have had beer, wine or hard liquor at least once. Among 12th graders, 12.1 percent said their parents would not feel it would be wrong for them to drink alcohol and 23.7 percent of all students said it

would be very easy to get alcohol if they wanted some.

"My desire for this town hall meeting is to promote education and awareness," Romine said. "If I had something to say that they would listen to, it would be the message 'one-life equals one-choice.'"

"I hope parents and children alike will realize a moment's distraction could have fatal consequences," he added. "I hope they see that education gives them choice."

Smoky Hills television holds meeting in Colby

From "TELEVISION," Page 1

ber list.

The image and awareness committee discussed preview screenings, noting that the Great Bend theater is being considered for Masterpiece Theater, The Diary of Anne Frank, in April. The committee is looking for other community theaters to be used for future preview screenings, commenting how it could open up a whole new potential for programming and marketing opportunities. They want to look at specific outings geared toward kids throughout the summer especially.

"We want people to come to know that we are a safe place to be for kids every morning," Meredith said.

The development committee noted three local one-time productions, "The Miss Southwest Kansas Pageant," the "3-2-1 Wrestling Tournament," and "1-A State Basketball." Other underwritten programming includes Kansas Ag Week, which starts in May and Down Home Country, a music program from Branson with Mickey Gillie

slated to be the voice of the program. The committee said they use Colby's own Rich Epp for sports underwriting.

The Signature Auction 2010 will be Saturday and Sunday, April 17 and 18, (with an on-line auction from Tuesday through Monday, April 26). Special items to be auctioned off include signed basketballs from Kansas State University and the University of Kansas, and a guitar with over 80 celebrity signatures.

Meredith discussed the station's need for a new facility, saying they have completely outgrown their current building. He has considered moving the station to a different town or possibly staying in Bunker Hill and building a new building. It was decided that he would send a survey to all board members, sharing the consensus at the May meeting.

Meredith shared that Smoky Hills will begin broadcasting at 6:30 a.m., starting Monday, May 10.

The board meets next on Thursday, May 27, in Garden City.



Thursday Evening March 25, 2010

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, etc.) listing programs like FlashForward, Grey's Anatomy, Private Practice, etc.

Friday Evening March 26, 2010

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, etc.) listing programs like Jamie Oliver's Food, Jamie Oliver's Food, etc.

We're Back!

With new carpet, paint and vinyl, we're finally back in our front office and conference room. Thanks to our landlords, Sara and Travis Oliver, for making full repairs to our building after the flooding. We invite all our friends and customers to stop by and see our new look.

Our customers are always our No. 1 priority at The Colby Free Press. We appreciate your patience, having to come find us while we've been crammed into the back room. And we're happy to be back in our usual places. Stop and by see us today!



COLBY FREE PRESS

Office hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday.

155 W. Fifth St. • (785) 462-3963

We Celebrate Hometown Life Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

Table with columns for TV channels and program titles, including American Profile, Gangland, Project Runway, etc.