

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Windy. Lows in the mid 50s. South winds 20 to 30 mph.
Tuesday: Mostly cloudy. Windy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 70s. South winds 20 to 30 mph.
Tuesday Night: Windy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 40s. South winds 20 to 30 mph becoming west 10 to 15 mph after midnight.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs around 70. North winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the east in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows around 50.
Thursday through Friday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 70s. Lows in the mid 40s.
Saturday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 60s.
Saturday Night and Sunday: Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Highs in the lower 60s.
Friday: High, 68; Low 30
Saturday: High, 64; Low 32
Sunday: High, 73; Low 41
Precip: Friday 0.00 inches
Saturday 0.00 inches
Sunday 0.00 inches
Month: 0.40 inches
Year: 3.01 inches
Normal: 3.89 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Tuesday 7:10 a.m. 8:20 p.m.
Wednesday 7:09 a.m. 8:21 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Broadband bill stimulates laments from companies

By Joelle Tessler
AP Technology Writer

WASHINGTON — When Congress included \$7.2 billion for broadband in last year's stimulus bill, its goal was to bring high-speed Internet connections and information-age jobs to parts of the country desperate for both.
Now as the government awards the money, some phone and cable companies complain that not all of it is being used to bring broadband to places that lack it. Instead, these companies say, much of the money will fund new networks in places where they already offer service.

and undermining the goals of the stimulus plan.
"It is extremely unfair that the government comes in and uses big government money to harm existing private businesses," says Gary Shorman, president of Eagle Communications, a Kansas cable company with about 16,000 customers.
Eagle is bracing for competition in its hometown of Hays from Rural Telephone Service Co., a telephone cooperative which received \$101 million in stimulus grants and loans "to bring broadband to rural Kansas," Shorman's prediction: "This hurts our company."
Yet government officials handing out the awards and the backers of the projects insist the money is being well spent. They contend that the stimulus dollars should be used to expand high-speed Internet access not only to places where it is totally unavailable, but also in regions where what is available is not good enough.
Many existing systems, they note, lack the capacity to meet mushrooming demand

for bandwidth. The new stimulus-funded networks will provide far more robust connections — many with speeds of up to 100 megabits or even 10 gigabits per second to schools, libraries and other "anchor institutions."
"It's a little disappointing that companies that aren't adequately serving these areas are trying to undercut those of us who are trying to step in and get the service where it's needed," says Lawrence Strickling, head of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.
The agency and the Agriculture Department's Rural Utilities Service have given out more than \$2 billion in stimulus grants and loans and now are sorting through piles of applications for what's left of the money. The cash is going for high-speed networks, computer centers and broadband adoption programs, and the recipients include government agencies, rural cooperatives and private companies.
Of the 140 awards made so far, 108 will help pay for broadband networks. And

roughly 70 percent of them cover areas already served at least in part by existing broadband providers, according to a U.S. Telecom Association analysis of data that existing carriers have filed with the government.
Government officials say such arguments reflect a fundamental misunderstanding of the stimulus program.
The \$101 million Kansas project, for instance, will bring connection speeds of up to 1 gigabit to businesses and up to 100 megabits to as many as 23,000 homes. While the network will cover the population center of Hays, where both Rural Telephone and Eagle Communications already offer broadband, that accounts for just eight of the 4,600 square miles to be reached. Much of the area has no broadband at all, says Larry Sevier, Rural Telephone's chief executive.
The goal is to "close the digital divide between Hays and the outlying areas," says Jonathan Adelstein, head of the Rural Utilities Service, which awarded the money.

Network aims to stop theft of farm equipment, chemicals

From "THEFT," Page 1
past decade.
"The steal batteries out of tractors," he said, noting that farmers often leave their equipment in the fields when spring arrives. "We've

had tractors stolen, as well."
Some thieves also take anhydrous ammonia from farmers and elevators to make meth. Others are stealing copper wire, metal and fuel from the pump motors on irrigation center pivots.
Some farmers have taken matters into their own hands.

Olmitz-area farmer Mark Hlavaty said two weeks ago, he found two men taking tools and other items out of his vehicle. He chased them down when they took off.
John Hickey of Barton County set up a homemade burglar alarm using a cell phone and motion sensor to alert him to any suspicious activity on a farm he owns but doesn't occupy. He said the sys-

tem sent him a 4 a.m. call from a farm shop last summer, thwarting a burglary.
Hickey said he understands that law-enforcement officers can't protect against every thief in remote areas.
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Alumni recognize grads

From "ALUMNI," Page 1
will also be on display.
"The response at last year's reception was amazing," Taylor said. "There were several hundred graduates and friends in attendance, and we're expecting a good turn out again this year."
Nominations can be mailed to:

High Flying Eagles, CHS Wall of Honor in care of Prairie Museum, 1905 S. Franklin, Colby, Kan., 67701, or e-mailed to prairiem@st-tel.net, or by contact the Alumni Association at www.eaglesalumni.org.
The committee reserves the right to edit or omit submissions, Taylor said.

State music festival here all day Thursday

From "MUSIC," Page 1
most every classroom. Nichols said Colby students will serve as student hosts, getting visiting bands and choirs to and from the auditorium, moving equipment and setting up the stage for each new group.
The festival is held in 15 loca-

tions throughout the state, including as Overland Park, Burlington and Lindsborg.
Schools performing here include Northern Valley, Rawlins County, Cheylin, Colby, Deerfield, Dighton, Goodland, Holcomb, Lakin, Wichita County, Norton, Decatur Community, Syracuse and Quinter.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table with columns for Time (7:00-11:30) and TV Channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, etc.) listing programs like Dancing With Stars, NCIS, The Biggest Loser, etc.

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ATTENTION... Colby High School, Brewster High School, Golden Plains High School and Heartland Christian School Senior Parents & HOMESCHOOLERS

The Colby Free Press is now planning the Senior Graduation Tab and will be giving parents a chance to put a baby picture in along with a short message from the family for a small fee.
We will automatically feature your student's picture and information, but this will be your chance to put in a baby picture to show how much your senior has really changed over the years!
Call Andrea, Heather or Shaly @ 462-3963 for more information or stop by the office at 155 W. 5th in Colby.

WHITNEY COLETTE ADAMS
Small Sample
I plan to attend Colby Community College and play softball
PARENTS: Richard & Peggy Adams
It's been a real hoot, Whitney go get em girl, and Godspeed. Love, Mom & Dad

COLBY FREE PRESS logo and decorative elements.