

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Patchy fog after midnight. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 17. South wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: Patchy fog before 9 a.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 36. South wind around 5 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20. South wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 47. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25.

Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 47.

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

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 42.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 46.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50.

Thursday: High, 45; Low 18
Precip: Thursday 0.00 inches
Month: 0.07 inches
Year: 18.22 inches
Normal: 20.34 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Saturday 7:59 a.m. 5:23 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m. 5:23 p.m.
Monday 8:00 a.m. 5:24 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

College riders help the Army



SHANDA MATTIX/Colby Community College

Colby College equestrian team members Mariah Woolsoncroft, Morgan Harms, Miranda Mock and Kayla Cook did bell ringing for the Thomas County Salvation Army at WalMart. The equestrian team volunteered 20 hours from Nov. 29 to Dec. 4 to help raise money for the charity organization.

College advertising for prof

From "COLLEGE," Page 1

ergy Technologies covers several types of renewable energy, including wind, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, geothermal and biofuel. Reilley taught Introduction to Solar Photovoltaic in August and the fall and again in the spring.

The board discussed having the new employee meet targeted requirements before realizing this could cause a conflict with the Faculty Alliance. Davis suggested the college hire someone on a temporary agreement. If the program meets the projected enrollment goals, that person could be hired as a full-time instructor.

Alan Waites, vice president of business affairs, said the money is in the budget and suggested they start advertising right away. The

board agreed, but made no commitment to actually hire someone. The members agreed to discuss the job again at their first meeting in January.

Davis said the college estimates 15 students will enroll in the renewable program next fall and 20 in 2012. She said wind and solar photovoltaic will be the only classes next fall.

All three renewable sources will eventually be incorporated into the program, Davis said. She said they want to have the person hired by February or March.

In other business, the board:
• Heard Waites say the college had \$7.6 million left in the 2010-2011 budget, which has to last through June. He said about 60 percent of the budget remains.
• Heard Endowment Foundation

Director Nick Wells report that Colby Ag had given the lowest bid for a Bobcat skid loader that will be leased to the college farm for \$3,575 per month for a year. The Dane G. Hansen Foundation is paying for the loader, he said.

Drought starts grip on High Plains crop

From "DROUGHT," Page 1

ery night, he said. Until then, the plants continue to grow and any moisture from rain or snow will soak into the unfrozen ground, helping the wheat establish good roots. If those roots aren't well-established, Milliman said, farmers will see a lot of the plants simply blow away over the winter.

Worse still, the dry weather may delay some wheat from sprouting, which will reduce yields.

"Anything that sprouts in the spring instead of fall will bring 50 to 60 percent yield loss," Milliman said.

The agent said the lower yields will hurt area farmers, especially after the good yields of the past several years. Last year saw a wetter fall and winter and an extra-wet spring, with enough rain in July to delay harvest.

"The moisture was there to get it started," Milliman said. "This year, the wheat has already been hit hard."

Milliman said some farmers may end up tilling their wheat fields and replanting them with corn in the spring.

Dave Floyd, warning coordination meteorologist with the weather service in Goodland, said one of the main contributing factors to the dry winter is La Niña, colder-than-average sea temperatures in the Pacific. A moderate to strong La Niña means thunderstorms will generate in the South Pacific near Indonesia rather than near Hawaii or South America, he said, affecting weather over the continental United States.

er service in Goodland, said one of the main contributing factors to the dry winter is La Niña, colder-than-average sea temperatures in the Pacific. A moderate to strong La Niña means thunderstorms will generate in the South Pacific near Indonesia rather than near Hawaii or South America, he said, affecting weather over the continental United States.

"It's sort of a trickle-down effect," he said.

In winter, the jet stream is over the High Plains, bringing in the drier air from the La Niña. Floyd said the sea temperatures swing one way or the other every three to five years.

There could be other contributing factors, he said, but the sea temperatures are the most predictable.

"There are other things that can influence winter as a whole," he said, "but the most predictable is the La Niña-El Niño ocean water swings, and we're in a moderate to strong La Niña right now."

Floyd said current weather models predict the La Niña influence in western Kansas will continue until late spring or early summer, when the jet stream usually moves north to the Canadian border.

Could market soar to a new peak

From "DOW-JONES," Page 1

fairly rosy scenario, where there isn't a whole lot of competition for stocks."

Corporate bonds provide decent income but lack the potential of stocks to appreciate. Interest rates on cash investments, such as bank CDs and money market mutual funds, remain in the basement. Meanwhile, corporate earnings keep rising, which makes stocks more appealing. Companies also are sitting on a record amount of cash, giving them leeway to pay bigger dividends, buy their own stock or buy competitors.

The economy could help, too. The Great Recession ended in June of last year, so this economic expansion is only one and a half years old. Expansions since World War II have lasted an average of nearly five years. The Dow doesn't always rise the year a recovery

marks its second anniversary. But the last time it did so, in 2003, the Dow jumped 25 percent. Here's a look at how the Dow made a leap of more than 23 percent six times the past 25 years:

- 1985. A third straight year of strong economic growth - GDP grew 4.1 percent - after a deep recession had ended in November 1982 fueled a 28 percent gain in the Dow. The inflation rate remained stable a fourth straight year, convincing many investors that the inflation monster of the late 1970s had been slain.
• 1989. Mergers and acquisitions, including takeovers by corporate raiders, helped push the Dow up 27 percent. In August, the Dow regained the level it had reached in August 1987, two months before that year's "Black Monday" crash.
• 1995. The Dow jumped 33 percent as what would become

the longest economic expansion in U.S. history powered through its fifth year. And more Americans were putting money into stocks through company-sponsored retirement accounts.

- 1996. The Dow rose another 26 percent as the economy continued strong. Stocks gained so much that Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan asked in a speech in December whether "irrational exuberance has unduly escalated asset values."
• 1999. Strong corporate profits and excitement about the Internet pushed the Dow up 25 percent. Earnings per share for the companies in the S&P 500 index jumped 28 percent, the strongest growth since 1994.
• 2003. The Dow rose 25 percent as the economy enjoyed its second year of recovery after the 2001 recession.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Saturday Evening December 18, 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 program names like Dog for Christmas, CSI: Miami, etc.

Sunday Evening December 19, 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 program names like The Santa Clause 2, Survivor: Nicaragua, etc.



Reduce Your Taxes

Colby Community College Tax Credits are still available

Receive a 54% Kansas State Income Tax Credit on 2010 returns. Depending on your income, you may be eligible to receive a deduction resulting in further savings on your Federal Income Tax.

Examples

Table with 4 columns: Contribution to CCC, Less: Tax Credit, State of Kansas (54%), Approximate Savings on Federal Income Tax*, Estimated Net Cost for Contribution.

All donations are eligible (no minimum).

For tax credit details contact Chief Financial Officer Alan Waites at (785) 460-5402 or Nick Wells, Foundation Director, at (785) 460-4684.

*Based on taxable income above \$33,950 (single) or \$67,900 (married). Filing jointly (both have a "marginal tax rate" of 25%). Tax savings could be greater based on higher taxable income, thereby lowering the overall net cash flow for a contribution.

