

Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: Areas of freezing drizzle before 1 a.m., then snow likely. Areas of fog before 1 a.m. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 28. East wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. Little or no ice accumulation expected. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Tuesday: Snow likely before 1 p.m., then a chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 43. North wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25. East wind around 5 mph becoming south.

Wednesday: A slight chance of rain and snow before 1 p.m., then a slight chance of rain. Some thunder is also possible. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 49. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

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

Thursday: Mostly sunny and breezy, with a high near 61.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 37.

Friday: Sunny and breezy, with a high near 70.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 40.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 70.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 45.

Sunday: Partly sunny and breezy, with a high near 71.

Friday: High, 49; Low 26
Saturday: High, 49; Low 28
Sunday: High, 30; Low 27
Precip: Friday None
Saturday Trace
Sunday 0.03 inches
Month: 0.47 inches
Year: 0.90 inches
Normal: 2.11 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
Tuesday 7:34 a.m. 8:05 p.m.
Wednesday 7:32 a.m. 8:06 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Colby post office could lose sorting center

From "SORTING," Page 1

more people, equipment and buildings than it needs and consolidating operations make good business sense.

"It would be fiscally irresponsible not to do so," he said.

Loukota said the service doesn't know yet how much money would be saved by consolidations; that will be determined in the study. Another priority, he said, is to find a way to consolidate without delaying processing or turnaround times.

"We want to make sure there is no impact," he said. "Time and money, those are the things we have to look at."

Loukota acknowledged that layoffs may be a possibility, but said the service would make every effort to find employees another place within the company.

Sperry said any changes would not affect customer service in the front office.

The Postal Service is soliciting public comments on consolidation as part of the feasibility study. Loukota said comments can be sent to Mgr. Consumer Affairs, U.S.

Postal Service, Box 199504, Omaha, Neb., 68119.

Loukota said the study will take about 60 days, and the service is already partway through it. He said they should have a decision within six weeks. If the study supports closing the Colby processing center, he said, the service would hold a public meeting in Colby for business owners and residential customers.

This isn't the only cost-saving measure the post office is undertaking. On Thursday, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe

announced the service would get rid of 7,500 positions around the country and close seven district offices. The service offered an early retirement option to some of those employees, most in management or administrative jobs. The service also plans to close about 2,000 post offices over the next two years.

Donahoe said the moves are part of a plan that would save the post office about \$750 million each year. However, its deficit approaches \$10 billion a year.

State legislators still far apart on pension funding

From "PENSION," Page 1

sets up a study commission to examine that issue.

The system faces a projected \$7.7 billion shortfall between anticipated long-term revenues and the benefits it has promised public employees over the next few decades, a gap known as its unfunded liability. A national report said last year that its assets would cover only 59 percent of its long-term liabilities, giving Kansas the second-lowest percentage of any U.S. state, behind only Illinois.

It's likely that House and Senate negotiators will start work this week on the final version of pension legislation. The Senate approved its plan last week, 35-4, and the House was expected to pass its measure when it took a final vote Monday.

"They can agree that the time is now to start addressing this unfunded liability," House Speaker Mike O'Neal, a Hutchinson Republican, said of the negotiators. "It's a matter of what they can agree on right now."

Retirement system officials continue to analyze the two plans, concluding so far that both appear likely to achieve balance in a decade, where annual revenues and investment earnings will keep up with the system's promises for benefits.

"They have about the same impact," said executive director Glenn Deck. "You do have two very different positions in the

House and the Senate."

Public employee groups are resisting proposals that would require concessions from their members, such as cuts in future benefits or requiring workers to pay a higher percentage of their salaries into the plan. They argue legislators and governors have shorted the state's contribution for years, perhaps decades.

The Senate's proposal would boost the state's annual contribution by \$23 million, starting July 1, 2013, the most aggressive increase proposed this year. The House plan raises the annual contribution by about \$10 million.

In revising current plans, the Senate increases employee contributions. About 131,500 teachers and government workers covered by the system pay 4 percent of their salaries to the pension fund. Under the Senate plan, that would increase to 6 percent by 2016, though those workers would get a small boost in their pensions in exchange.

Another 20,000 employees, hired after June 2009, already pay 6 percent of their salaries into the fund, and they've been promised annual cost-of-living adjustments in their benefits after they retire. With the Senate plan, they could keep the annual adjustments and pay 8 percent of their pay into the pension system, or forgo the future adjustments and pay 6 percent.

The GOP holds large majorities in both chambers, but the Senate plan, drafted by President Steve

Morris, a Hugoton Republican, has bipartisan support. Public employee groups see it as reasonable, though the Kansas Organization of State Employees worries about the potential recommendations from the study commission.

"It does ask state employees to sacrifice a little, but it acknowledges that the heavy lifting has to be done by the Legislature," said House Minority Leader Paul Davis, a Lawrence Democrat.

Dissenters in the Senate, all Republicans, thought the plan didn't go far enough, and many House Republicans agree. O'Neal said his GOP-dominated chamber is reluctant to create a study commission. Under the Senate plan,

it would make recommendations to legislators by December, and they'd have until June 2012 to vote on its proposals.

"You can study these things to death," O'Neal said. "In our view the time for action is now, not later."

But the House's proposals are eyebrow-raising — and inspire strong criticism from public employee groups. Its bill would change how pension benefits are calculated for teachers and government workers after July 1, 2013, giving them 20 percent less credit for each year of service after that date.

There is also the move toward 401(k)-style plans that base ben-

efits on investment earnings — and in theory don't accrue unfunded liabilities — unlike traditional plans that guarantee benefits up front based on a worker's salary and years of experience. Public employee groups view such proposals as an attack on workers' retirement security.

Even some Republican senators are wary of moving too quickly. Morris said there's a growing concern that if the state tries to start a 401(k)-style plan, the federal Internal Revenue Service will require Kansas to pay off the unfunded liability within a decade.

"To do something that significant on the fly — I'm not sure we want to do it that way," he said.

'Zombies ahead' sign warns

FORT MILL, S.C. (AP) — Drivers near the South Carolina-North Carolina state line have been warned to be on the lookout for zombies, hunters and tanks.

The Herald of Rock Hill reports that one of the electronic signs, which normally flash messages about construction or crashes, read "Zombies Ahead" on March 20. Another flashed "Watch for Hunters," while a third said "Be alert for Tanks."

The signs are on Highway 160 near Fort Mill, S.C.

Ken Wilson with the state's transportation department says a key is needed to get into the control box for the signs. A code is needed to change the wording.

So far, there have been no reports of the undead or tanks.

Hackers pulled similar pranks in 2009, using road signs to warn of zombies in Collinsville, Ill., and Austin, Texas.

Want to know what's happening?

The Colby Free Press is looking for a part-time **Family Lifestyles Editor** to do social notes, weddings, engagements, obituaries, church and club items, features and other news of interest to the town. This is a great way to be in touch with the pulse of your town and get to know a lot of people.

It requires accuracy, speed and attention to detail. Work week would be 10-15 hours. Pay commensurate with experience and ability. Send a letter or e-mail to Kevin Bottrell, editor, at 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701, kbottrell@nwkansas.com. This could be the job you've been looking for. EOE m/f/h.



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LOCAL TV LISTINGS

sponsored by the

Tuesday Evening											March 29, 2011	
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30		
KAKE/ABC	Dancing With Stars		Dancing With Stars		Body of Proof		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live			
KBSL/CBS	NCIS		NCIS: Los Angeles		The Good Wife		Local	Late Show	Letterman		Late	
KSNK/NBC	The Biggest Loser				Parenthood		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno			Late	
KSAS/FOX	Glee		Raising	Traffic								
Cable Channels												
A & E	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48			
AMC	Eraser				Eraser							
ANIM	I'm Alive		The Haunted		The Haunted		I'm Alive		The Haunted			
BRAVO	Housewives/OC		Million Dollar List.		The Real Housewives of Miami		The Real Housewives of Miami					
CMT	Rock Star				Cribs		Smarter	Smarter	Smarter	Smarter		
CNN	In the Arena		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360				Piers Morgan Tonight			
COMEDY	Ralphie May		Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Daily	Colbert	Tosh.0	Tosh.0		
DISC	Desert Car Kings		Desert Car Kings		Desert Car Kings		Desert Car Kings		Desert Car Kings			
DISN	Deck	Deck	Deck	Deck	Deck	Deck	Good Luck	Good Luck	Hannah	Hannah		
E!	Sex/City	Sex/City	After Lat	After Lat	Kourtney	Kourtney	Chelsea	E! News		Chelsea		
ESPN	Wm. Basketball		Wm. Basketball				SportsCenter		Scorebrd	NFL Live		
ESPN2	College Basketball		College Basketball					NFL Live	SportsNation			
FAM	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		The 700 Club		Whose? Whose?			
FOOD	Cupcake Wars		Cupcake Wars		Chopped		Challenge	Cupcake Wars				
FX	Hancock				Lights Out		Lights Out		Justified			
HGTV	First	First	Property	Property	House	Hunters	Property	Property	Property	Property		
HIST	Larry the Cable Guy		Larry the Cable Guy		Top Shot		Top Shot		Larry the Cable Guy			
LIFE	American Pickers		American Pickers		One Born Ev.		Four		Chris	How I Met		
MTV	Teen Mom 2		Teen Mom 2		Teen Mom 2		Life, Liz		Teen Mom 2			
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	Chris	Chris	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny		
SCI	Destination Truth		Destination Truth		Marcel's Quantum		Destination Truth		Marcel's Quantum			
SPIKE	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Auction	Auction	3 Sheets	UFC Fight Night			
TBS	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Conan		Lopez Tonight			
TCM	Dinner at Eight				The Girl From Missouri			Platinum Blonde				
TLC	William & Kate		What Not to Wear		What the	What the	William & Kate		What Not to Wear			
TNT	Bones		Foot's Gold				HawthoRNe		CSI: NY			
TOON	Hole/Wall	Adventure	King/Hill	King-Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen		
TRAV	Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods			
TV LAND	Sanford	Sanford	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne		
USA	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Fairly Legal			
VH1	Hip Hop	Hip Hop	RuPaul's Drag Race		Fabulous	Fabulous	Fabulous	Booty Call				
WGN	Chris	Chris	How I Met	How I Met	WGN News at Nine		Scrubs	Scrubs	South Pk	South Pk		
Premium Channels												
HBO	Just Wright				Mildred Pierce			Gervais	Funny or			
MAX	Edge of Darkness				Harry Potter-Prince				Life-Top			
SHOW	Leaves of Grass		Nurse	Tara	Nurse	Tara	Shameless		Californ.	Californ.		

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Wednesday Evening											March 30, 2011	
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30		
KAKE/ABC	Middle	Middle	Family	Sunshine	Off the Map		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live			
KBSL/CBS	Survivor: Redemption		Criminal Minds		C.M.: Suspect		Local	Late Show	Letterman		Late	
KSNK/NBC	Minute to Win It		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno			Late	
KSAS/FOX	American Idol				Local							
Cable Channels												
A & E	Dog	Dog	Dog Bounty Hunter		Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Dog	Dog		
AMC	Speed						Speed					
ANIM	River Monsters		River Monsters		I'm Alive		River Monsters		I'm Alive			
BRAVO	Top Chef		Top Chef		Top Chef		Happens	Top Chef	Happens			
CMT	Dukes-Hazzard				Dukes-Hazzard				Wedding			
CNN	In the Arena		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360				Piers Morgan Tonight			
COMEDY	Chappelle	Chappelle	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	Tosh.0	Daily	Colbert	South Pk	South Pk		
DISC	Sons	Sons	Sons	Sons	S Beach	S Beach	Sons	Sons	Sons	Sons		
DISN	Starstruck		Deck		Deck		Good Luck	Good Luck	Hannah	Hannah		
E!	Sex/City	Sex/City	True Hollywood Story		True Hollywood Story		Chelsea	E! News		Chelsea		
ESPN	NBA Basketball				HS Basketball				SportsCenter			
ESPN2	ATP Tennis						SportsCtr	NFL Live	Baseball Tonight			
FAM	WillyWonk	Charlie & Chocolate			The 700 Club			Whose? Whose?		Whose? Whose?		
FOOD	B. Flay	B. Flay	Chopped All-Stars		Restaurant: Im.		Diners	Diners	Chopped All-Stars			
FX	X-Files: Believe				Justified		Justified		Lights Out			
HGTV	Property	Property	House	House	Hunters	Holmes Inspection	Income	House	House			

American Profile

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

HIST	Ancient Aliens		Secret Access		Nostradamus Effect		Ancient Aliens					
LIFE	American Justice		Inside Story		How I Met	How I Met	Chris	How I Met				
MTV	Life, Liz	Teen Mom 2			The Real World		Facebook	The Real World	RJ Berger			
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	Chris	Chris	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny		
SCI	Ghost Hunters		Ghost Hunters		Fact or Faked		Ghost Hunters		Fact or Faked			
SPIKE	UFC Unleashed		The Ultimate Fighter		Coal		Coal		The Ultimate Fighter			
TBS	Browns	Browns	Are We Th	Are We Th	Payne	Payne	Conan		Lopez Tonight			
TCM	Ministry of Fear		The Fallen		idol			I'm No Angel				
TLC	Sister	Sister	Hoard-Buried		Hoard-Buried		Hoard-Buried		Hoard-Buried			
TNT	Bones		Bones		Bones		CSI: NY		CSI: NY			
TOON	Dude	Destroy	King-Hill	King-Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen		
TRAV	Man v. Food		Man, Food	Man, Food	Man, Food	Man, Food	Diner Paradise		Man, Food	Man, Food		
TV LAND	Sanford	Sanford	Raymond	Raymond	Cleveland	Cleveland	Roseanne	Roseanne				