

Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 10 p.m. Patchy fog after 1 a.m. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 64. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 90. East wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 94. South wind around 10 mph becoming east.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 67.

Independence Day: Sunny and hot, with a high near 98.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 66.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 95.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 65.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 91.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 63.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 88.

Thursday: High, 106; Low 61
Precip: Thursday None
Month: None
Year: 7.15 inches
Normal: 13.61 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset

Saturday 6:21 a.m. 9:15 p.m.
Sunday 6:22 a.m. 9:15 p.m.
Monday 6:22 a.m. 9:15 p.m.
Tuesday 6:23 a.m. 9:14 p.m.
Wednesday 6:24 a.m. 9:14 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Colby Water Use

Thursday 3,122,000 gal.
(Colby Public Works)



TOM BETZ/The Goodland Star-News

A U.S. Army bomb tester took his equipment inside the Goodland house Wednesday to test for explosives.

Army called in for Goodland scare

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in the apparent threat we would ask them to evacuate. My officers and I wanted to be sure the people were not in danger."

A Highway Patrol special unit flew a special dog in from Topeka and had another dog unit drive to Goodland.

Four members of a U.S. Army unit from Fort Riley arrived about 9:30 p.m.

The Goodland fire department set up scene lights in front of the house and had two spotlights helping illuminate the scene. A large fluorescent-type column light was set up in front of the house by the Sherman County Sheriff's department.

Showalter said after the second search was complete the apparent explosive material was taken away by the Army.

State announces closure of nine social service offices

WICHITA (AP) - The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services plans to close nine service centers across Kansas in a cost-cutting move.

The agency said Friday that SRS beneficiaries will see no disruption in services as their cases are reassigned. No staff layoffs are anticipated since workers will be reassigned to neighboring offices.

Those getting the ax include offices in Coffeyville, Fort Scott,

Garnett and Lawrence. Also being closed are those in Lyndon, Marysville, McPherson, Pratt and Wellington. SRS plans to merge its six existing regions into four.

The Legislature directed SRS to cut \$42 million, including \$1 million in administrative costs for fiscal year 2012.

SRS Secretary Rod Siedlecki said in a news release the agency identified a way to achieve those savings while still providing exemplary services.

Insurance official explains his duties

From "OFFICIAL," Page 1

Tomlinson said the department has several purposes: to educate people about insurance, license agents to sell insurance in Kansas, and serve as an advocate for both consumers and insurance companies if a complaint is made.

"To some extent we're like a referee at a football game," he said. "We're the guy out there throwing flags."

Fraud makes up a large part of the department's duties. Tomlinson said the department is able to look at hail tracks and see where hail is likely to have fallen. This helps the department determine whether or not damage claims are legitimate.

"Everyone who lays a claim to which they are not entitled raises everyone's rates," he said.

Once a fraudulent claim is discovered, Tomlinson said, the insurance company can ask for its payout back, and put a lien on the home until its paid back. Sometimes the companies simply pay the claim, then drop the customer, he said.

But fraud goes both ways. The department investigates fraud charges against insurance companies as well as consumers, Tomlinson said, especially if someone is accused of cheating the elderly.

"If an insurance agent cheats an elderly person, I am going to have that license," he said.

Tomlinson said he will revoke a license if an agent knowingly sells a product not suited to a customer, such as a 30-year plan sold to a 90-year-old customer. The department also pulls licenses for securities fraud.

Tomlinson said the department usually has at least one fraud prosecution going on at any time. The department's consumer affairs division gets about 5,000 calls a year, most are tips from family and friends of the consumers affected. Bankers often report possible fraud to the department, he said, because they notice the unusual transfer of money.

The department operates a consumer hotline at (800) 432-2484. Agents and companies are entitled to due process. Tomlinson serves as the department's hearing officer, and said he has seen some unreasonable consumers over the years.

"The majority of insurance agents are reliable," Tomlin-

son said. "You can trust 99 percent of the agents."

There has been only a few instances of fraud in Thomas County over the years, he said, and the community rarely hears about it. The state as a whole has seen more fraud since the recession began.

The department checks out-of-state insurance companies to make sure people talking to customers on the phone are licensed to sell in Kansas.

"When you make a call, I want the person on the other end to be a licensed agent," he said. "If not we can fine them accordingly."

To get a license, a person has to be at least 18 years old, have no felony convictions, pass a training course and a rigorous test. Tomlinson said the test has about a 30 percent failure rate.

"If someone is licensed, I want you to know that their record has been checked and it is clean," he said.

In western Kansas, the department deals with a lot of storm losses, Tomlinson said. Kansas has already set a record this year for estimated losses this year from hail, wind and tornadoes. From January to May, there were 112,655 claims and \$732.5 million in estimated storm losses. Those figures do not include flood damage.

Tomlinson said the Wichita area has been the hardest hit this year, with less long, persistent hail in the west.

Homeowners can prevent a lot of storm losses, Tomlinson said, by improving their roof. Seventy percent of what people pay for homeowner's insurance covers the roof, he said.

There are plenty of roofing scams out there, Tomlinson said. The department is prosecuting one right now from Reading, which was hit by a tornado earlier this year. Homeowners should go through their insurance company to find a reputable roofer, he said, and should never deal with someone who is going door to door.

The department does some work with cities and counties, answering insurance questions. It also distributes money to firefighter relief funds. Tomlinson said firefighters have trouble getting disability or life insurance because of the high-risk nature of the job, so the department works with county clerks and attorneys to help them get coverage.

Briefly

Harvest matchmaker is on duty at truck stop

Roger Hale is available again this year - at no charge - to help farmers and custom harvesters get together. His office is at Truck Town, 105 W. Horton. For information, call him at (785) 269-7712 or 460-8785.

Kiwanis to shoot off fireworks Monday night

The Colby Kiwanis Club will begin its Fourth of July fireworks display after dark - about 10:15 p.m. - Monday from the arena at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Parking will be available in the lot east of the arena. The club is still accepting donations to help pay fireworks display. Kiwanis member Rick Dickman said contributions are appreciated, since costs go up each year. To donate, send a check to Kiwanis Club, Box 501, Colby, Kan., 67701.

Christian school selling fireworks now

Heartland Christian School will sell fireworks from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Monday in the Colby Livestock Auction parking lot on Country Club Drive. Proceeds will go to the school. For information, call Ronda Myers at 462-7727 or 443-1384.

Lions plan hot dog feed

The Colby High Plains Lions Club will hold its annual Fourth of July hot dog and watermelon feed at 6 p.m. Monday at the 4-H Building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds. There will be a jewelry raffle, bingo and the Colby Free Press Coolest. For information, call (785) 586-2384.

City garbage crews to get Monday off work

The Colby Sanitation Department crew will take the day off for the Fourth of July. Monday's residential route will be picked up on Tuesday. Have your tipper cans to the curb by 8 a.m. For information, call the Public Works Department at (785) 460-4420.

Trumpet soloist to play here on Sunday

Trumpet soloist Scott Brookins of Colorado Springs will perform jazz, inspirational, and praise and worship music at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday at the Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine. Brookins has performed on television and radio, and with entertainers including Glen Campbell, the Platters, Mary Wells and George Shearing. For information, call 462-8391.

Picnic in the Park continues Wednesday

Picnic in the Park begins at noon on Wednesdays at Fike Park. The entertainment for Wednesday will be the Wagoner Family. The event is sponsored by the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Colby Free Press. For information, call the chamber at 460-3401.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Monday Evening											July 4, 2011		
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30			
KAKE/ABC	The Bachelorette				Extreme Makeover	Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live					
KBSL/CBS	How I Met Mike	Two Men Mike			Boston Pops	Local	Late Show Letterman	Late					
KSNK/NBC	America's Got Talent	July Fireworks			July Fireworks	Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late					
KSAS/FOX	MasterChef	House											
Cable Channels													
A & E	Hoarders	Hoarders	Intervention	Intervention	Hoarders								
AMC	Rocky III				Rocky IV								
ANIM	Swamp Wars	Swamp Wars	Swamp Wars	Swamp Wars	Swamp Wars	Swamp Wars	Swamp Wars	Swamp Wars					
BRAVO	Housewives/NYC	Housewives/NYC	Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NJ					
CMT	Ron White's Celebrity		Ron White's Celebrity		Fried	Fried	Smarter	Smarter					
CNN	CNN Presents		Anderson Cooper 360				Piers Morgan Tonight						
COMEDY	Jeff Dunham: Arguing	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Entourage	Entourage					
DISC	American Chopper	American Chopper	American Chopper	American Chopper	American Chopper	American Chopper	American Chopper	American Chopper					
DISN	My Babysi Vampire	Vampire	Vampire	Lemonade Mouth			Wizards	Wizards					
E!	Sex/City	Sex/City	E! Special	Fashion	The Soup	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea					
ESPN	Hot Dog Eat.	SportsNation	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter	Baseball	NFL Live							
ESPN2	Nation	MLS Soccer	MLS Soccer										
FAM	Secret-Teen	Switched at Birth	Secret-Teen		The 700 Club	Whose?	Whose?						
FOOD	Summ. Snacks	Diners	Diners	The Best	Meat	Challenge	Diners	Diners					
FX	Eagle Eye				Eagle Eye								
HGTV	My Yard	House H.	HGTV'd	House	Hunters	Hunters	House	House H.	HGTV'd	House			
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	American Pickers		Pawn	Pawn	Larry the Cable Guy	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn			
LIFE	Too Late-Say				Vanished, Beth		How I Met	How I Met	Chris	Chris			
MTV	Bring It On		Teen Wolf		Teen Wolf		Teen Wolf		True Life				
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	Lopez	Lopez	70s Show	70s Show	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez			
SCI	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	TwilightZ	Twi. Zone			
SPIKE	Training	Walking Tall			U.S. Marshals								
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Conan		Lopez Tonight				
TCM	Yankee Doodle Dandy				The Roaming Twenties								
TLC	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Surprise Homecoming	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss			
TNT	Law & Order	Law & Order	The Closer		Rizzoli & Isles		Men of a Certain Age						
TOON	Adventure	MAD	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen			
TRAV	Off Limits		Off Limits		No Reservation		No Reservation		Off Limits				
TV LAND	Divorced	Divorced	Divorced	Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland	The Nanny	The Nanny	Divorced	Roseanne			
USA	NCIS		WWE Monday Night RAW		Suits		Necessary Roughness						
VH1	Single Ladies		Single Ladies		Single Ladies		Behind the Music		Single Ladies				
WGN	Chris	Chris	Funniest Home Videos		News/Nine	Blast	Scrubs	Scrubs	South Pk	South Pk			
Premium Channels													
HBO	Real Time/Bill Maher	Citizen U.S.A.			Splice								
MAX	Platoon		A Nightmare on Elm Street		Co-Ed Confidential								
SHOW	Letters	The Back-up Plan			Weeds	The Big C	Weeds	The Big C	The Real L Word				