

Weather



National Weather Service

**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 18. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south.

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 56. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 28. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 60. West wind around 5 mph becoming southeast.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 37.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 52.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 22.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 41.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 24.

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 49.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 28.

**Tuesday:** A 30 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 47.

Monday: High, 63; Low 26  
 Tuesday: High, 58; Low 24  
 Precip: Monday None  
 Tuesday Trace  
 Month: 0.25 inches  
 Year: 19.63 inches  
 Normal: 20.03 inches  
 (K-State Experiment Station)

**Sunrise and Sunset**  
 Thursday 7:30 a.m. 5:58 p.m.  
 Moon: waning, 59 percent  
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

# Board learns about career education

From "BOARD," Page 1

Clark-Leiker said the school can now also get students certificates in some technical areas, such as welding, by the time they graduate.

"Why do all this?" she said. "It is good for students. It links secondary and post-secondary education and it puts a reason in to why our students are learning."

In other business:

- The board gave preliminary approval for the Walking Trail Committee to put part of the path along the trees on the north end of the Colby High School property, but said they want to see more definite plans. Curriculum Director Diana Wieland said she had spoken to members of the committee, who said they were waiting to see if the board was interested before they drew up plans, but a grant application deadline is coming up, so they will likely have architectural drawings available by the board's December meeting. Board member Brice Barton said the district should draw up a letter of support in case the committee needs one to help qualify for grants.

Wieland said some of the original plans for the high school included a walking trail.

- The board granted several early graduation requests and approved the hiring of

Lauren Buehler as an assistant teacher at the grade school, Brent Brooks as the boys basketball C-team coach and Katie Coulter as the girls basketball C-team coach. Middle school Principal Rob Ross said the middle school is currently looking for an eighth grade basketball coach.

- The board approved the resignation of high school girls volleyball coach Lesley Wagoner. High school Principal Larry Gabel said he will start looking for a new coach right away, though it may be difficult since the district does not have an open teaching position.

- Gabel said the Colby Invitational debate tournament is coming up Saturday. The debate team is still looking for judges for the competition. Gabel said he has done some judging in the past and found it enjoyable. Anyone interested should contact coach Nancy Rundel at 460-5300.

- Gabel said the high school musical "Brigadoon" was a success. One hundred and five students, about one-third of the school, were involved.

- Grade school Principal Lance Krannawitter said the school's site council met to talk about the transition to the Common Core Standards, which is a set of subject area concepts that have been adopted by 42 states. Krannawitter said the standards will

make it easier for students who move out of state, since they will be on roughly the same page when they get to a new school.

Krannawitter said his staff has also been discussing the new growth model the state may use as part of the No Child Left Behind waiver application. Some students at the grade school will never have to take the current state standardized tests, he said, but instead will take whatever new tests the state comes up with.

Superintendent Terrel Harrison said she has accepted an invitation to be on the committee that will develop the new growth model, which will measure school performance by how much individual students improve, rather than using just standardized tests.

- Ross said the middle school will be having a "Food Fight" with other middle schools in the Great West Activities Conference to see which school can collect the most canned food. The food will be donated locally, he said.

- Wieland said the fifth grade will be changing from a rubric grading system to letter grades. This will help prepare the students for receiving letter grades in middle school, she said.

# U.S. Postal Service may be close to default

From "DEFAULT," Page 1

date population growth and new businesses.

The Postal Service, an independent agency of government that does not receive tax money for its operations, is not seeking federal funds.

Instead, postal officials want changes in the way they operate so they can save money. They have asked Congress for permission to reduce mail delivery to five days a week, which many lawmakers oppose, and to eliminate or reduce the annual payments of about \$5.5 billion to prefund retiree health benefits. The agency also wants the return of at least \$6.9 billion it says was overpaid into federal retirement funds.

The service also seeks more layoffs, which are barred by current contracts with its employee unions, and the authority to negotiate with unions on a possible

alternate health care system that would cost less.

Postal Service losses have been mounting over the past few years as more private mail and bill payments have been switched to the Internet, and the recession has hurt returns on advertising and other business mail.

Of particular concern has been the decline in lucrative first-class mail, largely consisting of personal letters and cards, bills, payments and similar items. First-class mail volume fell 5.8 percent in 2011, 6.6 percent in 2010, 8.6 percent in 2009 and 4.8 percent in 2008. Traditionally, this mail has produced more than half of total revenue.

Volume for standard mail — advertising and similar items — improved somewhat, indicating some signs of economic recovery. But it generates less income.

The Postal Service has strug-

gled to find its role in an Internet age but insists it can eventually return to profitability with legislative changes. It recently launched a TV advertising campaign that pokes at the vulnerabilities of e-mail or online payment, noting that documents posted on a refrigerator or cork board won't get "hacked" or attacked by a virus.

A postal default on billions of dollars in federal payments wouldn't cause immediate repercussions. There are no criminal or civil penalties for failure to pay, and the health account already contains more than \$40 billion so no retiree's benefits are at near-term risk. In June, the Postal Service defaulted on a separate, legally required payment into an employee retirement fund but now says it will make the \$1 billion in accumulated payments following a Justice Department review.

Separate proposals recently passed by House and Senate committees would alter or scrap the annual payment requirement while differing widely on points including financial oversight and a reduction to five-day-a-week delivery. Congress is expected to pass a stop-gap spending measure this week that would extend Friday's payment deadline until mid-December.

The Postal Service has said a short-term delay of the \$5.5 billion payment won't change its grim forecast of possible bankruptcy next year. Officials also said Tuesday that the proposed legislation currently falls short in reducing health care costs and authorizing immediate five-day-

a-week delivery.

"We're hoping for long-term, comprehensive legislation that will solve the issue and make other changes so the Postal Service can be profitable again — not have more delays that just kick the can down the road," postal spokesman David Partenheimer said.

Last month, the post office said it will increase postage rates on Jan. 22, including a 1-cent increase in the cost of first-class mail, to 45 cents. But the rate increase, which is tied to the rate of overall inflation, will make only a small dent in financial losses. The Postal Service hasn't ruled out the possibility of further stamp price increases based on its dire financial circumstances.

The agency is also considering additional layoffs and reviewing about 3,600 underused post offices around the country for closing, many of them in rural areas.

A recent Quinnipiac poll found that registered voters were broadly in favor of ending Saturday deliveries to help with the agency's financial problems.

"The Postal Service is in a tailspin," said Art Sackler, coordinator of the Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service, which represents the private-sector mailing industry. "Without congressional action, there is a strong likelihood the Postal Service will have to shut down sometime next summer, dealing another critical blow to the economy and the 8 million private sector jobs that still depend on the mail."

# St. Francis Chamber of Commerce dissolves

From "CHAMBER," Page 1

nesses and keeps the money in the county.

No decision was made about continuing to offer the scrip money, but the issuing of the checks will be taken care of by Bracelin this year. Bracelin's resignation does not take effect until the first of the year, so she will take care of the Christmas activities. There will be the usual treasure hunt, light parade, coloring contest and drawing.

Troy Hilt, president of Western State Bank, suggested that Chamber money usually paid be put aside and when there is an event that needs funded, the people in charge will ask for money.

It was mentioned that there is the matter of "accountability" for the money collected. That was one reason why it was good to have a Chamber

account and someone in charge.

The Chamber was in charge of brochures featuring events and sites in the county. Bracelin and Carol Ross said they would keep The Breaks and Cherry Creek brochures up and see that they were printed and sent to the Travel Information Centers in Kansas. It was suggested that the Development Corporation take care of the rest of the brochures.

The Chamber had money from the sale of a building which, the board had decided earlier, to purchase a digital sign to be erected on the berm on U.S. 36. Any remaining money is in an account which will be used for the sign and managed by the city of St. Francis.

The meeting ended with Jensen moving to dissolve the Chamber, Tom Keller seconded the motion and the majority approved.

**LOCAL TV Listings** Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Thursday Evening November 17, 2011											
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	20/20	Private Practice					Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live		
KBSL/CBS	Big Bang	Rules	Person of Interest		The Mentalist		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late		
KSNK/NBC	Community	Parks	Office	Whitney	Prime Suspect		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late		
KSAS/FOX	The X Factor	Bones			Local						
Cable Channels											
A & E	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48						
AMC	Enter the Dragon				Enter the Dragon						
ANIM	Ned Bruha   Ned Bruha	Wildman	Wildman	Swamp Wars	Wildman	Wildman	Swamp Wars				
BRAVO	Housewives/Atl.	Matchmaker		Housewives/Atl.	Real Housewives		Matchmaker				
CMT	Top Secret Recipe	Top Secret Recipe	Trick My What?	Top Secret Recipe	Trick My What?						
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360	Piers Morgan Tonight	Anderson Cooper 360	E. B. OutFront	Piers Morgan Tonight						
COMEDY	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	South Pk	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0			
DISC	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush						
DISN	Good Luck	Geek Charming		Jessie	Good Luck	Good Luck	Wizards	Wizards			
E!	Sex-City	Sex-City	Night-Roxbury		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Chelsea			
ESPN	College Football			SportsCenter			SportsCenter				
ESPN2	College Basketball	College Basketball			MMA Live	NFL Live					
FAM	Cheaper	Overboard			The 700 Club	Whose?	Whose?				
FOOD	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chef Hunter	Chef Hunter		Chopped				
FX	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Sunny	League	Sunny	League	League	League	
HGTV	First	First	House	Hunters	Selling L	Selling	House	Hunters	House	Hunters	
HIST	Swamp People	Swampsgiving		Big Shrimpin'	Big Shrimpin'		Swamp People				
LIFE	Project Accessory	Project Accessory	Project Accessory	Project Accessory	Project Accessory		Project Accessory				
MTV	The Real World	Beavis	Beavis	Beavis	Good Vibe	Good Vibe	Ridic.	Ridic.			
NICK	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	'70s Show	'70s Show	George	George	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SCI	Starship Troopers	Star Trek-Insur.			Red Planet						
SPIKE	Jail	Jail	iMPACT Wrestling		UFC 139 Countdown		MANSwars				
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan	Conan	Office	Office		
TCM	The Last Voyage			Juggernaut							
TLC	All-American Muslim	Undercover Boss		Cellblock 6	Undercover Boss		Cellblock 6				
TNT	CSI: NY	CSI: NY	CSI: NY	CSI: NY	CSI: NY		CSI: NY				
TOON	Regular	MAD	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Childrens	Aqua Teen	
TRAV	RV Crazy!		When Vacations		Got Home Alive!		Mysteries-Museum		When Vacations		
TV LAND	Married	Married	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	King	King	
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Burn Notice		Covert Affairs		NCIS				
VH1	Basketball Wives LA	Basketball Wives LA	Basketball Wives LA		Love & Hip Hop		Tough Love				
WGN	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	WGN News at Nine	30 Rock	Scrubs	Scrubs	Sunny		
Premium Channels											
HBO	Due Date			Bored	Hung	Cathouse	Katie	America	Enlighten		
MAX	Thelma	D.O.A.: Dead or Alive		Bound							
SHOW	Saint Misbehavin'		An Invisible Sign		Gigolos	Old Porn	Gigolos	Old Porn			

**Friday Evening November 18, 2011**

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	20/20		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live				
KBSL/CBS	A Gifted Man	CSI: NY	Blue Bloods		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late				
KSNK/NBC	Chuck	Grimm	Dateline NBC		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late				
KSAS/FOX	Kitchen Nightmares	Fringe			Local						
Cable Channels											
A & E	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds					
AMC	Jason Goes to Hell	The Walking Dead			Jason Goes to Hell						
ANIM	Fatal Attractions	Fatal Attractions	Animal Phobia	Animal Phobia	Fatal Attractions						
BRAVO	Housewives/Atl.	Housewives/Atl.	Housewives/Atl.	Matchmaker	Matchmaker						
CMT	Sweet Home Alabama	Sweet Home Alabama	Cowboys Cheerleaders	Matchmaker	Matchmaker						
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360	Piers Morgan Tonight	Anderson Cooper 360	E. B. OutFront	Piers Morgan Tonight						
COMEDY	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Work.	Tosh.0	Stand-Up	Stand-Up	Chappelle	Chappelle	Comedy		
DISC	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Flying Wild Alaska	Gold Rush	Flying Wild Alaska					
DISN	Wizards	ANT Farm	Jessie	Phineas	Shake It	Good Luck	ANT Farm	ANT Farm	Jessie	Jessie	
E!	Sex-City	Sex-City	True Hollywood Story	The Soup	Fashion		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Chelsea	
ESPN	College Football			SportsCenter			SportsCenter				
ESPN2	College Basketball	College Basketball			NFL Live	NFL Live					
FAM	Funniest Home Videos	Funniest Home Videos	Funniest Home Videos	The 700 Club	Whose?	Whose?					
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Crave	Diners	Diners	
FX	How I Met	How I Met	Twilight					Twilight			
HGTV	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	

**VINCE GILL** FEATURING A DUET WITH AMY GRANT AND "THREATEN ME WITH HEAVEN"

DELUXE & REGULAR VERSIONS Available on iTunes

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
HIST	American	American	American	American	Hairy Bik	Hairy Bik	IRT Deadliest Roads	American	American		
LIFE	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba		
MTV	Good Vibe	Good Vibe	Beavis	Beavis	Jackass 3.5			Jackass 3.5			
NICK	SpongeBob	Kung Fu	'70s Show	'70s Show	George	George	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SCI	WWE SmackDown!			Sanctuary			Fact or Faked	Sanctuary			
SPIKE	Gangland			Gangland			Gangland				
TBS	Browns	Browns	Payne	Payne	Madame Goes to Jail					Madame	
TCM	Chase Crooked Shadw				A Man Called Peter					Hasty	
TLC	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes	Brides	Brides	Say Yes	Say Yes	Brides	Brides	
TNT	Law & Order	Training Day						Pride and Glory			
TOON	Star Wars	Thundr.	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen	
TRAV	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	The Dead Files				Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures		
TV LAND	Married	Married	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	King	King	
USA	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS				CSI: Crime Scene	CSI: Crime Scene			
VH1	Tough Love: Miami	Tough Love: Miami	Tough Love				Unplugged	Greatest Songs	Songs		
WGN	Funniest Home Videos	How I Met	How I Met		WGN News at Nine	30 Rock	Scrubs	Scrubs	Sunny		
Premium Channels											
HBO	Little Fockers		Bored		My Soul to Take						
MAX	Predators			Strike Back			Chemistry	Lingerie	Co-Ed Confidential 2		
SHOW	Four Lions			Humpday			Strikeforce Chall.				

Briefly

## Economic Development to meet on Thursday

The Thomas County Economic Development Alliance board will meet at 8 a.m. Thursday in the meeting room at the Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave. For information, call 460-4511.

## Group selling nuts