

# Weather



## National Weather Service Hazardous Weather Outlook

**Tonight:** Patchy freezing fog after 9 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 10. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

**Thursday:** A chance of freezing drizzle before noon, then a chance of snow and freezing drizzle. Patchy freezing fog before noon. Cloudy, with a high near 26. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

**Thursday Night:** A chance of flurries and freezing drizzle before midnight. Patchy freezing fog after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 9. East wind around 5 mph becoming southwest.

**Friday:** Patchy freezing fog before noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 29. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 12.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 38.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 17.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 39.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Monday:   | High, 15; Low -12   |
| Tuesday:  | High, 24; Low -8  |
| Precip:   | Monday 0.None<br>Tuesday 0.None<br>Month: 0.55 inches<br>Year: 20.18 inches<br>Normal: 20.65 inches |
| <b>(K-State Experiment Station)</b>               |   |
| <b>Sunrise and Sunset</b>                         |   |
| Thursday  | 7:51 a.m. 5:21 p.m.   |
| Moon: waxing, 97 percent (U.S. Naval Observatory) |   |

# Director details new training

From "TRAINING," Page 1

need faster air transportation. Transports are also a high-dollar revenue source compared to local 911 calls.

Hickert said he'll need input from all of the county's volunteers to make the goals a reality, saying that the department is a family and a team that needs to work together.

"I want people to know that Thomas County EMS will take care of our citizens," he said.

In other business:

- Larry Sharp from the Kansas County Association Multi-line Pool, presented findings on a recent appraisal review.

He said an out-of-state appraiser reviewed county-owned property last spring to gauge risks and his findings will not affect insurance premiums. Sharp said all of the counties within the association were reviewed, which took about two years to complete.

The Thomas County courthouse, Sharp said, is the only one whose insurance replacement costs went down instead of going up.

"If I remember right, Hoxie's went up

about 85 percent," he said.

Sharp explained that only substantial buildings worth at least \$100,000 were appraised and they did not take into account any sheds or small structures in their review.

His report concluded that as of May 20 the nine buildings reviewed totaled about \$7.19 million and contents totaled about \$1.05 million. The total property value increased 13 percent from \$7,284,190 to \$8,232,100.

The nine buildings that were included in the report done by Hiron and Associates were the jail, which was valued at about \$1.1 million; the courthouse, \$3.62 million; the garage storage, \$512,000; the Thomas County Office Complex, \$1.95 million; and five buildings at the fair grounds, \$1.06 million.

Thomas County Commissioner Paul Steele noticed the jail, built in the mid 1970's, has depreciated about 50 percent.

Sharp explained the rule of thumb with appraising jails is approximately the same as a hospital and can be figured based on its occupancy. He said the jail, which has nine beds has an estimated worth of about

\$900,000.

- A transfer of \$13,430 was approved from E911 funds to pay for equipment and technology upgrades for emergency 911 functions now being taken over by the city of Colby, due to changes at the state level. The city's technology director, Mike Albers, explained that the majority of the equipment, including the main dispatch console, is about six years old, is overloaded and needs updating.

- The commissioners released payment for road improvements on the Mingo road.

- Road and bridge supervisor Clair Schrock received approval on a \$400 increase to purchase a pressure washer. The increase was due to a miscalculation.

- The commissioners met with Christy Rocca, the new director for the Thomas County Economic Development Alliance. Rocca is taking the position which has been vacant since mid September when Rick Patrick left the organization.

She notified commissioners that she has been to the McCarty Dairy and has been busy in meetings with city of Colby Mayor Gary Adrian.

# President invokes Roosevelt in speech

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

OSAWATOMIE (AP) — President Barack Obama received a warm welcome Tuesday from a small eastern Kansas community and plenty of applause in politically unfriendly territory for calling for a return to economic fairness, but some audience members questioned whether he's done enough to create jobs or can follow through on his speech.

The Democratic president traveled to Osawatomie, a town of 4,400 residents about 50 miles southwest of Kansas City, to invoke former President Theodore Roosevelt's praise a century ago for having government intervene in the economy to provide "a square deal" for the disadvantaged. Roosevelt gave his "New Nationalism" speech in 1910 in

Osawatomie.

Hundreds of people crowded into the local high school's gym for the speech, many of them standing to cheer and applaud at times. But Obama supporters and fellow Democrats appeared to be over-represented; he received about 42 percent of the vote in Kansas in 2008, and his Republican opponent is all but certain to carry the state next year, just as the GOP nominee has done in every presidential election since 1964.

And, even as many of Obama's listeners applauded — and once, one shouted "Amen!" — some wondered whether he can follow through. Will Cutburth, a 32-year-old Iraq war veteran from Osawatomie and a Republican, said Obama's message is important, but the president faces gridlock in Congress.

"He's talking about re-establishing the way it used to be in America. It used to be a given in America that you'd do better than your parents," Cutburth said. "They're great ideas, but I don't see how he's going to be able to do it."

Republicans considered the visit part of Obama's re-election effort, though some GOP officials attended. Republican Gov. Sam Brownback welcomed Obama to Kansas in a statement but kept a previous commitment to attend a symposium in Wichita on the state's future. However, Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer

did attend.

"There's no chance that he'll win this state," said Burdett Loomis, a University of Kansas political scientist who worked for a year on the staff of former Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, now U.S. health and human services secretary. "This is a national speech, designed for a national audience."

Kansas GOP Chairwoman Amanda Adkins said Obama's message — she described it as calling to redistribute wealth and pitting upper-income Americans against the lower and middle classes would not play well.

"It will incite more frustration in regard with his lack of executive management as it relates to the economy," she said. "I think it will backfire."

The president's speech came amid his efforts to pressure congressional Republicans into voting for a plan to extend a Social Security payroll tax cut that would increase taxes for wealthy Americans. Many Republicans — including Kansas' all-GOP delegation — have resisted what they view as an appeal to spark class warfare.

"This isn't about class warfare," the president said. "This is about the nation's welfare."

In Kansas, the GOP swept all statewide and congressional races on the ballot in 2010 and increased its control over the Legislature by tapping into frustration with the president and

fellow Democrats in Congress.

The election represented a big shift to the right for Kansas, which had elected moderate Republicans and Democrats as governor for a generation, including Sebelius. She attended the speech, also receiving a warm welcome.

Cutburth said he's willing to vote for Obama next year, but skeptical that the president can deliver on his call for a return to economic fairness.

Anthony DeLeon, a 30-year-old Tyson Foods manager from nearby Gardner, is a registered Democrat who voted for Obama in 2008 but wasn't sure he would again. He said Obama hasn't delivered a stronger economy.

"The jobs are not there for so many people that I know," DeLeon said as he waited to get into the speech. "He's got to start to get people to work — lots of people."

Alice Heath, a 62-year-old retired food service manager, liked Obama's speech and plans to vote for him again, as she did in 2008, but she's also looking for signs of economic improvement because, "We're all suffering."

And January Clark, the 27-year-old manager of a Wal-Mart produce department in Paola said: "With milk at \$4, people who are middle class or lower really can't do a whole lot. There's no room for anything extra."

# Briefly

## Courthouse entrance closed for stair repair

The west entrance of the Thomas County Courthouse will be closed while repairs are made to the stairs. For information, call 460-4500.

## Get a Colby Eagles flag and support the team

The Colby High School boys basketball team is selling Colby Eagle flags to raise money for the team. The 3- by 5-foot flags are \$55 each. To order a flag, call 443-2763.

## Booster club to sell shirts and hoodies

The Colby High School Booster Club will be selling eagle foil print shirts and hoodies at the Eagle Invitational Friday and Saturday, and at the Community Building for this season's basketball games. Proceeds go to the club, which supports Colby High School athletics. For information, call Tracy Rogers at 462-0489.

## Help fill food baskets for Genesis project

Genesis-Thomas County needs volunteers to help fill food baskets for the annual Christmas Basket project at 7 p.m. Friday in the 4-H Building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Baskets will be distributed to eligible families from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday at the 4-H Building. For information, call 460-7930.

## Seniors plan potluck

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share; table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

## Lions serve pancakes

The Gem Lions Club will have its annual pancake feed from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. next Wednesday at the Gem Community Building. Bring unused or old eyeglasses and hearing aids, so the club can recycle them. For information, call Ken Poland at 462-7809.

## Learn about history at Food for Thought

The Prairie Museum of Art and History will hold the first Food for Thought program on the 2011-2012 season at noon Thursday, Dec. 15, with a talk by Jim Gray on cattle and the cowboy era. Food for Thought is offered every third Thursday each month through April. For information, call 460-4590.

# Big Brothers Big Sisters planning fund raiser Thursday

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bowling, taking a walk around town or just going for a hamburger.

"Just something simple like that makes a difference in a child's life," Romine said.

Romine said the organization is also working with high school students to be big brothers and

sisters. The students meet with their little brothers and sisters during or after school on the school premises.

Romine joined the organization in September. She oversees the matching process — pairing up the right big and little partners — and helps organize fund raisers and other events.

Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

| Thursday Evening December 8, 2011 |                      |                |                      |           |                        |           |                   |                     |                      |                   |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
|                                   | 7:00                 | 7:30           | 8:00                 | 8:30      | 9:00                   | 9:30      | 10:00             | 10:30               | 11:00                | 11:30             |
| KAKE/ABC                          | Wipeout              |                | Funniest Home Videos |           | Big American Auction   |           | 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   | Grimm                  |           | Local             | Tonight Show w/Leno |                      | Late              |
| KSAS/FOX                          | The X Factor         |                | Bones                |           | Local                  |           |                   |                     |                      |                   |
| <b>Cable Channels</b>             |                      |                |                      |           |                        |           |                   |                     |                      |                   |
| A & E                             | The First 48         |                | The First 48         |           | Beyond Scared Straight |           | Amer. Most Wanted |                     | The First 48         |                   |
| AMC                               | Ghost                |                |                      |           |                        |           | Ghost             |                     |                      |                   |
| ANIM                              | Ned Bruha            | Ned Bruha      | Wildman              | Wildman   | Swamp Wars             |           | Wildman           | Wildman             |                      | Swamp Wars        |
| BRAVO                             | Matchmaker           |                | Matchmaker           |           | Housewives/Atl.        |           | Real Housewives   |                     | Matchmaker           |                   |
| CMT                               | The Bodyguard        |                |                      |           | The Bodyguard          |           |                   |                     |                      |                   |
| CNN                               | Anderson Cooper 360  |                | Piers Morgan Tonight |           | Anderson Cooper 360    |           | E. B. OutFront    |                     | Piers Morgan Tonight |                   |
| COMEDY                            | Futurama             | Futurama       | Futurama             |           | Carlos Mencia          |           | Daily             | Colbert             |                      | Tosh.0            |
| DISC                              | Sons of Guns         |                | Moonshiners          |           | Weed Wars              |           | Moonshiners       |                     | Weed Wars            |                   |
| DISN                              | Austin               | Good Luck      | Charlie              |           | ANT Farm               | Jessie    | Austin            | Good Luck           | Wizards              | Wizards           |
| E!                                | I Now Pronounce You  |                |                      |           | After Lat              |           | Chelsea           | E! News             |                      | Chelsea           |
| ESPN                              | SEC Storied          |                | Football Awards      |           |                        |           | SportsCenter      |                     | SportsCenter         |                   |
| ESPN2                             | College Basketball   |                | College Basketball   |           |                        |           | SportsNation      |                     | NFL Live             |                   |
| FAM                               | Santa Claus, Town    |                | Year Without a Santa |           | Miser Brothers         |           | The 700 Club      |                     | Whose? Whose?        |                   |
| FOOD                              | Chopped              |                | Chopped              |           | Chef Hunter            |           | Chef Hunter       |                     | Chopped              |                   |
| FX                                | Two Men              | Two Men        | Two Men              | Two Men   | Sunny                  | League    | Sunny             | League              | League               | Sunny             |
| HGTV                              | Celebrity Holiday Ho |                | House                | Hunters   | Selling L              | Selling   | House             | Hunters             | House                | Hunters           |
| HIST                              | Big Shrimpin'        |                | Swamp People         |           | Big Shrimpin'          |           | Off the Grid:     |                     | Big Shrimpin'        |                   |
| LIFE                              | Project Accessory    |                | Project Accessory    |           | Project Accessory      |           | Project Accessory |                     | Project Accessory    |                   |
| MTV                               | Real...              | The Real World | Beavis               |           | Beavis                 | Good Vibe | Beavis            | Ridic.              | National-Van Wilder  |                   |
| NICK                              | My Wife              | My Wife        | '70s Show            | '70s Show | George                 | George    | George            | George              | Friends              | Friends           |
| SCI                               | Prince Caspian       |                | Elf                  |           |                        |           | Prince Caspian    |                     |                      |                   |
| SPIKE                             | Jail                 | Jail           | iMPACT Wrestling     |           | MANswers               | MANswers  | MANswers          |                     | MANswers             |                   |
| TBS                               | Fam. Guy             | Fam. Guy       | Big Bang             | Big Bang  | Big Bang               | Big Bang  | Conan             |                     | Office               | Office            |
| TCM                               | Last-Cheyney         |                |                      |           | High Pressure          |           |                   | My Man Godfrey      |                      |                   |
| TLC                               | D.U.I.               | D.U.I.         | D.U.I.               | D.U.I.    | Cellblock 6            |           | D.U.I.            | D.U.I.              | Cellblock 6          |                   |
| TNT                               | 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                              | Bizarre Foods        |                | Bizarre Foods        |           | No Reservation         |           | The Layover       |                     | Bizarre Foods        |                   |
| TV LAND                           | Home Imp.            | Home Imp.      | Raymond              | Raymond   | Raymond                | Raymond   | King              | King                | King                 | King              |
| USA                               | Law & Order: SVU     |                | Law & Order: SVU     |           | Burn Notice            |           | Covert Affairs    |                     | NCIS                 |                   |
| VH1                               | Celeb Rehab          |                | Love & Hip Hop       |           | T.I.-Tiny              | T.I.-Tiny | Fighting Tempt    |                     |                      |                   |
| WGN                               | How I Met            | How I Met      | How I Met            | How I Met | WGN News at Nine       |           | 30 Rock           | Scrubs              | Scrubs               | Sunny             |
| <b>Premium Channels</b>           |                      |                |                      |           |                        |           |                   |                     |                      |                   |
| HBO                               | Cinema               | Unknown        |                      |           | Hung                   |           | Real Sex          |                     | Enlighten            | Dinner            |
| MAX                               | LostWld              | Liar Liar      |                      |           | The Usual Suspects     |           |                   |                     |                      |                   |
| SHOW                              | The Back-up Plan     |                | Hugh Hefner: Playboy |           |                        |           | Gigolos           | Old Porn            | Gigolos              | Old Porn          |

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We Celebrate Hometown Life

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| Friday Evening December 9, 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                        | Frosty              | Frosty   | Virginia             | The Elf o |                      |           | Local               | Late Show Letterman |                      | Late              |
| KSNK/NBC                        | Chuck               |          | Grimm                |           | Dateline NBC         |           | Local               | Tonight Show w/Leno |                      | Late              |
| KSAS/FOX                        | Kitchen Nightmares  |          | Fringe               |           | Local                |           |                     |                     |                      |                   |
| <b>Cable Channels</b>           |                     |          |                      |           |                      |           |                     |                     |                      |                   |
| A & E                           | Criminal Minds      |          | Criminal Minds       |           | Criminal Minds       |           | Criminal Minds      |                     | Criminal Minds       |                   |
| AMC                             | Road House          |          |                      |           | Halloween H2O        |           |                     |                     | Alien 3              |                   |
| ANIM                            | Fatal Attractions   |          | Fatal Attractions    |           | Infested!            |           | Fatal Attractions   |                     | Infested!            |                   |
| BRAVO                           | Housewives/Atl.     | Atlanta  | Housewives/Atl.      |           | Housewives/Atl.      |           | Real Housewives     |                     | Real                 |                   |
| CMT                             | Sweet Home Alabama  |          | Sweet Home Alabama   |           | Cowboys Cheerleaders |           | Sweet Home Alabama  |                     | Cowboys Cheerleaders |                   |
| CNN                             | Anderson Cooper 360 |          | Piers Morgan Tonight |           | Anderson Cooper 360  |           | E. B. OutFront      |                     | Piers Morgan Tonight |                   |
| COMEDY                          | Tosh.0              | Tosh.0   | Aziz Ansari          |           | C.K.: Hilarious      |           | Year One            |                     |                      |                   |
| DISC                            | Gold Rush           |          | Gold Rush            |           | Flying Wild Alaska   |           | Gold Rush           |                     | Flying Wild Alaska   |                   |
| DISN                            | Beethoven           | ANT Farm | Jessie               | Fish Hook | Buttowski            | Good Luck | ANT Farm            | ANT Farm            | ANT Farm             | ANT Farm          |
| E!                              | Sex-City            | Sex-City | Kourtney and Kim     |           | The Soup             | Fashion   | Chelsea             | E! News             | Chelsea              |                   |
| ESPN                            | College Football    |          |                      |           |                      |           | SportsCenter        |                     | SportsCenter         |                   |
| ESPN2                           | College Basketball  |          |                      |           | Unguarded            |           | NFL Live            |                     | Kickoff              |                   |
| FAM                             | The Santa Clause    |          | Santa Clause 3       |           |                      |           | Miser Brothers      |                     |                      |                   |
| FOOD                            | Diners              | Diners   | Diners               | Diners    | Diners               | Diners    | Diners              | Crave               | Diners               | Diners            |
| FX                              | Step Brothers       |          |                      |           | Zombieland           |           |                     |                     | Zombieland           |                   |
| HGTV                            | Hunters             | Hunters  | Hunters              | Hunters   | Hunters              | Hunters   | Hunters             | Hunters             | Hunters              | Hunters           |
| <b>American Profile</b>         |                     |          |                      |           |                      |           |                     |                     |                      |                   |
| HIST                            | Pawn                | Pawn     | Real Deal            | Real Deal | Invention            | Invention | IRT Deadliest Roads |                     | Pawn                 | Pawn              |
| LIFE                            | Amer. Most Wanted   |          | Amer. Most Wanted    |           | Starving Secrets     |           | Gangsta Girls       |                     | Amer. Most Wanted    |                   |
| MTV                             | National-Van Wilder |          | Ridic.               | Ridic.    | Bad Santa            |           |                     |                     | Bad Santa            |                   |
| NICK                            | SpongeBoB           | Kung Fu  | '70s Show            | '70s Show | George               | George    | Friends             | Friends             | Friends              | Friends           |
| SCI                             | WWE SmackDown!      |          | Sanctuary            |           | Sanctuary            |           | Warehouse 13        |                     | Sanctuary            |                   |
| SPIKE                           | Gangland            |          | Gangland             |           | Gangland             |           | Gangland            |                     | Gangland             |                   |
| TBS                             | Payne               | Payne    | Payne                | Payne     | Worse                | Worse     | This Christmas      |                     |                      |                   |
| TCM                             | Larceny, Inc.       |          |                      |           | All the King's Men   |           |                     |                     | Slightly Honorable   |                   |
| TLC                             | Say Yes             | Say Yes  | Say Yes              | Say Yes   | Brides               | Brides    | Say Yes             | Say Yes             | Brides               | Brides            |
| TNT                             | Four Christmases    |          |                      |           | Four Christmases     |           |                     |                     |                      |                   |
| TOON                            | Star Wars           | Thundr.  | King/Hill            | King/Hill | Amer. Dad            | Amer. Dad | Fam. Guy            | Fam. Guy</          |                      |                   |