

Weather

National Weather Service

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 9. Blustery, with a north wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 32. Breezy, with a north-west wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 10. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 44. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 21.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 47.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 24.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 54.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 28.

M.L.King Day: Sunny, with a high near 47.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 36.

Monday: High, 53; Low 21
Tuesday: High, 61; Low 25
Precip: Monday None
Tuesday None
Month: None
Year: None
Normal: 0.42 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Thursday 8:04 a.m. 5:41 p.m.
Moon: waning, 87 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Director improves department

From “DIRECTOR,” Page 1

do list.

“We are creating a top-notch service for our customers,” he said. “One aspect of that is ensuring that our volunteers and staff are highly trained and capable.”

Hickert said the service has four vacancies for volunteers. He said an emergency medical training course will start at the end of January and he encourages anyone who’s interested to contact him.

He told commissioners that training coordinator Candy Bryant has been accepted for

school to become a paramedic, which will take anywhere from a year to a year and a half.

Before Hickert started, he said, there was only one certified paramedic in the county. His presence as a nurse paramedic brings the number to two and when Bryant is done, the level of higher certification will be tripled from just a month ago.

In other business:

- Commissioners considered a proposal from Clair Schrock, road and bridge director, who is interested in doing employee evaluations to assist with pay raises and the

possibility of offering pay increases based on merit to help establish wages comparable to other counties. No action was taken.

- Commissioner Byron Sowers nominated Christiansen for another year term as the chairman. It was approved, along with a new term for Sowers as vice chair.
- Commissioners accepted a roster of members for the fair board, committee appointments and department head positions for the year.

Book describes Obamas

From “BOOK,” Page 1

The book, titled “The Obamas,” describes Mrs. Obama as having gone through an evolution from struggle to fulfillment in her role at the White House, while labeling her an “unrecognized force” in pursuing the president’s goals. Neither the president nor his wife agreed to be interviewed for the book.

“I do care deeply about my husband,” Mrs. Obama said in the CBS appearance. “I am one of his biggest allies. I am one of his biggest confidants.” But she sought to put aside “this notion that I sit in meetings.”

“There will always be people who don’t like me.”

Asked about an assertion of dissension between herself and Emanuel, now the mayor of Chicago, the first lady said she has “never had a cross word” with him. The same, she said, applies to Gibbs, whom she described as “a good friend, and remains so.”

Graffiti damage



CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press

Mark Beringer (right), owner of Beringer Hardware, and his son Curt Beringer assessed damage to the north side of their building Monday afternoon. Curt Beringer said he was surprised to find Colby police officers waiting for him in the parking lot Saturday morning to tell him about the damage. Graffiti also had been painted overnight on the south side of the former AT&T retail store, on a dumpster and on the north side of Sears.

Governor prepares for State of State

From “GOVERNOR,” Page 1

stream and how are you going to provide the services you’re providing?” Emler said.

Brownback and the GOP-controlled Legislature will have \$200 million to \$300 million in reserves as they begin writing the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Brownback is expected to continue to again ask state agencies to reduce spending and push for efficiencies. In 2011, the governor downsized many state functions and pared the state workforce by eliminating about 2,000 vacant positions and offering a voluntary early

retirement program.

State revenues are expected to be in the black for the first time in several years, to the tune of \$200 million to \$300 million. Brownback has said in interviews ahead of the session that he wants to get closer to the statutory requirement of a 7.5 percent ending balance of general fund revenues. That would require reserves of close to \$450 million of the \$6 billion in general fund spending annually.

Democrats want to spend more than \$300 million of the reserves over three to restore funding cut in recent years to public schools and provide \$45 million in property tax relief to

cities and counties.

Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley said the school plan highlighted the differences between Democrats and the governor on education. The governor will propose rewriting the funding formula, shifting the authority to raise funds to school boards and limiting future state spending increases.

“Unlike Gov. Brownback’s school finance plan, our plan will not raise local property taxes,” said Hensley, a Topeka Democrat. “In fact, we’re going to give Kansans a much-needed property tax cut.”

Briefly

Economic Development to meet on Thursday

The Thomas County Economic Development Alliance board will meet at 8 a.m. next Wednesday in Suite 12 at the Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave. For information, call 460-4511.

‘24/7 Dad’ class begins on Tuesday, Jan. 31

The “24/7 Dad” Fatherhood Program will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at Redeeming Love Ministries, 345 N. Franklin Ave. Facilitators W.G. Romine and Jarrod Spencer will give fathers tools to build on their strengths so they can be great dads. To register, call Paige Campbell at Northwest Kansas Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, (785) 460-8177.

Sign up now for food; delivery set for Jan. 28

Signup for Prairie Land Food is open until Monday at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. Fourth St., with delivery set for Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Sacred Heart School gym, 1150 W. Sixth St. You may also order by e-mailing linda@parairelandfood.com. For questions, call Gene Griffin, 460-3579.

Church offering class on ‘Financial Peace’

Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University class, sponsored by Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colby, will be offered from 7 to 9 p.m. on Sundays beginning Jan. 22 in the basement of the church, 1065 W. Fifth St.. To register, call Steve and Sara Juenemann at (785) 460-7725 or 443-1083.

College pool closed by renovation work

The Colby Community College swimming pool is closed because of construction and renovation to the pool area, including a new ventilation and heating system. Call Kipp Nelson at 460-5476 for information.

Knights of Columbus to hold annual contest

The Colby Knights of Columbus will hold its annual free throw contest at 1 p.m. Sunday in the Colby Grade School gym. The contest is open to boys and girls age 10 to 14 as of Jan. 1. Bring proof of age. Doors open at noon and the contest begins at 1 p.m. Winners advance to the district contest. For information, call Dewey Augustine at 443-1548 or 460-2924.

Head Start still looking for kids to fill classes

Head Start, a tuition-free preschool, is accepting applications for the current school year. The school accepts applications all year long for kids 3 and 4. For information, or to get an application, call 460-6067.

Presidential race heads to Columbia, S.C.

By Brian Bakst
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Rivals anxious to end Mitt Romney’s two-state winning streak doubled down their criticism of him as unfeeling toward laid-off workers and out of step with conservative Christians as the presidential race headed to South Carolina today.

Romney made a show of dominance by touting his campaign’s \$56 million bankroll. Former House Speaker Newt

Gingrich of Georgia, reveling in the race’s turn to the South, struck a populist note in Rock Hill. Without mentioning Romney by name, he continued his previous attacks on the front-runner as a former venture capitalist whose deals cost people their jobs.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, mindful that some conservatives are unhappy with him for labeling Romney a “vulture capitalist,” struck a defensive tone but stood by his criticism.

LOCAL

TV Listings

Sponsored by the
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Thursday Evening										January 12, 2012											
	7:00		7:30		8:00		8:30		9:00		9:30		10:00		10:30		11:00		11:30		
KAKE/ABC	Wipeout				Grey's Anatomy				Private Practice				Local		Nightline		Jimmy Kimmel Live				
KBSL/CBS	Big Bang		Rob		Person of Interest				The Mentalist				Local		Late Show Letterman		Late				
KSNK/NBC	30 Rock		Parks		Office		All Night		The Firm				Local		Tonight Show w/Leno		Late				
KSAS/FOX	Bones				The Finder				Local												
Cable Channels																					
A & E	The First 48				The First 48				Beyond Scared Straig				Beyond Scared Straig				The First 48				
AMC	Quick-Dead								Quick-Dead												
ANIM	Rattlesnake Republic				Snake Man				American Stuffers				Rattlesnake Republic				Snake Man				
BRAVO	Housewives/Atl.				Housewives/Atl.				Housewives/Atl.				Happens				Housewives/Atl.				
CMT	Strictest Parents				Sweet Home Alabama								Footloose				Tabatha				
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360				Piers Morgan Tonight				Anderson Cooper 360				E. B. OutFront				Piers Morgan Tonight				
COMEDY	Futurama				Futurama				Kevin Hart				Daily				Colbert				
DISC	Dual Survival				Man, Woman, Wild				Last Frontier				Man, Woman, Wild				Last Frontier				
DISN	Austin		Adventures of Sharkboy						ANT Farm		Shake It		Good Luck		Austin		Wizards				
E!	The Soup		E Special		Sex-City		Sex-City		Sex-City		Sex-City		Chelsea		E! News		Chelsea				
ESPN	College Basketball				College Basketball								SportsCenter				SportsCenter				
ESPN2	College Basketball				College Basketball								College Basketball								
FAM	Miss Cong		Pretty Woman										The 700 Club				Prince		Prince		
FOOD	Chopped				Chopped				Chopped				Cupcake Wars				Chopped				
FX	Two Men		Two Men		Two Men		Two Men		13 Going on 30								13 Going on 30				
HGTV	Price Thi		First		Selling L		Selling		House		Hunters		House		Hunters		Selling L		Selling		
HIST	American Pickers				Swamp People				Cajun Pwn				Cajun Pwn				American Pickers				
LIFE	Project Runway				Project Runway				24 Hour Catwalk				Dance Moms				Project Runway				
MTV	Teen Mom 2				Jersey Shore				Jersey Shore				Jersey		Jersey Shore		Jersey				
NICK	My Wife		My Wife		70s Show		70s Show		George		George		Friends		Friends		Friends		Friends		
SCI	Pirates-Worlds																Beyond Sherwood Forest				
SPIKE	Jail		Jail		iMPACT Wrestling								MANswers				MANswers				
TBS	Fam. Guy		Fam. Guy		Big Bang		Big Bang		Big Bang		Big Bang		Conan				Office		Office		
TCM	Life of Blimp												Cameraman-Life of Jack Cardiff				Matter				
TLC	NY Ink				NY Ink				Hook		Hook		NY Ink				Hook		Hook		
TNT	NBA Basketball												NBA Basketball								
TOON	MAD		Regular		King/Hill		King/Hill		Amer. Dad		Amer. Dad		Fam. Guy		Fam. Guy		Delocated		Aqua Unit		
TRAV	When Vacations				Bizarre Foods				No Reservation				The Layover				Bizarre Foods				
TV LAND	Home Imp.		Home Imp.		Raymond		Raymond		Raymond		Raymond		King		King		King		King		
USA	NCIS				NCIS				NCIS				Burn Notice				CSI: Crime Scene				
VH1	Critics Choice								Critics Choice								Baseball Wives				
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	Devil				Paradise Lost 3								Paradise Lost								
MAX	Terminator 2								A Nightmare on Elm Street				Sex Games				Sex Games				
SHOW	Tabloid				Lies				Shameless				Teller		Beach		Lies		Californ.		

We Celebrate Hometown Life

Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

HIST	American Pickers	Ax Men	American	American	American	American	American Pickers
LIFE	Amer. Most Wanted	Amer. Most Wanted	Amer. Most Wanted	Amer. Most Wanted	The First 48	Amer. Most Wanted	
MTV	Jersey Shore	Jersey Shore	How High			How High	
NICK	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	70s Show	70s Show	George	George	Friends
SCI	WWE SmackDown!		Merlin		Face Off	Merlin	
SPIKE	Gangland	The Rundown			Unleashed		
TBS	Payne	Payne	Payne	Payne	17 Again		Music
TCM	Conquest				Love and Death		Anthony Adverse
TLC	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes	Four Weddings	Say Yes	Four Weddings
TNT	Law & Order	2 Fast 2 Furious				The Fast and the Furious	
TOON	Star Wars	Generator	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy
TRAV	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	The Dead Files		Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures
TV LAND	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	King
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	CSI: Crime Scene		White Collar		CSI: Crime Scene
VH1	Pretty in Pink		Mob Wives		T.I.-Tiny	T.I.-Tiny	T.I.-Tiny
WGN	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	WGN News at Nine	30 Rock	Scrubs
Premium Channels							
HBO	Date Night	Life	Angry	Real Time/Bill Maher	Real Time/Bill Maher	Life	Edge
MAX	Robocop	X2: X-Men United		Sex Games	Sex Games	Housewives	
SHOW	Twilight: New Moon	Twil: Eclipse		Lies		The Mechanic	