

# Weather



National Weather Service  
**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 21. South wind around 5 mph becoming west.  
**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 44. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 18. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 42. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 23.  
**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 48.  
**Sunday Night:** A slight chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.  
**Presidents Day:** A slight chance of rain and snow. Partly sunny, with a high near 44. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.  
**Monday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24.  
**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 46.  
**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 27.  
**Wednesday:** Partly sunny and breezy, with a high near 52.

Wednesday: High, 44; Low 18  
 Precip: Wednesday None  
 Month: 0.39 inches  
 Year: 0.39 inches  
 Normal: 0.93 inches  
 (K-State Experiment Station)  
**Sunrise and Sunset**  
 Friday 7:34 a.m. 6:23 p.m.  
 Moon: waning, 19 percent  
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

# County hears of need for new jail

From "COUNTY," Page 1

the fee paid to Rawlins County for housing the prisoners, employee costs and fuel figured at \$3.25 per gallon. Additional costs are added, depending on how many times the prisoner has to be picked up for court appointments and whether there are medical expenses.

The county uses jails in Sherman, Logan and Gove counties, too, Taylor said.

"And we'll continue having to pay more out because we are serving more warrants and undertaking more investigations," he added.

Chief Jones added that over the 30 years since the Law Enforcement Center was constructed, the building has not changed to accommodate the ever-changing needs of the community.

"In the summer," he said, "we now have two separate populations: residents of Colby and travelers coming off the Interstate. And we have to provide service and law enforcement to that larger population."

"Thirty years ago, it was harder to call in a complaint; people had to drive off the Interstate and find a phone. Nowadays, it's much easier because people have cell phones, so we have an increase in calls that need responded to.

"We continue to progress, and it's good for the community, but the jail hasn't progressed with the times."

Not only are there concerns for the safety of prisoners here, the chief said, but he worries about housing prisoners in other counties.

"We are responsible for the welfare of our prisoners even when housed in other counties," he said. "I've never been in the jail in Atwood. I don't know what the conditions are over there."

"Now, I'm not saying it's bad, but we just don't know who our prisoners will be celled with or how they'll be treated. If they get hurt elsewhere, we are still responsible for their medical bills. It's just an added liability."

Former Sheriff Mike Baughn, who is mayor of Brewster, said the building is "totally inadequate."

"It is the biggest liability to the county," Baughn said. "There are blind corners and blind spots that are dangerous when moving prisoners in and out of the building, and you can't provide for prisoner and staff safety, and it's just going to get continually worse."

"The sewer is in bad shape, the heating and utilities are inadequate and it's almost impossible to get in and work on the water heater."

"So, you're saying the jail is deficient in all categories?" Woolter asked.

"It's a serious problem," Taylor replied, "and only a matter of time before we have a lawsuit on our hands."

He said a jail with similar problems had been hit with a \$5 million suit. It would cost the county more to pay for long-existing problems than it would to build a new building to accommodate present and future needs, the sheriff said.

Baughn added that by next year, the state Legislature may look at consolidating law enforcement services in a nine-county area, with Thomas County in the center of that. He said the need to plan for the future is pressing.

While the cost of a new jail can't be known until building specifications can be written, Taylor said, a Thomas County project shouldn't cost as much as a new 30-bed jail recently finished in Scott City, which totaled about \$4.2 million. He said the building also includes offices for the police and

sheriff's departments.  
 "OK, so you've more than demonstrated a need to upgrade," said Mike Tubbs, "but how receptive do you think the community at large is going to be for a possible \$4.2 million jail, and how do the commissioners plan to fund it?"

The group agreed that they don't want to be short-sighted on the design, but a large obstacle will be gaining public support and finding the best way to pay for the project – in the fairest way possible.

"Nothing can't be solved without the liberal application of tax dollars," said Commissioner Paul Steele. "I kind of like the idea of sales tax, because as Randy Jones pointed out, some of our problems come in off the Interstate. But we need discussion amongst the people in the community. You have different skill sets, and I'm hoping you can come up with a way."

Tubbs disagreed with the convenience of a sales tax that Steele suggested, saying that it hits low- and fixed-income people hard.

"I think you're asking for a cart before the horse," Armstrong said. "You aren't going to gain community support before the building needs are identified."

The group agreed, and heard suggestions from Kalb.

"I think a study would greatly benefit you and your ability to educate your public," he said.

"We don't want to spend money on a study to tell us there's a need (for a new jail)," Taylor said. "We already know that. But maybe it can help us find a way to finance it, and have the right kind of information to meet the long-term needs."

No decisions were made, but commissioners said they'd come back to the issue for further discussion.

# Woman helps church expand to Colby

From "CHURCH," Page 1

vision" of where the church will be by the year 2020. Having seven other worship sites is one goal. He said that even before McNinch approached him with the idea of serving the Colby area, they had already contem-

plated it.  
 Two main obstacles were in their way, though. First, they needed a location. Second, they needed a pastor for the Colby campus.

The first was easy, he said. "To us, church isn't just a building," he said. "We have to build a church of people. And many people don't realize that most multi-site churches start in a high school or even in a movie theater. The Celebration Church started in a vacant storefront, and we were a congregation for five years before we had a dedicated church, although I guess it's obvious that many people didn't get it because the first day we moved into our church, we increased 100 people for every service and we haven't gone lower than that since."

McNinch said she worked to spread the news every way she could to promote the first service at the Colby High School auditorium in December, despite not yet having a pastor here.

"I prayed for 50 and hoped for 10 people to show up," she said. "I was sure that first night it would only be me and my family there. But it was amaz-

ing – there were 61 people who showed up."

By the time the second service could take place in January – where attendance grew to about 90 – another divine inspiration landed Dave Funk, a member and budding leader at the Colby church, in the job of Colby campus pastor.

"We knew before he did that Dave would lead the ministry," Rice said. "Through Young Life and youth worship, over the course of two years we saw the leadership abilities grow in him."

By January, Funk coincidentally found an outside job that enables him to work anywhere he wants. Since the first of February, he has been living in Colby and working as a technology specialist for Lang Diesel. He's also worked alongside Rice and McNinch to establish roots for the new church in Colby.

Funk is a 2006 graduate of Hillsboro High School and a May 2011 graduate of Fort Hays State University, with a bachelor's degree in architecture.

He joined the Celebration church while attending college and rapidly got involved with

many other young-adult activities by singing, playing the guitar and leading services.

The new pastor said Celebration isn't out to take members from established churches, but to bring the unchurched to God.

"It's important that people in Colby know that we aren't trying to close any church's doors," Funk said. "We are just trying to find the lost. We are trying to plant our roots and plant them hard."

He said he hopes to foster a connection of fellowship in Colby.

Until a big launch, planned for Easter Sunday, the church is having a service at the high school only once a month, Funk said. An informal service is also held at 10:45 a.m. every Sunday at Smoffee's, 365 N. Franklin, in downtown Colby.

"In addition to the informal services at Smoffee's, we hope people will come check us out at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18, at the high school," said Funk. "The next big service will be on March 10, and then our launch date is on April 15."

For information, go to www.celebratejesus.org.

# Briefly

## Foundation promotes Random Acts week

The Thomas County Community Foundation is promoting "Random Acts of Kindness Week" this week to challenge residents, businesses and organizations to perform small charitable deeds. If you catch someone doing good, report them to Melinda Olson at the foundation at 460-9152. Photos may be e-mailed to tcfcf2@st-tel.net. For information, call Olson or Shelly Myers at the foundation office.

## Worship, praise night planned by Hays church

There will be a night of worship at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Colby High School Auditorium sponsored by the Celebration Community Church of Hays and featuring a nondenominational, encouraging message and music by the band Ignite. For information, call Debbie McNinch at 460-4205.

## Women's group to sell soup for preschool

Kappa Upsilon, a women's service group, will hold its annual soup supper to benefit Puddle Duck Preschool from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Community Building during the Colby-Hugoton basketball games. Enjoy chili, chicken-noodle and vegetable-beef soups, along with dessert, for a donation. For questions, call Amy Jennings at 460-2603.

## Third graders planning free musical Tuesday

Everyone is invited to the Colby Grade School third grade musical, "Everybody Has Music Inside," at 2 and 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Colby Grade School Auditorium. For information, call music teacher Jennifer Koel at 460-5100.

## Dyslexia to be topic of Knowledge at Noon

"Understanding Dyslexia" will be the topic for a free "Knowledge at Noon" session from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. Tuesday at the Thomas County Office Complex. Come for a bowl of soup and learn a little about this "learning difference." For information, call Diann Gerstner, county Extension agent, at 460-4582.

## Patrol will show parents about 'booster, belts'

A "Booster to Belts" presentation, sponsored by Smart Start Northwest Kansas and the Kansas Highway Patrol, will be given at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at Sacred Heart School and at 2:30 p.m. at the Colby Grade School auditorium. The program includes slide presentation, a visit from Vince and Larry (the crash-test dummies), free material and prizes. For information, call Denise Singer at 465-9103.

## Concert spotlights 'My Favorite Things'

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will present "These Are a Few of My Favorite Things," conducted by Beverly Rucker, at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, in the Frahm Theatre at Colby Community College. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for students. Call Janet Hopson at 462-5102.

# Feds eye dash devices

From "FEDS," Page 1

aimed at passenger cars and sport utility vehicles, not trucks.

"We recognize that vehicle manufacturers want to build vehicles that include the tools and conveniences expected by today's American drivers," said agency Administrator David Strickland. "The guidelines we're proposing would offer real-world guidance to automakers to help them develop electronic devices that provide features consumers want without disrupting a driver's attention or sacrificing safety."

The guidelines are a good first step toward reducing driver distractions, said Barbara Harsha, executive director of the Governors Highway Safety Associa-

tion, which represents state highway safety offices.

But "the safest thing is for drivers is, not use these systems at all – both hands on the wheel and the mind focused solely on driving," she said.

The agency is also considering future guidelines to address portable electronic devices drivers carry with them in cars, including Global Positioning navigation systems, smart phones, electronic tablets and pads and other mobile communications gear.

In December, the National Transportation Safety Board said texting, e-mailing or chatting on a cellphone while driving is simply too dangerous to be allowed and urged all states to impose total bans except for emergencies.



## Saturday Evening February 18, 2012

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Wipeout		Wild Hogs				Local			
KBSL/CBS	Person of Interest		NCIS: Los Angeles		48 Hours Mystery		Local			
KSNK/NBC	Smash		The Firm		Law & Order: SVU		Local	Saturday Night Live		
KSAS/FOX	NASCAR Racing				Local		Alcatraz	New Girl	Local	

## February 19, 2012

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Once Upon a Time		Desperate Housewives		Pan Am		Local			
KBSL/CBS	The Amazing Race		The Good Wife		CSI: Miami		Local			
KSNK/NBC	Dateline NBC		Celebrity Apprentice				Local	Dateline NBC		
KSAS/FOX	Simpsons	Napoleon	Fam. Guy	Amer. Dad	Local					

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

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Once Upon a Time		Desperate Housewives		Pan Am		Local			
KBSL/CBS	The Amazing Race		The Good Wife		CSI: Miami		Local			
KSNK/NBC	Dateline NBC		Celebrity Apprentice				Local	Dateline NBC		
KSAS/FOX	Simpsons	Napoleon	Fam. Guy	Amer. Dad	Local					