

Weather



National Weather Service
Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 42. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south.
Friday: Partly sunny, then gradually becoming sunny, with a high near 80. Southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 86. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 81.
Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy and breezy, with a low around 41.
Monday: Mostly sunny and breezy, with a high near 61.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 37.
Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 69.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 40.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 75.
Wednesday: High, 75; Low 41
Precip: Wednesday None
Month: 0.78 inches
Year: 1.67 inches
Normal: 2.11 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Friday 7:31 a.m. 8:07 p.m.
First quarter Moon at 2:41 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Governors hope to save jobs

From "GOVERNORS," Page 1

pink slime - including Cargill and BPI - will be able to overcome the public stigma against their product at this point.
"I can't think of a single solitary message that a manufacturer could use that would resonate with anybody right now," Smith said.
All the governors and lieutenant governors taking the tour want to eat some of the meat to demonstrate that it's safe, but Branstad's spokesman, Tim Albrecht, said it's possible BPI may not be able to serve them burgers today. Regardless of whether the beef is available on the tour, Branstad plans to eat some at a community picnic this weekend.
Russell Cross, who is a former administrator of the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, said this product is getting a bad rap from a food safety standpoint.
"I'm not saying it's perfectly safe. Nothing is perfectly safe. All food is going to have bacteria in it. But this product has never been in question for safety," he said.
Cross said that ammonia is just one tool

designed to reduce bacteria and help make the food safer. The process Cargill uses, by comparison, uses citric acid to achieve similar results to what the firm does with ammonia.
The finished product contains only a trace of ammonia, as do many other foods, and it's meant just to be an additional "hurdle for the pathogens," said Cross, who is now head of the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University.
The ammonium hydroxide the firm uses is also used in baked goods, puddings and other processed foods.
National Meat Association spokesman Jeremy Russell said if consumers insist on eliminating this product from ground beef, prices will go up and lean beef trimmings will have to be imported to replace it. The process of creating lean, finely textured beef yields about 12 to 15 pounds of additional meat per animal.
Russell said the pink slime outcry has already hurt the firm and other meat companies, and could eventually hurt the price that ranchers and feedlots receive for cattle.
"It's costing them and other companies a

lot of money," Russell said.
the firm did get some good news Wednesday when Iowa-based grocer Hy-Vee said it would offer beef with and without pink slime because some consumers demanded the option. But larger grocery store chains, such as Kroger, have stuck with their decisions to stop offering beef with pink slime.
The real test for the future of the firm and pink slime may come later this year when school districts purchase meat from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for next school year. The Agriculture Department said earlier this month that it would give school districts a choice between 95 percent lean beef that contains pink slime and less-lean beef without it.
Russell said school districts will have to decide whether they're willing to spend roughly 16 percent more for beef without pink slime.
The departments this year has contracts to buy 111.5 million pounds of ground beef for the National School Lunch Program, about 7 million pounds of that from Beef Products.

Chinese oil firm now world's biggest

From "CHINESE," Page 1

analysts say Western oil firms like Exxon Mobil have been more conservative than the Chinese, mindful of their bottom line and investor returns. With oil prices up 19 percent in 2011, they still made money without increasing production.
PetroChina Co. Ltd. has a different mission. The Chinese government owns 86 percent of its stock and the nation uses nearly every drop of oil PetroChina pumps. Its appetite for gasoline and other petroleum products is projected to double between 2010 and 2035.
"There's a lot of anxiety in China about the energy question," says energy historian Dan

Yergin. "It's just growing so fast."
While PetroChina sits atop other publicly traded companies in oil production, it falls well short of national oil companies like Saudi Aramco, which produces nearly 8 million barrels a day. And Exxon is still the biggest publicly traded energy company when counting combined output of oil and natural gas. PetroChina ranks third behind Exxon and BP in total output of oil and natural gas.
PetroChina is looking to build on its momentum in 2012.
"We must push ahead," PetroChina chairman Jiang Jiemin said in January.
PetroChina has grown by pumping everything it can from

reserves in China, estimated to contain more than 6.5 billion barrels. It drilled thousands of oil wells across vast stretches of the nation's northern grasslands. Some of those fields are ancient by industry standards, dating close to the beginning of China's communist government in the 1950s.
The commitment to aging fields distinguishes PetroChina from its biggest Western rivals. Exxon and other major oil companies typically sell their aging, low-performing fields, or they put them out of commission.
PetroChina also has been on a buying spree, acquiring new reserves in Iraq, Australia, Africa, Qatar and Canada. Since 2010, its acquisitions have totaled \$7

billion, about twice as much as Exxon, according to data provider Dealogic.
Several other Chinese companies have become deal makers around the globe as well. Total acquisitions by Chinese energy firms jumped from less than \$2 billion between 2002 and 2003 to nearly \$48 billion in 2009 and 2010, according to the International Energy Agency. More times than not, the companies are paying above the industry average to get those deals done.
It's making some in the West nervous.
In 2005, for example, CNOOC Ltd., a company mostly owned by the Chinese government tried to buy American oil producer Unocal. U.S. lawmakers worked to block the deal, asking President Bush to investigate the role the Chinese central government played in the process. Chevron Corp. eventually bought Unocal for \$17.3 billion.
"China's oil companies have been willing to outspend everyone and that drives up the price of fields and makes it more expensive for everyone to expand.
"You now have to outbid them," says Argus Research analyst Phil Weiss.

Undersheriff gets national recognition

From "OFFICER," Page 1

interest me and ones that will be most beneficial to our department when I return. With gangs becoming more and more prevalent, one of the classes I'll be taking will help me be better prepared to handle those situations."
Finley explained that although gangs are not as common in Colby as they are in the city, they do exist in small towns and he wants to be prepared if something comes up.
In addition to learning about the dynamics of gangs, Finley said, he'll be taking leadership classes, learning more about law and behavioral sciences, understanding the mindset of terrorists and communication, to name a few.
But it's not all about learning, Patton said. Finley also has a chance to meet law enforcement officers from around the nation and abroad.

"The academy is an excellent mechanism for liaison purposes," she added. "Networking and building ties to other departments is crucial to forging lasting partnerships and for supporting one another.
"The specialized training that is offered creates standardized professionalism and will enhance the local department's leadership."
"I'm pretty committed and optimistic about the new experience," said Finley. "Although it's been awhile since I've taken classes, and I'm not sure what to expect when it comes to being in a classroom setting from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for 10 weeks, but I do know about physical endurance and I've been training a lot harder in preparation for the academy."
Finley said he upped his weekly running regimen from about three miles a day to upwards of nine, preparing for an optional 6.1 mile run through a wooded, hilly trail on the last day called The Yellow Brick Road.
"Of course I'm gonna do it," he said. "It

was built by the Marines."
Having been a Marine for eight years, Finley said he is especially looking forward to getting back on base and being in that atmosphere.
Coming back to Colby after being away from his partner, K-9 service dog Honcho, is also something he'll be anticipating, the undersheriff admits.
Finley said he has trained with the 4-year-old dog, who responds to both Polish and German commands, for the last two years. Honcho's name refers to a unit's squad leader during the Korean War, Finley said.

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Briefly

Kiwanis egg hunt starts at 10 a.m. Saturday

The annual Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Colby Kiwanis Club will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday at Fike Park. Starting times will be 10 a.m. for ages 3 and under, 10:10 a.m. for ages 4 to 6 and 10:20 for ages 7 to 9. In case of bad weather, listen to KXXX Radio for information. For information, call Scott Haas at 460-3922.

Brewster students sponsoring blood drive

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday at the Brewster School, sponsored by the student council. Call (785) 694-2236 for information or to make an appointment. Walk ins are welcome.

Workshop will teach how to manage disease

A workshop to help people learn to self-manage chronic diseases will be offered from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Mondays from next week to May 7 in the Citizens Medical Center conference room. A light meal will be served, and preregistration is required. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown at the hospital's education department, (785) 460-4850.

Kindergarten signup Tuesday at school

Kindergarten pre-enrollment and visitation for the 2012-13 school year will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday at the Colby Grade School activity room. Bring your child's birth certificate, immunization records and Social Security card. For information, call the school office at (785) 460-5100.

Preschool plans enrollment, open house

An enrollment open house for the 2012-13 school year for Puddle Duck Preschool will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday at the school, 520 W. Fifth St. The preschool is for children 3 to 5 years old. For information, call teacher Amy Jennings at 460-2603.

Hospital plans to offer childbirth education

Citizens Medical Center will hold a four-week series of childbirth classes at 7 p.m. Thursdays from next week to April 26 in the conference room. Women due to deliver before August are encouraged to attend with their labor support partner. The next series of classes will begin July 5. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown at (785) 460-4850.

Fourth graders draw historic buildings here

A free exhibit of drawings of historic area buildings by fourth graders at Colby Grade School is on display at the Prairie Museum of Art and History through Friday, April 6. For information, call Ann Miner at (785) 460-4590 or e-mail museumed@st-tel.net.

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