

Weather



National Weather Service Tonight: A chance of drizzle after 1 a.m. Areas of fog after 1 a.m. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 47. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday: A chance of drizzle before 1 p.m. Areas of fog before 1 p.m. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 64. Windy, with a south wind between 20 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43. Breezy, with a south wind 20 to 25 mph becoming southwest 10 to 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 62. Breezy, with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 35.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 66.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 41.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 37.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 63.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy and breezy, with a high near 63.

Wednesday: High, 47; Low 41 Precip: Wednesday 0.17 inches Month: 1.84 inches Year: 3.51 inches Normal: 3.98 inches (K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset Friday 7:20 a.m. 8:14 p.m. Full Moon at 2:20 p.m. (U.S. Naval Observatory)

County says 'no' to beer sales

From "COUNTY," Page 1

cheating." Sanguinetti then talked about what the station had to do in order to sell beer. He said they took care of getting a temporary license from the state and paid for security throughout the city, including a uniformed police officer for the entire event.

He also said he and his staff were stringent about checking IDs every time someone bought a beer. He told Commissioner Byron Sowers they would even check his ID.

"We took all the precautions necessary," he said.

Sanguinetti said admission was a donation to the All-American Beef Battalion, a group out of Garden City that does steak feeds for U.S. soldiers who are either about to be deployed or have just returned from overseas. He said they feed 3,000 to 5,000 troops at a time.

"It was nice," he said. "We raised \$1,500..."

Another thing they did, he said, was give half of the profits from the beer sales to the museum. Sanguinetti said if they had the event at the fairgrounds, they would give those profits to the Thomas County Fair Board. Based off of last year's sales, he said, the board could receive \$300 to \$500.

He said the station would move the event to a later date this year, from May 14 to June 2, to avoid conflicts such as graduation and cold weather.

Sanguinetti ended his presentation by saying that all of the cost associated with the giveaway would be the station's responsibility.

Chairman Ken Christensen addressed the other commissioners, saying that whatever decision they made, it would have to be enforced "across the board."

"I don't see how we could pick and choose," Christensen said. "The radio station wants to serve beer, and then my group

wants to have a dog show and you drink beer. I mean we gotta do it standard however we do it."

Sanguinetti suggested that the commissioners or the fair board lay out some guidelines for the station, just as the museum in Barton County did by requiring security for the event.

"You know just as well as I do, gentlemen, that anytime there's alcohol involved, there's a possibility of something happening," Sanguinetti said. "But there's certainly ways to minimize that, and obviously, just having the presence of a uniformed person there goes a long way towards that."

The commissioners then talked about how much controversy this request has stirred up, and each reported getting many phone calls. Sowers said every call he received had been negative, Christensen said he had 18 positive calls and one negative but commissioner Paul Steele said all but one comment he got had been negative.

Fair Board Vice President Clair Schrock said they sent out an e-mail to all the counties that have beer gardens and he talked to five of the 12 they contacted. Schrock said that most of those beer gardens are in contained areas, they check IDs and a couple use wristbands. He said two of the places now allow beer in their grandstands as well.

"I think ... we would like to try and let these guys do that type of deal," he said, "have it available, but set the guidelines ... not necessarily for the fair ... but for rental of our 4-H building for dances and stuff like that."

Schrock said the board has had a lot of people contact it to rent the building for wedding receptions, reunions and the like, but when they tell them that there's no alcohol allowed, they just go somewhere else.

"The money we're missing out on may not sound like a lot to you guys," Schrock said, "but every little bit we could make would benefit us in a project..."

Schrock said at the moment, the board just wants to have beer sales available mainly for the 4-H building or the grounds.

Sanguinetti pointed out that the Barton County Fair Board started allowing beer sales in the past five or six years, but they have strict guidelines, such as only allowing it during concerts and special events, and it's contained to one area.

Schrock and Christensen agreed that for this item, the commissioners were just going to decide about sales during the giveaway and for the building and not address the fair.

Sanguinetti said the crowd at last year's giveaway was "of the more mature persuasion," with not many young people.

County Clerk Shelly Harms asked who would be liable if an accident were to occur after someone left the event, and Sanguinetti said that last year, the radio station gave the museum a certificate of insurance, so it was the station's liability, and it covered anyone that came on the grounds for that event.

The commissioners said that was fine, but they are worried about the liability for something that happens outside of the grounds. Sowers said he thinks if something like an accident were to happen after an event at the fairgrounds that had beer sales, the blame would come back to the commissioners for allowing the sales in the first place.

Christensen said he thought they should table the issue until the next meeting on Monday, but both Steele and Sowers said they were ready to vote.

"We support ADAC (Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council) and their main initiative (sobriety)," Sowers said. "We support Sue Evans and her coalition ... and then we turn around and do something like this? That leads to double standards to me."

Sowers then made a motion to deny the fair board the authority to allow alcoholic beverages on site, and the motion passed 2-0 with Christensen not voting.

Hiring pace shrinks unemployment

From "HIRING," Page 1

lowest in three years.

Economists forecast that employers added 210,000 jobs last month, although they expect the unemployment rate was unchanged for the second straight month.

"We believe that the economy has entered a more self-sustaining phase of the recovery with stronger job creation," said John Ryding, an analyst at RDQ Eco-

nomics, in a note to clients.

Consumers are growing more confident in the economy and are stepping up spending. Many large retail chains today reported healthy sales for March.

Gap Inc., Target Corp. and Macy's were among the retailers reporting solid gains. Overall, revenue in stores open at least one year - an indicator of a retailer's health - rose 4.1 percent, according to a preliminary tally of 22 retailers by the Inter-

national Council of Shopping Centers.

Analysts said a better job market and rising stock prices are encouraging more Americans to shop. Last week the government said consumer spending jumped in February by the most in seven months.

Other data show consumers and businesses are more optimistic about the economy.

The University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Survey index rose last month to its highest level since February 2011.

The service sector expanded at a healthy pace in March and stepped up hiring, according to a private survey released Wednesday by the Institute for Supply Management. A separate ISM survey of manufacturing companies found that factories also added jobs and boosted production last month.

Companies are investing more, boosting factory output. Businesses ordered more machinery, equipment and other

capital goods in February, according to a government report this week.

Yet, greater hiring hasn't led to bigger paychecks. Americans' income grew just 0.2 percent in February, matching January's weak increase. And after taking inflation into account, income after taxes fell for a second straight month. Consumers have boosted their spending by saving less, which economists worry isn't sustainable.

And some companies are still letting workers go. Yahoo said Wednesday that it is cutting 2,000 jobs, or 14 percent of its work force. It is the Internet company's sixth mass layoff in the past four years.

The number of people receiving benefits fell to 7.1 million in the week ended March 17, the latest data available. That's about 100,000 fewer than the previous week. The figure includes about 3.3 million people receiving extended benefits under federal programs.

Briefly

Clinic has young female that needs a good home

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a tan-and-white, medium-large female mixed-breed dog around 1 to 1/2 years old available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

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. For information, call Ann Miner at (785) 460-4590 or e-mail museumed@st-tel.net.

Singles dance Saturday at Meadow Lake lounge

A singles and couples dance will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday at the Meadow Lake Golf Clubhouse. Craig Stevens will provide music. For information, call Lue Duffey in Rexford, (785) 269-7057.

Thomas County landfill will be closed on Easter

The Thomas County landfill will be closed Sunday for Easter. It will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and reopen at 9 a.m. Monday. For information, call Larry Jumper at 460-8139.

Class will teach about diabetes, healthy eating

Citizens Medical Center will continue a monthly series of free classes on diabetes, "Journey for Control." The next class will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in the hospital conference room. The topic will be "Diabetes and Healthy Eating." Please register by calling the Jeanene Brown at the hospital's education department, (785) 460-4850.

Senior center offers potato bar, bake sale

The Senior Progress Center will have a potato bar, bake sale and coin raffle fund raiser from 5 to 6:30 p.m. next Thursday at the center in Fike Park. Come for dinner and check out the goodies. For information, contact Kaila DeBoer at 460-2901.

Colby kindergartners to put on show for town

Colby Grade School kindergartners invite everyone to a free show, "A Day in the Country," at 7 p.m. next Thursday in the Grade School Auditorium. For information, call music teacher Jennifer Koel at 460-5100.

Blood drive coming up at Community Building

A Colby community blood drive will be from noon to 6 p.m. next Thursday and 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 13, at the Community Building. Go to redcrossblood.org or call (800) 733-2767 for an appointment. Homemade muffins will be served. For information, call Bev Vaughn at 462-3861.

State making driver's licenses again

TOPEKA (AP) - Kansas is issuing driver's licenses and identification cards again after fixing a problem that crashed a Division of Vehicles computer system for two days.

In Colby, the woman who answered the phone at the license office here said they were issuing licenses again and things were back to normal.

Spokeswoman Jeannine Koranda said Thursday that 111 driver's license offices across the state were back to regular operations, with no problems reported in issuing licenses and ID cards.

The problem was with an outside vendor's

8-year-old server, which kept the division from issuing licenses and ID cards Tuesday and Wednesday.

The division is undergoing a \$40 million computer-system upgrade that will integrate driver's license records with vehicle title and registration data. The division has said that once the upgrade is completed, the outside vendor's older server will not be needed.

The license offices had been giving out 15-day extensions on old licenses for people whose license had expired or was about to.



LOCAL TV Listings

Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Saturday Evening April 7, 2012

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSAS/FOX, Cable Channels, etc.) listing programs like 'The Ten Commandments', 'How I Met Mike', 'Escape Routes', etc.

We Celebrate Hometown Life

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels (HIST, LIFE, MTV, NICK, SCI, SPIKE, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TOON, TRAV, TV LAND, USA, VH1, WGN, Premium Channels, etc.) listing programs like 'American Idol', 'Adopting Terror', 'How High', etc.

Sunday Evening April 8, 2012

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSAS/FOX, Cable Channels, etc.) listing programs like 'Once Upon a Time', 'The Amazing Race', 'The Good Wife', etc.