

Weather



National Weather Service Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 52. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west after midnight.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 80. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 70. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 41.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 72.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 56.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 79.

Wednesday: High, 91; Low 39 Precip: Wednesday None Month: 0.61 inches Year: 10.78 inches Normal: 17.78 inches (K-State Experiment Station) Sunrise and Sunset Friday 7:31 a.m. 7:42 p.m. Moon: waxing, 37 percent (U.S. Naval Observatory)

County asked to lower office rent

From "COUNTY," Page 1

doesn't pay rent, in that it is an enterprise. It brings in money to the county and provides health services to women and children, he said.

The county pays for the department's custodial services, utilities and lawn care, so the rent helps cover those expenses.

Steele said he thought the county pays for the health department's maintenance, including pricey "mini-splits" for the air conditioning units. Rothchild corrected him, saying that in addition to high rent, she also pays to have maintenance done from the department's budget.

"I have people in every month because they (the mini-splits) break down," she said. "Three don't even work right now."

No decision was made and the item was tabled for the meeting

which begins at 9 a.m. Friday. Christiansen wants to see how much the department spends on maintenance before making a decision.

In other business, commissioners:

• Heard from County Clerk Shelly Harms that employees who work on the south end of the third floor and in the basement of the courthouse have been experiencing severe headaches. Women in the basement have commented on headaches for several months, she said, and symptoms have now jumped to the third floor, too.

She said Midwest Energy, the gas utility serving Colby, ran tests and found nothing.

"Judge Ress says a frequent sewer smell has been around since the elevators were installed," said Harms, "and, sometimes there's a methane

smell downstairs." Steele said "P-traps" on an unused toilet or drain could cause a problem, since fumes can surface if water evaporates from the traps. He said he'd check out a floor drain downstairs.

• Approved a contract among the county, the city of Colby and the state Department of Transportation to share costs on a study of intersections in Colby to determine if stoplights are needed, among other things. Primarily, the study will look at the intersection near McDonalds on Range Avenue and the one at Fourth Street and Country Club Drive.

Expenses on the \$145,000 project will be split among the parties. The county will pay \$2,500, the city \$5,000 and the balance will be paid by the state.

The contract also needs ap-

proval from the City Council.

• Heard from Emergency Medical Services Director Joe Hickert that the ambulance known as Thomas 4, which serves Brewster, has been repaired and is now back in service. It wasn't properly grounded and would not maintain 100 percent electrical power.

He said it was a manufacturing defect; no ground strap had been installed.

The county's sixth ambulance, Thomas 6, arrived in Colby on Thursday, he said, purchased using money set aside in an equipment reserve. Hickert said he plans to get it on the road within a week.

• Learned that the Fair Board is creating a contract for people to sign if they store personal items at the fair grounds. It will ensure the county is not liable for damages.

Commission looks for more architects

From "COMMISSION," Page 1

to name a few. Since it's made of concrete, they noted, the building has a strong structural foundation.

The primary deciding factor for adding on or building new, Steele said, will be money.

"I think in this society, the public will not go for 4 mills to build new," he said. "It comes down to one or two mills for expanding, or four or five mills for a new site."

"I think you need more opinions," said Rocca.

"We ought to bid it out," agreed Baughn.

"I agree with Mike," said Finley. "And, what's it going to hurt to go to Valentine, Neb., and see their new facility and talk to them?"

Christiansen asked Finley to give his thoughts on the blueprints they have been using to develop ideas and plans, to give the group a better idea of the direction they need to take.

Finley pointed out many concerns he has, saying the plans don't solve a lot of the

problems law enforcement officials are currently dealing with, and said the new plans also add some more problems.

"These don't address security concerns and the west doors are not bullet proof," he said, pointing to the floor plans. "Who's to say someone couldn't just drive their car through the front door and straight through dispatch? These halls are a maze. They need to be streamlined, and we still have to move prisoners through the entire building in order to get them to court."

"There would still be multiple people working out of every office," he said, "and, if we get rid of the Lester Building, where are we going to store supplies, equipment, the mower and skidsteer, seized vehicles and process crime scenes? We use that space all the time, and so does the KBI, for everything from processing cars to hanging bloody clothes to dry."

Finley also asked how compatible new electronics would be with existing systems, including radios, camera systems and electronic doors.

He said they'd still have to deal with sewer and plumbing problems in the existing structure.

"Every time you fix something, something else breaks," he said. "Not all sewer problems are fixable, and even though some of them work now, a lot of the drains are slow, so we are just waiting for them to fail. Everything can be butchered up and moved, but will it be the best and most beneficial idea?"

He added that the plans separate the holding cells from the booking area from the general-population jail area, which would require more jailers on duty since both areas need constant supervision.

At prior meetings, the members discussed the difficulty the sheriff's department has keeping a full staff already because of its budget and low wages.

Finley said he'd take the floor plans back and go over them with Sheriff Rod Taylor to come up with other problems and solutions the commission needs to consider.

New city manager will take over position Monday

From "CITY," Page 1

children playing" street signs at the north and south end of Mentlick Drive. Resident Byron Davis told the council some motorists drive 40 to 50 mph down that street in the central part of Colby.

City Attorney John Gatz said he believes the city would only need an ordinance to change the actual speed limit during a brief discussion about whether the council has the authority to put up the signs.

• Allowed an old house at 245 N. School

Ave. to escape demolition after Jim and Tami Brown said they had bought it earlier that day. They promised to repair it.

"We'll definitely get started today," Jim Brown said at the meeting. "It's final and it will be like our house, we'll take it apart and put it together."

A hearing to show why the structure should not be condemned and possibly demolished, and the findings from the city staff on why it should be, had both been on the agenda.

The second item was skipped after the Browns' visit.

Recent rainfall easing drought in several Corn Belt states

From "DROUGHT," Page 1

tions of it while forcing shippers to cut the number of barges their towboats push and the amount of freight in each.

That means Jenkins may have to get in line to ship the Ursa Farmers Cooperative's goods on the Mississippi, which is among

the major inland U.S. rivers that routinely move some 60 percent of the nation's grain exports each year.

Mitigating matters a bit is that there's less of a corn crop expected, no thanks to the drought that has been the nation's worst in decades but increasingly is showing signs of leveling off

and, in some key farm states, easing.

The weekly U.S. Drought Monitor update released today showed that recent rainfall benefited parts of the Corn Belt, coming too late to help already damaged corn crops but still likely to plump up maturing soybeans in the fields.

The report shows about one-fifth of the contiguous U.S. remains in the two worst categories of drought - extreme and exceptional. The swath still dealing with exceptional drop dropped by less than half of a percentage point as of Tuesday, to 5.96 percent.

While virtually all of the key

farming states remain gripped by some form of drought, the amount of Kansas still in the worst drought classification fell by 9 percentage points to 51.04 percent. About one-quarter of Missouri remains in extreme or exceptional drought, down more than 8 percentage points from a week earlier.

Briefly

State officials to explain health plans here

State officials will be in Colby for a meeting to explain KanCare on Monday, one of eight to be held across the state to provide details about the transition from the old Medicaid program and HealthWave. The session for clients will begin at 6 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College. For information, call Miranda Steele at (785) 296-5795.

Commodities to be given out here Monday

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center in Fike Park. Distribution is first come, first-served, but you may send a signed permission slip with another person. Bring a sack or box. For questions, call the office at 462-6744.

Flu clinic will be offered at 4-H Building

Flu shots will be given for anyone who wants one from 2 to 5:45 p.m. Tuesday in the Thomas County 4-H Building on Olive Street. Cost is \$25; bring cash, a check or a copy of your insurance card. Everyone will need to complete and print an online consent form, found at thomascountysks.com. Help on that will be available during the clinic. For information, call the flu line at 460-4599 or Angie Gaede at 460-4596.

City to hold reception for new manager

The City of Colby will hold a welcome reception for the new city manager, Tyson McGreer, from 3 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Law Enforcement Training Center, 360 N. Franklin. For information, call the city at 460-4410.

Dove Award winner coming to Oakley

Dove Award winner Matthew West and his Into the Light Tour will appear at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Oakley High School Auditorium. Joining him will be Mikeschair, Lindsay McCaul and Everfound. For details, go to www.kgcr.org or call David Kumer or James Claassen at KGCR Radio, (785) 694-2877.

Separate pickup of grass clippings ends

The Colby Sanitation Department will stop the separate pickup of grass clippings on Friday, Sept. 28. You may put clippings in with regular trash until spring. For information, call the Public Works Department at 460-4420.

Baptist church plans free lunch here Sept. 29

Everyone is invited to come share a free lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, at the First Baptist Church, Webster and Grant. Bring a friend. For information, call Norma Higerd at 462-7806.



Saturday Evening September 22, 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, KAS/FOX, Cable Channels, AMC, ANIM, BRAVO, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISC, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FOOD, FX, HGTV) listing their respective programs.

We Celebrate Hometown Life

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

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, HBO, MAX, SHOW) listing their respective programs.

LOCAL TV Listings

Sunday Evening September 23, 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, KAS/FOX, Cable Channels, AMC, ANIM, BRAVO, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISC, DISN, EI, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FOOD, FX, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, MTV, NICK, SCI, SPIKE, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TOON, TRAV, TV LAND, USA, VH1, WGN, Premium Channels, HBO, MAX, SHOW) listing their respective programs.

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