

Weather



National Weather Service
Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 44. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south-west after midnight.
Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 82. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south in the afternoon.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46. South wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. Breezy.
Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 51.
Thursday Night: A slight chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.
Friday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 44.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 44.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54.

Friday: High, 71; Low 38
Saturday: High, 87; Low 39
Sunday: High, 76; Low 39
Precip: Friday None
Saturday None
Sunday None
Month: 0.69 inches
Year: 11.60 inches
Normal: 19.29 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Tuesday 8:03 a.m. 6:53 p.m.
Moon: waxing, 67 percent
Wednesday 8:04 a.m. 6:52 p.m.
Moon: waxing, 76 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Program ready for applications

From “PROGRAM,” Page 1

or expansion phase.
Rocca said the 10-year rebates are set up on a sliding scale with 10 percent increments. After the approved project is complete, she said, 100 percent of the property taxes are returned to the owner for the first year. For the second year, the property owner will get 90 percent rebate.
Finally, in the 11th year, no rebate is given back and the property owner will begin to pay 100 percent of their project’s taxes.
Rocca said there are some requirements and limitations people should take into account.
“The most important thing people should realize,” she said, “is that the county-appraised value of the construction project must be at least \$25,000 for eligibility to receive property-tax rebates in the program.
“That should not be confused with how much is spent on the project.”
To apply for participation, she said, property owners should first obtain a building permit before filling out the application,

which can be found in the basement of the courthouse in the appraiser’s office.
The application asks for proof of the permit, the property’s legal description – property information is kept at the Register of Deeds office on the main level of the courthouse – and estimated start and end dates for construction.
There is a \$50 nonrefundable application fee.
After submitting the application, it can take up to two weeks for the appraiser’s office to either give a conditional approval or deny the application. For approval, they’ll confirm the property owner is up to date on taxes and will visit the site to ensure that construction has not already begun.
People can begin dirt work, said Rocca. This could include grading the lot, removing debris and other work that does not affect the property’s value.
After the date of conditional approval, the property owner must complete the project by the second following January, since the appraiser’s office conducts

their annual valuations during this month. Commissioners have considered extending this deadline to 24 months.
Property owners will begin receiving rebates if the project is completed by the deadline and meets all of the stipulations. Rebates are only given based on the “ad valorem tax increase ... directly attributable to the construction and improvement,” said Rocca.
People are not given rebates on their property’s entire value, just for the increase in valuation attributed to their project.
Also, a small percentage (1 to 3 percent) of the rebate will be retained by the county to cover office time and administration.
Rocca said she met with all 37 taxing entities in the county and was able to include 35 of them into the plan.
“The two taxing entities that did not adopt the plan were Sheridan County Rural Fire District No. 1 and United School District 291 in Grinnell,” she said. “...No explanation was given as to why they didn’t want to participate.”

Rocca said property within these districts cannot receive a rebate on their school or fire district, but they are small taxing entities in the county and won’t have a major impact on the rebate amount.
Of the seven applications that have already been received, said Rocca, six are for single-family homes and one is for a commercial shed. All are for new construction.
“Which is just what we need,” the director said.
Property owners are wasting no time once they get approval.
“We’ll break ground next week,” said Marla Crumrine of Brewster, who is one of the first to sign up for the program.
“We are so excited to start building our new home. This program is one of many blessings that have come our way since we started saving, and we figured that over the 10-year period, it’ll save us about \$20,000. The savings have allowed us to invest a little more in the house, and we’ll be able to finish our basement sooner than we expected.”

City Council agrees to put in stop signs

From “CITY,” Page 1

Suggestions made before the council voted included placing stop signs only on certain intersections or using yield signs.
The council put off a decision on whether to add three new street lights on the Eco-Acres development, pending a check of how much they would cost.
Property owner Wayne Horlacher had asked for the lights. He attended the meeting Tuesday to explain that his development – which has sold just three lots since it was begun – had been designed to have street lights on the cul-de-sacs.
Horlacher admitted that he had not done a good job of promoting the development, but said that he could do a better job of selling the lots if there were lights in the subdivision. He thinks that there is a misconception that the requirements for building there are overly stringent.
Assistant Public Utilities Director Gordon Gilbert said that the lights would cost \$900

to \$1,000 each. Old wiring would have to be replaced and new transformers would have to be hung, he said.
In other business, the council:
• Approved an agreement with the state to begin work on a resurfacing project and decided to seek bids for the work. The city, Thomas County and the Kansas Department of Transportation will split the cost of the project to repave Range Avenue (K-25) from 1,200 feet south of Interstate 70 to the city limits, Fourth Street (U.S. 24) from 268 feet to 1,410 feet east of Range, roughly from Grant Avenue to Cleveland Avenue, and Fourth Street from Franklin Avenue to Lake Avenue, about a mile east of the city limits.
• Heard City Manager Tyson McGreer report that he and Mayor Gary Adrian went to the League of Kansas Municipalities meeting Oct. 6 to 8. The Kansas Municipal Energy Agency will meet Nov. 8 and Nov. 9, he said, and former Manager Carolyn Armstrong will receive the Max Embree Award.

• Heard that Woofter Construction plans to start work on a spill containment project for the power-plant fuel tanks next week.
• Learned from Jones that the city has hired a new police officer, who will begin work at about the first of November.
• Was told by Public Works Director Omar Weber that building a new restroom at the walking trail by the aquatic park with a space for sprinkler controls would probably take at least until spring.
• Heard Councilman Dave Voss ask about work done on the parking lot next to the Community Building. Weber said that a bed of crushed concrete could be laid down for less than \$1,000 to make the parking lot usable until concrete can be poured.
Voss also asked about progress on the water-meter change outs. McGreer said that the change outs should be done by the end of November. Weber added that leaks have been interrupting work on the meter change outs, plus there have been some inventory problems.

Former parks biologist joins nature conservancy

From “BIOLOGIST,” Page 1

enough to give them a place to nest, he said. Prairie dogs, another keystone species for the habitat, eat some of the same grasses as cattle.
“If you manage for those two things,” he said, “then you kind of manage for all those important prairie species that really ought to be out there.”
Prairie dogs are allowed on about 10 percent of the ranch, Bain said, and other animals such as hawks and black-footed

ferrets eat them or live in their holes. Deer, antelope and turkey also live in parts of the ranch.
He said he hopes that the ranch will serve as an example of how conservation-minded land management can work on private ranches as well.
“We hope to be able to demonstrate the profitability of that program,” Bain said.
Part of his job will be to encourage landowners to consider similar strategies. He will visit landowners and ask them to consider participating in gov-

ernment programs designed to protect migrating game birds.
“That’s what I did for Wildlife and Parks for the last nine years,” he said.
Bain was district biologist for the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, overseeing efforts in nine counties in northwest Kansas. He said he has been involved in agriculture his whole life, having grown up on a ranch southwest of Ness County. He received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biology from Fort Hays State.

“He’s an experienced biologist, he’s experienced in that part of the world, having worked there,” said Bain’s supervisor, Lance Hedges, director of conservation for the conservancy.
“We’re just very fortunate that we were able to find someone with those qualifications.”
The conservancy is a worldwide environmental organization which oversees environmental conservation projects. The Kansas chapter owns 46,500 acres of land at six nature preserves, including Smoky Valley Ranch.

Briefly

Colby Schools will have music concert Tuesday

The Colby School District’s free fall concert, featuring musicians from grade, middle and high schools, will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Colby Community Building. The program includes the world debut of “Give Us a Home” by Brian Balmages, a commissioned work for voice and band written for the Colby Public Schools Music Department. Doors will open at 7:20 p.m. For information, call Jennifer Koel at 460-5100, ext. 1104.

Blood drive scheduled Thursday and Friday

The American Red Cross plans a blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday and 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday at the National Guard Armory, 470 S. Range Ave. To make an appointment, call (800) RED-CROSS, but walk-ins are welcome. For questions, contact Donor Recruitment Representative Catherine Younger in Hays at (316) 641-1193 or catherine.younger@redcross.org.

Health Department to offer walk-in flu clinics

The Thomas County Health Department plans walk-in flu clinics Thursday, Wednesday, Oct. 31, and Thursday, Nov. 8, at the department’s office at 350 S. Range, and from 11 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Nov. 6, at the Senior Progress Center. Cost is \$25, or bring a copy of your insurance card. Please remember to complete and print a consent form/voucher from the thomascountyks.com website under the health department tab beforehand. For information, call the department at 460-4596.

Autumn Art Bazaar set for Saturday in Colby

Colby Community College art students plan an Art Bazaar from 2 to 7 p.m. Saturday in downtown Colby. Tons of fun activities have been planned for the evening in the blocked off streets, says instructor Rebel Jay. For information, call Rebel Jay at 269-7065.

Presbyterian women selling greenery

The Colby Presbyterian Women are selling fresh Christmas greenery – wreaths, garlands and centerpieces – to raise funds for mission projects. Orders are due by Sunday; delivery will be the first week of December. For information or to place an order, call the church at 462-6342 or JoAnn Sunderman at 460-2476.

Early voting for election starts Oct. 30

People can vote early for the upcoming election at the Thomas County Courthouse from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 30, through Friday, Nov. 2, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Monday, Nov. 6. Call the county clerk’s office at (785) 460-4500 for questions about the election process, especially regarding the photo identification requirement.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Tuesday Evening October 23, 2012										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Dancing/Stars	Happy	Apt. 23	Private Practice	Local		Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live		
KBSL/CBS	NCIS	NCIS: Los Angeles	Vegas		Local		Late Show Letterman	Ferguson		
KSNK/NBC	The Voice	Go On	Normal	Parenthood	Local		Tonight Show w/Leno	J. Fallon		
KSAS/FOX	The X Factor			Local						
Cable Channels										
A & E	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
AMC	Halloween 5					Halloween: Res				Hallow 5
ANIM	River Monsters	Life: Reborn		Life: Reborn		River Monsters	Life: Reborn			
BRAVO	Housewives/NJ	Flipping Out		Flipping Out		Happens	Flipping Out	NYC		
CMT	Reba	Reba	RV				Smokey and the Bandit			
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360	Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360	E. B. OutFront		Piers Morgan Tonight			
COMEDY	Work.	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Brickle.	Daily	Colbert	Tosh.0	Mash Up	
DISC	Last Frontier	Last Frontier		Gold Rush		Last Frontier		Gold Rush		
DISN	Make Your Mark: Shake It		Make-Mark	Gravity	Phineas	ANT Farm	Vampire	Wizards	Wizards	
E!	Kardash	Kardash	Kardash	Miami	Kourtney	Chelsea	E! News		Chelsea	
ESPN	30 for 30			World/Poker			SportsCenter			
ESPN2	College Football					SportCtr	All-Acces	Baseball Tonight		
FAM	Pretty Little Liars		Hocus Pocus			The 700 Club		Pretty Little Liars		
FOOD	Cupcake Wars		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped			
FX	Twilight: New Moon				Sons of Anarchy		Sons of Anarchy			
HGTV	Love It or List It	Property	Property		Hunters	Hunt Intl	Million Dollar Rooms	Property	Property	
HIST	Built America		Built America			Pawn	Pawn	Built America		
LIFE	Abby's Dance		Abby's Dance		Prank Mom	Prank Mom	My Life, Movie	Abby's Dance		
MTV	Jersey Shore		Jersey Shore		Underemployed		Underemployed		Jersey Shore	
NICK	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	The Nanny	The Nanny	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SCI	Face Off		Face Off		Hot Set		Face Off		Hot Set	
SPIKE	Ink Master		Ink Master		Ink Master		Tattoo	Tattoo	Ink Master	
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan		Office	Office
TCM	A Child Is Waiting				Mandy			Of Mice and Men		
TLC	Breaking Amish	19 Kids	19 Kids		Extreme	Extreme	19 Kids	19 Kids	Extreme	Extreme
TNT	The Mentalist		The Mentalist		Rizzoli & Isles		Leverage		The Closer	
TOON	Looney	Adventure	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Family Guy		Chicken	Aqua Teen
TRAV	Bizarre Foods		Airport 2	Airport 2	Baggage B	Baggage B	Toy Hntr	Toy Hntr	Airport 2	Airport 2
TV LAND	Cosby	Cosby	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	The King of Queens	
USA	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Covert Affairs		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
VH1	Planet Rock: Hip Hop				Rehab With Dr. Drew		Basketball Wives LA		T.I.-Tiny	Chrissy
WGN	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	WGN News at Nine		Funniest Home Videos		Rules	Rules
Premium Channels										
HBO	Harry Potter		Treme		REAL Sports Gumbel		Boardwalk Empire		The Sitter	
MAX	Due Date		The Hangover Part II		The Matrix Reloaded				Hunted	
SHOW	Loosies		Our Idiot Brother		Homeland		Dexter		Gigolos	Trevino

American Profile We Celebrate Hometown Life Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

HIST	American	American	American	American	Cajun Pwn	Cajun Pwn	American Pickers	American	American	
LIFE	Houstons	Remember	Houstons	Houstons	My Life, Movie		Houstons	Houstons	Remember	
MTV	Underemployed		The Challenge		The Challenge		Challenge	The Challenge	Challenge	
NICK	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	The Nanny	The Nanny	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SCI	Ghost Hunters		Ghost Hunters		Paranormal Witness		Ghost Hunters		Paranorma	
SPIKE	Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue	
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan	Office	Office	
TCM	The Raven				Murders-Rue		The Black Cat		The Fall	
TLC	Hoard-Buried		Half-Ton Killer		Addicted		Half-Ton Killer		Addicted	
TNT	Castle		Castle		Castle		Perception		Southland	
TOON	Dragons	Johnny T	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	
TRAV	Halloween Crazier		Toy Hntr	Toy Hntr	Sausage Paradise		Food Truck Paradise		Toy Hntr	
TV LAND	Cosby	Cosby	Raymond	Raymond	Cleveland	The Exes	King	King	King	
USA	NCIS		NCIS		NCIS		Covert Affairs		NCIS	
VH1	Couples Therapy		Couples Therapy		Couples Therapy		Rehab With Dr. Drew		Couples Therapy	
WGN	Rules		Rules		Rules		WGN News at Nine		Funniest Home Videos	
Rules										
Premium Channels										
HBO	Ethel		The Girl				Boardwalk Empire		Real Time/Bill Maher	Treme
MAX	Hunted				Anchorman: Legend of Ron		Underworld			
SHOW	Homeland				Inside the NFL	NASCAR	Comedy	Inside the NFL		Dexter