

Weather



National Weather Service

Tonight: A chance of rain and snow before 11 p.m., then snow. The snow could be heavy at times. Low around 25. East wind around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent. New snow accumulation of 3 to 7 inches possible.

Saturday: Snow with areas of blowing snow. The snow could be heavy at times. High near 31. Blustery, with a north wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to 20 to 25 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100 percent. New snow accumulation of 4 to 8 inches possible.

Saturday Night: Snow with areas of blowing snow before 1 a.m., then a chance of snow between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m., then a slight chance of snow after 5 a.m. Low around 14. Blustery, with a north wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to 15 to 20 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 27. North wind around 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 10.

Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 29.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 12.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 37.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 17.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 42.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24.

Thursday: A slight chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 44. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Table with 4 columns: Day, High, Low, Precip. Includes monthly snowfall statistics and sunrise/sunset times.

School board will choose firm at special meeting

From "SCHOOL," Page 1

it wants to present its final plan to the board next month if it is chosen to upgrade the buildings.

In other business, the board:

• Heard Athletic Director Larry Gabel report the wrestling team took second at the state tournament, and Colby's Matt Sims had been selected as the Class 4A coach of the year.

Fifty-five students are out for track this spring, 31 for softball, 24 for baseball, 18 for golf and 10 for tennis, Gabel said.

He said that Matt and Stella Ziegelmeier plan give the school a \$2,500 award that they got from Monsanto.

• Heard from Lance Krannawitter, grade school principal, that several children's authors gave presentations to students. Julia Cook talked to all grade-school students about bullying on March 4 and then spoke to parents later that evening. On March 6, children's author Dale-Marie Bryan, Farlington, who used to live between McCook and Oberlin, worked with the fifth graders on their writing and editing.

A drama group from York College in Nebraska was to perform at the school auditorium today, Krannawitter said Shelby Terrell, daughter of first-grade teacher Krysti Terrell, plays the lead.

He also reported that the district is getting ready for after-school programs and would have an enrollment meeting Tuesday evening in the grade school gym.

• Heard from middle school Principal Robb Ross, who said that track practice started that Monday, and 97 students signed up.

"I find it interesting," Ross said, "our numbers continue to fluctuate." He said two students have left recently, but three enrolled, and he heard that

another one is coming.

• Heard Jeff Wallingford report that director Joey Nickols and the choir would perform Tuesday at the Class 4-A state basketball tournament.

On April 3, an honors scholars program organized by the University of Kansas at the Elks Lodge in Goodland will honor top area seniors.

• Heard Curriculum Director Diana Wieland report that a coordinating council meeting Wednesday would focus on accreditation standards. The school will have an audit of some of its online programs, she said. Wieland said she will continue to work on a grant for after-school activities for middle-school students, but that money could be held back by federal budget cuts.

• Heard Harrison report that several bills could be discussed in the state Legislature later in the week. These mainly cover funding and organization within the school system at the state level.

"I'm anxiously awaiting to hear what's going to happen with the budget," Harrison added.

She said there will be meetings with the crisis council Monday and Tuesday, April 1, and that the negotiation committee, which includes board members Omar Weber and Ed Geihlsler, will meet with the Kansas-National Education Association on Tuesday.

• Decided to seek bids for a new activity bus. Harrison said the bus, part of the capital outlay plan, will be the second one the district buys this year.

• Agreed to a renewal of an interlocal agreement with the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center.

• Approved resignations from Damin Plank as custodian and Jessica McCoy as a prom sponsor, effective when her supplemental contract expires.

College baseball squad updates trustees on season

From "COLLEGE," Page 1

wished them luck for the rest of their season.

In other business, the board:

• Heard a report from Joyce Washburn, dean of academic affairs, who said her department is working on a program review. At the April meeting, she and Dr. Xuemei Yang, dean of institutional effectiveness, will present reviews from all the faculty. Washburn also said the fall schedule went out Monday and the catalog would probably go to print this week.

She said faculty from Barton County Community College were on campus Tuesday to visit with staff and faculty about the college's four-day week. Today, Washburn said, Dr. George Griffith, superintendent of Wakeeney schools, was to visit the campus to speak with faculty from several programs about high school students having the opportunity to take college courses.

The programs he's interested in are sustainable/renewable energy, practical nursing, certified nursing assistant, beef production and veterinary technology, she said. They also invited Joni Clark-Leiker, Terrel Harrison

and Diana Wieland from the Colby Public Schools to join the discussion.

• Heard from Dr. Yang, who said her department is working on showing the public through the college's website how the department has achieved its goal and the accountability of the college.

• Heard from Debbie Schwanke, public information director, who said another documentary will be shown at 7 p.m. Monday in the Cultural Arts Center by Ryan Hale, counselor and psychology instructor. It's called "The Street Stops Here," about the career of Bob Hurley Sr., one of the most successful basketball coaches in America. Also, Schwanke said, Volleyball Coach Carey Jones has arranged for the Colorado State, Wichita State and University of Kansas volleyball teams to come here and play a three-match tournament on Saturday, March 30. It will begin at 1:15 p.m., she said, and there will be no admission fee because of certain rules, but there will be concessions and a silent auction to raise money for the Colby team.

• Heard from Brooks Wederski, information technology director, that the college received

the new version of website software and he and Brandon McLemore, admissions counselor, started training with the company last week. He said the college is participating in the "beta," or test, program so that they can get started sooner. Wederski and McLemore are meeting daily for one-hour webinar sessions to learn the new features of the software through until Friday, March 29.

• Heard from Nick Wells, endowment foundation director, who said the foundation board opened a Reserve Recovery Fund, which will take money donated to help the college build its cash reserves. Money will be released when the college requests it. The foundation is also working on its annual auction, with the theme "The House of Blues" this year, Wells said, and the auction items look good.

• Approved selling a grain mixer and auger from the college farm at an upcoming Farm and Ranch auction.

College board to hold special meeting

The Colby Community College board of trustees will hold a special meeting at noon Monday in the board room located in Thomas Hall to hold a closed session about non-elected personnel, take action as necessary and to discuss approval of Kansas Association School Boards services. For information, call Debbie Schwanke, public information director, at 460-5411.

City working on mapping electric, water

The City of Colby would like to inform the public that Midland GIS is continuing to do mapping for the electric and water departments. They will be in some alleys and yards and will be working seven days a week. The project will take approximately three more weeks to complete. If you have questions, please call the department of public works at 460-4420.

Master Gardeners will hold sessions

K-State Research and Extension will be at the Colby Home and Better Living show on Saturday upstairs in the Community Building. The Thomas County Master Gardeners will be holding the following educational sessions: 10 a.m. "Can you Grow Tomatoes?"; 11 a.m. "Tree Establishment and Care"; noon "Top 40 Annuals for Western Kansas"; 1 p.m. "Tree Establishment and Care." At 5 p.m., the program will be "Beef Done Right," focusing on beef cuts and grilling.

Colby High dance tryouts set for next week

Colby High School dance team tryouts will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday in the high school gym. Tryout packets are available in the Colby Middle School and High School offices. Call Coach Denita Rodgers at 269-7908 with any questions.

Commodities to be given out here Monday

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Monday at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center at Fike Park. This is a second distribution for March. It is first come, first-served, but you may send a signed permission slip with someone else. Bring a sack or box. Commodities may include corn, orange juice, mixed fruit, grapefruit juice, potatoes and applesauce. For questions, call the office at 462-6744.

Brewster Grocery plans annual fish fry

The Brewster Grocery Annual Fish Fry fund raiser will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Saturday, April 6, at the Brewster School lunch room. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids ages 6 to 11. Tickets are available by contacting the Brewster Grocery Store at 694-2824 or Rae Stewart at 694-2971.

Puddle Duck holding enrollment, open house

Puddle Duck Preschool will hold enrollment and an open house for the 2013-14 school year from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 3. Puddle Duck is for 3- to 5-year-olds and welcomes all denominations. For information, call Amy Jennings at 460-2603.

Legion Auxiliary taking orders for bierocks

The Colby American Legion Auxiliary will be taking orders for regular, cheese and jalapeño bierocks at \$32 a dozen to be made Sunday, April 7. The proceeds will go to veterans and their families. For questions or to order, call Terina Schmidt at 443-3766.

Hospital plans chronic disease workshop

A free chronic disease self-management workshop called "Kansans for Optimizing Health" will be offered by Citizens Medical Center from 5:30 to 8 p.m. for six weeks beginning Monday, April 1, in the hospital conference room. A light meal will be served. Registration is required and the workshop is limited to the first 20 people. Call Jeanene Brown of the education department at 460-4850.

Red Cross to hold blood drive this month

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday and 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the Colby Community Building. The agency needs all blood types to maintain a reliable supply. Donors must be at least 17, in good health and weigh at least 110 pounds. Bring a blood donor card, driver's license or two other forms of identification. Ham and beans will be served. For information, call Bev Vaughn at 462-3861.

Hospital plans childbirth classes in April

Citizens Medical Center will offer four weeks of childbirth classes from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursdays starting April 4. Women due to deliver before August should attend with their labor support partner. The next classes will begin July 11. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown at the hospital education department, 460-4850.

Senate Dems on track to pass budget

By Andrew Taylor

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats controlling the Senate moved on today toward approving their first budget in four years, promising another, almost \$1 trillion round of tax increases on top of more than \$600 billion in higher taxes on the wealthy enacted in January.

The nonbinding but politically symbolic measure would protect safety-net programs for the poor and popular domestic priorities like education, health research and federal law enforcement agencies from cuts sought by House Republicans, who adopted a far more austere plan on Thursday.

The Democratic plan caters to party stalwarts on the liberal edge of the spectrum just as the House GOP measure was crafted to appeal to more recent tea party arrivals.

The \$1 trillion in new revenue would accrue over the coming decade and would be coupled with a net \$875 billion in spending cuts, generated by modest cuts to federal health care programs, domestic agencies and the Pentagon and reduced government borrowing costs.

The GOP budget proposal, similar to previous plans offered by Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., demonstrates that it's possible, at least mathematically, to balance the budget within a decade without raising taxes. But to do so, Ryan, his party's vice presidential nominee last year, assumes deep cuts that would force millions from programs for the poor like food stamps and Medicaid and cut almost 20 percent from domestic agency budget levels assumed less than two years ago.

Ryan's plan passed the House on a mostly party-line, 221-207 vote, with 10 Republicans joining Democrats against it.

Senators braced for dozens of votes during a

marathon session expected today, with pessimists in the Capitol predicting a final vote on the Democratic plan in the pre-dawn hours of Saturday. In early voting this morning, Democrats rejected yet another attempt to repeal Obama's landmark health care law by a strictly party-line vote.

That tall stack of votes follows up a quintet of politically freighted Senate tallies Thursday night, including a move by Democrats to force a vote on the controversial Ryan budget, which was rejected by a 59-40 vote, with five Republicans joining every Democrat in opposition.

Republicans countered with a move by Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., putting Democrats on record in opposition to balancing the budget by the end of the decade. It failed on a near party-line vote.

The dueling House and Senate budget plans are anchored on opposite ends of the ideological spectrum in Washington, appealing to core partisans in warring GOP and Democratic tribes long gridlocked over how to attack budget deficits. The GOP plan caters to tea party forces, while Senate Budget Committee Chairman Patty Murray, D-Wash., crafted a measure designed to nail down support from liberal senators like Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, who vehemently oppose cuts to safety net programs.

What the Ryan and Murray budgets both fail to do is reach out to the political middle, where any possible bargain would have to be forged. President Barack Obama has been reaching out to lawmakers in hopes of sparking a budget compromise that has proved so elusive.

But Murray's plan would actually increase government spending — on top of a baseline that already assumes automatic budget increases averaging more than 5 percent a year — after accounting for the \$1.2 trillion cost of repealing the automatic cuts, known as sequestration.

LOCAL TV Listings. Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS.

Monday Evening March 25, 2013. Channel/Time grid with programs: KAKE/ABC Dancing With Stars, KBSL/CBS How I Met..., KSNK/NBC The Voice, KAS/FOX Bones, Cable Channels, A & E Storage, AMC The Walking Dead, ANIM Cattfishin' Kings, BRAVO Real Housewives, CMT Reba, CNN Anderson Cooper 360, COMEDY Futurama, DISC Fast N' Loud, DISN Shake It, EI El News, ESPN College Basketball, ESPN2 Wm. Basketball, FAM Secret-Teen, FOOD Diners, FX The Other Guys, HGTV Love It or List It, HIST Pawn, LIFE The Bible, MTV Teen Mom 2, NICK Drake, SCI Being Human, SPIKE Rescue, TBS Family Guy, TCM Strange Lady in Town, TNT Castle, TOON Regular, TRAV Bizarre Foods, TV LAND Golden, USA WWE Monday Night RAW, VH1 Love & Hip Hop, WGN Funniest Home Videos, Premium Channels: HBO Real Time/Bill Maher, MAX Million Dollar Baby, SHOW Homeland.