

Weather



National Weather Service Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 88. South wind around 10 mph.

Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northwest after midnight.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 78. West wind around 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 52.

Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 73.

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 71.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 50.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 78.

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

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 78.

Thursday: High, 86; Low 56. Precip: Thursday 0.22 inches. Month: 0.78 inches. Year: 2.53 inches. Normal: 7.21 inches (K-State Experiment Station).

Sunrise and Sunset Saturday 6:28 a.m. 8:54 p.m. Moon: waxing, 55 percent. Sunday 6:27 a.m. 8:55 p.m. Moon: waxing, 65 percent. Monday 6:26 a.m. 8:56 p.m. Moon: waxing, 75 percent (U.S. Naval Observatory).

Colby Water Use Thursday 2,433,000 gal. (Colby Public Works)

Bondsman to stand trial

HUTCHINSON (AP) — A Hutchinson bail bondsman will stand trial on charges that he sought sex from women in exchange for bonding them out of jail.

A Reno County judge ruled Thursday that 66-year-old Dwight Jurgens of Hutchinson will stand trial on eight charges including rape and aggravated human trafficking.

The Hutchinson News reports (bit.ly/16DJ0tl) Jurgens, who was released on \$100,000 bond, will be arraigned June 3.

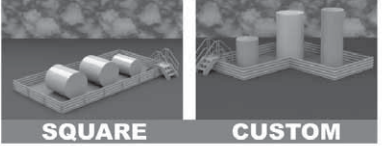
Four women testified during a preliminary hearing that Jurgens bonded them out of jail when other bonding companies wouldn't. They testified either that they had sex with Jurgens after he bonded them out, or that he had bonded pulled after a woman refused his advances.

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\$1 million in jewels stolen

From "JEWELS," Page 1

Novotel, also declined comment. Dozens of police were involved in the investigation, and police vehicles could be seen outside the hotel this afternoon.

Authorities were going over hotel surveillance cameras and questioning potential witnesses who might have seen any culprits, and "it seems pretty unlikely to us that it was just one person," Mascarelli said.

"Apparently this (hotel guest) was someone who was targeted because it wasn't someone who had been seeking attention. ... There must have been either an inside complicity, or people who were in contact with this person and knew that the person had jewels," he said.

On Thursday night, Chopard hosted a star-studded gala, and the festival screened Sofia Cop-

pola's "The Bling Ring" — a deadpan drama about celebrity-obsessed teenagers in Los Angeles who break into the homes of Paris Hilton and other stars. It's based on a true story about high-school students who, after seeing online when certain stars are expected at a premiere or other event, take the opportunity to steal items from their homes.

News of the robbery sent journalists scurrying to the Novotel, a business hotel about a 15-minute walk from Cannes' seafront promenade. It's decidedly less glamorous than the 5-star Hotel Martinez, where Chopard maintains a suite during the film festival. The company also manufactures the crystal and gold Palme d'Or trophy awarded each year to the festival's top film.

Festival organizers would not disclose the Palme's whereabouts today, but said it was kept in a safe place.

IRS errors seen as part of pattern

By Alan Fram Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Internal Revenue Service's improper use of tougher scrutiny of conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status seems part of a broader pattern of intimidation and cover-ups by the Obama administration, a top House Republican said Friday.

The accusation by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp, R-Mich., came as his panel held the first congressional hearing into the tax agency's improper targeting of tea party and other conservative groups. At a session that saw the IRS face harsh criticism from members of both parties, the just-ousted acting chief of the agency, Steven Miller, expressed regret for the heightened reviews.

"I want to apologize on behalf of the Internal Revenue Service for the mistakes that we made and the poor service we provided," Miller told the committee. "The affected organizations and the American public deserve better. Partisanship and even the perception of partisanship have no place at the Internal Revenue Service."

Miller conceded that "foolish mistakes were made" by IRS officials trying to handle a flood of applications for tax-exempt status. He said the process that resulted in conservatives being targeted, "while intolerable, was a mistake and not an act of partisanship."

Though Miller and another top IRS official are stepping down, Camp said that would not be enough.

"The reality is this is not a personnel problem. This is a problem of the IRS being too large, too powerful, too intrusive and too abusive of honest, hardworking taxpayers," Camp said.

Friday's hearing is the first of what are expected to be many on the subject by congressional panels. Underscoring the seriousness of the episode, Miller was sworn in as a witness, an unusual step for the Ways and Means panel and one that could put Miller in jeopardy if he is later shown to have misled lawmakers with his testimony.

Camp referred to a "culture of cover-ups and intimidation in this administration," but offered no other examples.

The administration has been forced on the defensive about last September's terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya, that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans, and the government's seizure of The Associated Press' telephone records as part of a leaks investigation.

Republicans are hoping to link the issues in an effort to raise questions about President Barack Obama's credibility and make it harder for him to press a second-term agenda.

Camp's remark about cover-ups drew a sharp retort from the committee's top Democrat, Rep. Sander Levin of Michigan. Levin said if the hearing became a preview of the 2014 political campaigns, "we'll be making a very, very serious mistake."

Even so, Levin also was harshly critical of the IRS's treatment of conservative groups, saying the agency "completely failed the American people." He said Lois Lerner, who heads the IRS division that makes decisions about tax-exempt groups, should be "relieved of her duties."

Miller said the IRS struggled to efficiently handle growing numbers of applications for tax-exempt status.

The agency has said between 2008 and 2012, the number of groups applying for tax-exempt status as so-called social welfare groups more than doubled. Along with that was an increase in complaints that such groups were largely engaging in electoral politics, which is not supposed to be their primary activity.

"I do not believe partisanship motivated the people" at the IRS who engaged in the harsher screening for conservative groups, Miller said.

In recent months, Republicans on the Ways and Means panel had repeatedly asked the IRS about complaints from conservative groups that their applications were being treated unfairly.

On Friday, numerous Republicans wanted to know why Miller and others never told them the groups were being targeted, even after May 2012, when the IRS has said Miller was briefed on the practice. Miller was previously a deputy commissioner whose portfolio included the unit that made decisions about tax-exempt status.

"I did not mislead Congress or the American people," Miller told Rep. Charles Boustany Jr., R-La., one of several Republicans who challenged him about why he hadn't mentioned the targeting in the past.

Also testifying Friday was J. Russell George, the Treasury Department's inspector general for tax administration.

In a report he issued this week, George said IRS officials reported they were not politically pressured to target conservative groups. Asked about that conclusion, George said Friday, "We have no evidence at this time to contradict that asser-

tion," but in prepared testimony to the committee he said he is continuing to investigate that question.

George's report concluded that the IRS office in Cincinnati, which screened applications for the tax exemptions, improperly singled out tea party and other conservative groups for tougher treatment. The report says the practice began in March 2010 and lasted more than 18 months.

The report blamed "ineffective management" for letting IRS officials craft "inappropriate criteria" to review applications from tea party and other conservative groups, based on their names or political views. It found that the IRS took no action on many of the conservative groups' applications for tax-exempt status for long periods of time, hindering their fundraising for the 2010 and 2012 elections.

Republicans have spent the past few days trying to link the IRS' improper scrutiny of conservatives to Obama. The president has said he didn't know about the targeting until last Friday, when Lerner acknowledged at a legal conference that conservative groups had been singled out.

Many of the groups were applying for tax-exempt status as social welfare organizations, which are allowed to participate in campaign activity if that is not their primary activity. The IRS judges whether that imprecise standard is met.

Attorney General Eric Holder said the FBI was investigating whether the IRS may have violated applicants' civil rights.

Obama has rejected the idea of naming a special prosecutor to investigate the episode, saying the investigations by Congress and the Justice Department were sufficient.

Obama has named Daniel Werfel, a top White House budget officer, to replace Miller.

Briefly

The deadline for Briefly is noon the day before. Items submitted in the morning will be set up for the next edition. The deadline for Monday's paper is noon Friday.

Dog may be up for adoption at animal clinic

The Colby Animal Clinic has a little female chihuahua-min pin about 3 or 4 years old, available for adoption. Call 460-8621 or stop by 810 E. Fourth St.

Library to have book sale this week

The Pioneer Memorial Library is having a book sale from 9 a.m. through Saturday. For information call the library at 460-4470.

Museum camp registration open for all

Registration for the Prairie Museum's free Night at the Museum camp, from Monday to Friday, June 10 to 14, is open now. All kids fourth grade and up are invited to discover the stories of local historical figures. Adults are welcome, too. The camp is free; registration deadline is Monday. Call Ann Miner at 460-4590 for information.

Fishing Derby Saturday at Villa High Pond

The fifth annual free Kids Fishing Derby sponsored by Colby Community College and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism will be from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at Villa High Pond, which will be stocked with channel catfish. There is no charge, but an enrollment form must be completed. Children under 7 must be accompanied by an adult; top age limit is 17. For information or to enroll, contact Barry Kaaz at (785) 460-5429 or Kathy Britton at (785) 460-5550.

Baptist Church invites everyone to lunch

Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend to the "Joyful Blessings" free meal from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the First Baptist Church, Webster and Grant. For information, call Radonda Buford at 462-2804.

Family singers to be at Wesleyan Church

The Glen and Deanna Anderson family sing at the Colby Wesleyan Church worship service at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. The couple has seven children from age 8 to 24 who sing and play with them, performing in southern gospel style. The group has been featured on Christian radio KGCR. For information, call Pastor Gene Rothfuss at 462-8391.

College Adult Education offers 'bridge' class

The Adult Education Department at Colby Community College will offer another round of "bridge" classes for students planning to enroll in nursing courses, providing refresher instruction in math, reading and study skills from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from Monday to Thursday, May 30. The Adult Education Center is on the lower level of the college library. To enroll or for information, call Nance Munderloh at 460-4663 or stop by the campus office.

No trash pickup on Memorial Day

The City of Colby Public Works Department will be closed for Memorial Day Monday, May 27. The Monday residential sanitation route will be picked up Tuesday, May 28. Residents are asked to have their grass and trash at the curb by 8 a.m. Call Public Works Director Omar Weber at 460-4420 for information.

Lutherans to have Vacation Bible School

Trinity Lutheran Church in Colby will have a Vacation Bible School from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, May 27 to 31. Children from age 3 through fifth grade are invited. For information or to register, call Linda Pabst at the church, 462-3497.

Red Cross plans blood drives here

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday and 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. next Friday at the Colby Community Building. The Colby drive is sponsored by the Kansas Pork Association, which will provide pork sandwiches. Walk-in donors are welcome, but appointments are available by calling (800) RED CROSS.

Conservation district offering money

The Thomas County Conservation District will be taking applications for cost-share assistance from Tuesday, May 28, through Friday, June 28. Eligible projects include septic system replacement, terracing or terrace restoration, diversions, livestock water tanks and wells and new windbreaks. For the complete list, call the office at 462-7482 or stop by 915 E. Walnut in Colby. Contracts approved will expire on June 1, 2014.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Monday Evening May 20, 2013. Table listing TV programs from 7:00 to 11:30 p.m. including Dancing With Stars, The Voice, and various news and entertainment shows.