

Weather



National Weather Service
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 36. Windy, with a northwest wind 30 to 35 mph, with gusts as high as 45 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 56. Breezy, with a northwest wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Saturday Night: Patchy frost after 10 a.m. Otherwise, mostly clear, with a low around 34. Northwest wind around 15 mph.

Sunday: Patchy frost before 10 a.m. Otherwise, sunny, with a high near 67. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 42.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 76.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 77.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 77.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

Thursday: High, 67; Low 53
Precip: Thursday None
Month: None
Year: 12.74 inches
Normal: 19.29 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
Saturday 7:44 a.m. 7:20 p.m.
Moon: waxing, 1 percent

Sunday 7:45 a.m. 7:18 p.m.
Moon: waxing, 3 percent

Monday 7:46 a.m. 7:17 p.m.
Moon: waxing, 9 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Sheriff to get new computers

From "COMPUTERS," Page 1

fund.

"I don't think we can get along without this deal," said Commissioner Byron Sowers.

"I will bring a recommendation to you in November that will make it doable," replied Commissioner Paul Steele; he did not elaborate.

The commissioners also discussed long-term plans for the county's technology needs.

Commissioner Mike Baughn said he wants a computer person on-staff or on contract to rely on when the county has technology problems.

"We need someone to provide us the recommendations we need to make sound decisions on technology matters," said Baughn.

Dearden and Bandy both expressed interest in the possibility of a contract position.

Bandy said a contract person may be the most cost-effective solution for the county since the county may not have enough work to keep a full-time staff person busy.

Dearden said it will be important for the county to have someone available "24/7" since several departments operate on evenings and weekends.

Baughn said the county did not plan for a technology position or contract in the 2014 budget, but he wants it considered in the 2015 budget discussions when they happen next summer.

In other business, the commissioners
Approved Landfill Supervisor Larry Jumper's request to issue a request for proposals for a new pickup and mowing tractor for the landfill.

Jumper said he has the money in his landfill budget to pay for the vehicles since he's "been kind of watching my nickels and dimes."

Jumper told the commissioners the landfill's current pickup is becoming unreliable and the current tractor is not as safe or comfortable for landfill workers as the one he wants to purchase.

Passed a resolution calling for an end to "unsustainable federal spending and debt." Unlike a previously rejected resolution, this resolution does not call for a constitutional convention to be convened to modify the U.S. Constitution.

Encouraged County Attorney Kevin Berens to pursue a delinquent tax sale. Berens said he felt the county was ready for a sale and would start by looking at the list of delinquent taxes to date.

Baughn also asked Berens to look into selling county-owned property in Menlo and Halford that is currently not being used.

Clarified the county's responsibilities under

its easement agreement with the developers of the old hospital building. Baughn said the parking area will be maintained by the county at its current level and the county will not make improvements to the easement area.

Appointed Kayla Sloan to Bill Shields' position on the fair board.

Appointed Jerry Fulwider as one of the county's representatives to the northwest Kansas recycling board. Steele said he thinks the county can have two representatives but has only had one, Wayne Horlacher, for many years. Horlacher will continue to serve.

Heard a report from Baughn that he had received enough donations to send the county's \$1,000 donation for the statehouse floor map project. Private donations fully funded the county's share, so no county funds were spent.

Received a briefing from Register of Deeds Laura Volk on her plans for the county's Christmas party. Volk's plan includes bowling, card games and dinner.

Received a report from the county health department stating the department held three blood pressure clinics in August. The report also informed the commissioners that the county will not be participating in the Rural Health Opportunities Pilot Project that the commissioners had previously supported.

Agreed to reimburse county employees who choose to get flu shots and wellness exams at the county health department. Each costs \$30.

Declined to renew the county's contract with Kone for elevator maintenance, instead deciding to put the maintenance services out for bid since more than one company is interested.

Received information on moving the county to a county road unit system instead of the current township road unit system. Steel quickly dismissed the idea as unpopular with his city constituents, but Harms said she had received a request to revisit the issue on next year's ballot.

Approved accounts payable of \$6,969 for the weed department, \$21,670 for the road and bridge department and \$139,951 for the general fund.

Approved payroll of \$276,590 for the month of September.

Tabled discussion of county employee salaries to their next meeting.

The commissioners meet next at 9 a.m. on Monday in their chambers on the main floor of the county courthouse.

Court expands DNA testing

TOPEKA (AP) - The Kansas Supreme Court has ruled that a state statute limiting post-conviction DNA analysis to cases involving only first-degree murder or rape is unconstitutional.

The Topeka Capital-Journal reports (is.gd/

OmXy7I) the court said today the statute violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution.

The decision reverses a Wyandotte County ruling that denied DNA testing to Jerome Checks, convicted in 1993 of second-degree murder.

Corn acres are producing more this year

From "CORN," Page 1

"There's a fair bit of 200-bushel irrigated around, for guys that had enough water (and managed it well)," Haag said.

The high-moisture corn, mostly from irrigated fields, was picked in large quantities near Hoxie and Selden, he said, as well as Decatur county. Although yields were above average, he said, harvest of high-moisture corn was a challenge this year because it dried out so fast.

Haag said yields of dry corn vary widely, even within a field; some parts could be a total loss, while other corn in the same field has yielded as much as 100 bushels per acre. Farmers had even stopped drilling wheat momentarily to put more time into harvesting dry corn that might get blown over by high winds this weekend, though fog this morning raised moisture levels and temporarily delayed further cutting.

The last of the corn harvest should wrap up by the end of this month, Haag said. Chopping silage started a month ago, and that job has mostly been finished.

Soybeans and sunflowers are being harvested too, he said. Sunflower fields in Thomas County were eaten by insects, but the irrigated flowers have yielded perhaps 2,000 pounds per acre. Most irrigated soybeans have produced between 40 and 60 bushels, while dryland beans were a complete loss.

This year's better harvest is evidenced by a decrease in corn prices over the past month. Hi Plains Co-op, which lists prices in the Colby Free Press, report-

ed corn prices closed at \$4.34 a bushel and milo closed at \$7.30 a hundredweight yesterday. A month earlier, the co-op reported corn at \$6.15 a bushel and milo at \$9.70 a hundredweight. Corn prices frequently rose above \$6.20 a bushel in August. In July, the prices generally stayed above \$7 until the end of the month.

"We're pretty confident that there will be a sizable increase in the amount of corn," said Dan O'Brien, an agricultural economist for Extension.

He pointed out that the department of agriculture has been predicting a record corn harvest of perhaps 14 billion bushels nationwide. During last summer's

extreme drought, on the other hand, O'Brien said corn prices rose to \$8.15 to \$8.20 a bushel.

A year ago today, according to the co-op corn prices were \$7.52 a bushel and milo prices were \$13.07 a hundredweight.

O'Brien added that milo supplies are rising too, but demand is also high, with feedlots in the area and sorghum processing plant in Oakley.

"Almost every extra bushel of milo that we produce, especially here on the Great Plains, we're using up," he said.

Briefly

The deadline for Briefly is noon the day before. Items submitted in the morning will be set up for the following day, space available. The deadline for Monday's paper is noon Friday.

Endowment Foundation to hold meeting

All are invited to the Colby Community College Endowment Foundation annual meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, in the multipurpose room of the Student Union. The Sunflower Singers will be performing and there will be a guest speaker. A \$25 donation will cover the cost of the meal. Make reservations by calling Executive Director Nick Wells at 460-4684.

Reception will mark retirement of treasurer

Everyone is invited to celebrate Donita Applebury's retirement as Thomas County treasurer after 33 years and six days of service, from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday in the commissioner's room of the Thomas County Courthouse. For information, call the county clerk's office at 460-4500.

Potato bar to raise money for seniors

The Senior Progress Center will have a potato-bar fund raiser and bake sale from 5 to 6:30 p.m. next Thursday at the center in Fike Park. Baked potatoes will be served with all the trimmings, for a donation. For information, call Kayla DeBoer at 460-2901.

Reception to introduce Extension agent

The Thomas County Extension Office invites the public to meet Kurt Sexton, the new Agriculture and Natural Resources agent at a come-and-go welcome reception from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11, at the Thomas County Extension Office, 350 S. Range, Suite 16 (the west end of the Thomas County Office Complex). For information call 460-4582.

Pancake feed to help with projects

The Kiwanis Pancake Feed will be from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars, 220 N. Lake. For \$4 you can support Christmas and youth projects and other community service. For information call Charles Keifer at 460-4610.

American Legion to meet Tuesday

The Colby American Legion monthly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the post. For information call Monty Lewis at (785) 953-1061.

Seniors plan potluck at Presbyterian Church

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or have a partner in a nursing home at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share; table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

Therapist students to give massages

The physical therapist assistant program at Colby Community College will be giving massages from 4 to 8 p.m. next Thursday and Thursday, Oct. 17, in Room 804 of the Health Science Building. Cost is \$15 for 30 minutes and \$25 for 1 hour. Walk in, or call Marie Wolkomir to make an appointment at 460-4797.

Group plans dance at American Legion

A public dance is planned for 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday at the American Legion. Craig Stevens will provide music. Everyone welcome. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 269-7057.

Knights of Columbus to sell candy

The Colby Knights of Columbus will hold their annual Tootsie Roll Drive to raise money for people with intellectual disabilities from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday at Walmart, Dillons and the Oasis Travel Center. Checks, made payable to Tootsie Roll Program Fund, can be sent to Jerad Lange, 445 Field St., Colby, Kan. 67701.

National Life Chain needs volunteers here

Anyone who wants to participate in the National Life Chain, a silent session of prayer and statement against abortion, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday should meet at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave., at 2 p.m. for instructions and to receive signs to hold. For information, call Francis or Geri Landry at 460-2258.

Sacred Heart plans book fair

Sacred Heart Catholic School will hold a Scholastic Book Fair from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday and 1 to 7 p.m. Thursday. Money raised will buy books for the school library. All are invited to attend. For more information, call Leanna Larmer at 460-2813.

MOBILE BANKING COMING SOON...

Farmers & Merchants Bank of Colby



VICTOR & CLARA MEYER ESTATE DRYLAND AUCTION W/RESERVE Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 1:30 pm, MT Elks Lodge - Goodland, KS

750.7 +/- Ac • DRY FARMLAND SHERMAN COUNTY, KS

750.7 +/- AC to be offered in 3 parcels and 1 combo; L/L share of fall planted crops to Purchaser; Possession of land with crop upon harvest.

PARCEL #1: 319.3 +/- ac Dryland; E1/2 of 36, T9S, R38S; From Edson, KS, 7 mi S on CR 29 to CR 57, 1 1/2 mi E on CR 57 to NW corner of property.

PARCEL #2A: 293.4 +/- ac Dryland; W1/2 of 22, T8S, R38S; Adjacent to Edson, KS; CR 28 borders W property Line, CR 64 borders S property line.

PARCEL #2B: 138 +/- ac Dryland; SE1/4 of 21, T8S, R38S; From Edson, 1/2 mi west; CR 28 borders E property Line, CR 64 borders S property line.

Combo #2: Parcels #2A & #2B.



RECK AGRICULTURE REALTY & AUCTION

For Further Information:

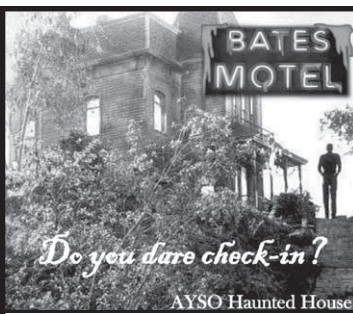
Marc Reck, Broker or Troy Vogel, Salesperson For a Color Brochure, Visual Tour & Online Bidding: visit: www.reckagri.com

970-522-7770 or 1-800-748-2589



LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table with columns for TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, etc.) and times (7:00, 7:30, etc.) listing programs like Dancing With Stars, The Walking Dead, etc.



At the Thomas County Fair Grounds - Colby, KS

Dates & Times

Friday, Oct. 18 • 7 - 11 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 19 • 7 p.m. - Midnight

Friday, Oct. 25 • 7 - 11 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 26 • 7 p.m. - Midnight

Thursday, Oct. 31 • 7 - 11 p.m.

Admission

Adults & Children • \$10 each

Under 12 Children's Matinee

Saturday, Oct. 26 • 3 - 5 p.m.

Admission • \$6/person

\$1 off/person for 1+ item(s) donated to Genesis

All proceeds go to AYSO: American Youth Soccer Organization