

Weather



National Weather Service
Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 15. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 48. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 19. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 45. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 19.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 19.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 52.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45.

Monday: High, 24; Low -5
 Tuesday: High, 44; Low 10
 Precip: Monday None
 Tuesday None
 Month: 0.02 inches
 Year: 14.46 inches
 Normal: 20.86 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
 Thursday 7:55 a.m. 5:21 p.m.
 Moon: waxing, 81 percent
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

Conservation deadline near

The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service says the Conservation Stewardship Program will be open for new enrollments for fiscal year 2014 only through Friday, Jan. 17.

The program helps farmers take their resource management to the next level to improve both production and conservation benefits, such as cleaner and more abundant water, healthier soils and better wildlife habitat, said Jason Weller, chief of the service.

Weller said this announcement is another reminder that passage of a new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill is needed to continue these efforts. The stewardship program is now in its fifth year and

so far, he said, the agency has partnered with landowners to enroll more than 59 million acres.

The program emphasizes conservation performance, he said. Owners and operators earn higher payments for better performance.

While county offices accept applications year around, the agency evaluates them only during announced ranking periods such as the one coming up.

A self-screening checklist is available to help operators determine if the program would work for them. Learn more by going to the service's website, stopping by the county office or calling 462-7671.

County sales tax receipts up

From "SALES TAX," Page 1

realtor, I visited with him, seeking advice. And he agreed to visit with landowners."

Steele had himself been struggling to find landowners willing to sell land to the county for the project.

"(Christensen) reported to me last week by telephone that he is having the same kind of problems I've been having," Steele said.

The commissioners said they expect to have a final draft of a jail demographic study as well as a structural analysis report on the old courthouse at their next meeting, scheduled for 9 a.m. Monday.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Directed County Clerk Shelly Harms to seek additional bids for new computers for her office. Harms has money in her

budget for the computers, she said, and has contacted three area providers seeking bids. She only received one bid, from Cumulus Computers.

The commissioners reviewed the county's bidding policy, interpreting it to mean that bids do not have to be advertised in the newspaper. Commissioner Mike Baughn said he was not sure why the board made the sheriff's office advertise in the newspaper when they recently sought new computers and a server.

The board approved the specifications Harms wanted to use, and Steele asked her to make another attempt to get more than one bid.

- Received a briefing from Big Brothers Big Sisters representatives Orvella Romine and Doug Finley, who thanked the commissioners for their support of the organization.

- Approved accounts payable of \$74,875.77.

- Set meeting dates for 2014.

- Reviewed reports from the emergency management, land-fill, noxious weed and road and bridge departments.

- Declined to renew the county's subscription to services provided by the League of Kansas Municipalities, stating the services duplicate those provided by the Kansas Association of Counties.

- Reviewed a safety inspection report that revealed several minor problems in county offices, such as fire extinguishers past their expiration date, blocked exit stairs and an emergency light that needed a battery backup.

- Approved inventories from the election department, register of deeds and district court.

Death sentence not out, says court

WASHINGTON (AP) - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that a lower court in Kansas should not have overturned the conviction and death sentence of a man who said he was high on methamphetamine when he killed a local sheriff.

The high court unanimously overturned the Kansas Supreme Court's decision to throw out Scott Cheever's death sentence for the 2005 fatal shooting of Greenwood County Sheriff Matt Samuels. Today's decision sends the case back to the Kansas court for further proceedings.

The Kansas court said Cheever's Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination were violated by prosecutors who used a court-ordered

mental evaluation from a different trial.

Cheever's own expert argued that methamphetamine use had damaged his brain. Justice Sonia Sotomayor said that because Cheever's side raised the brain damage issue, prosecutors were entitled to use testimony from the mental health expert from a different trial against him. That expert said Cheever killed because of an anti-social personality, not because of brain damage.

The court agreed with Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt's argument that once Cheever's defense presented mental health issues, he was not protected from answering rebuttal questions from prosecutors.

Kansas superintendent criticizes reading program

LAWRENCE (AP) - A plan by Gov. Sam Brownback to divert \$12 million in welfare funds to a program aimed at raising fourth-grade reading scores in southeast Kansas doesn't sit well with one school superintendent.

Steve Woolf, superintendent in the 550-student Erie Galesburg School District in Neosho County, said he was shocked when he learned of the governor's plan, the *Lawrence Journal-World* reported (bit.ly/J78AcM).

"I'm against taking food from

people who are in need and are hungry," said Woolf, who leads the Erie-Galesburg school district, which has about 550 students. "It is morally wrong."

Brownback recently announced his plan to take \$12 million from the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program and use the federal money for the grade-school reading program. Those funds typically are used to provide cash assistance to impoverished families.

Brownback's administration

has said the reading program is an appropriate use of the funds because studies show girls who read at grade level are less likely to become unwed mothers.

"I want to see us break the cycle of child poverty," Brownback said.

The charity Save the Children, and the Rural School and Community Trust are assisting with the program in several school districts.

Woolf's district wasn't chosen to take part, but the long-

time Republican said he would have turned down such an offer, anyway, because of how the program is being funded.

Brownback should have consulted educators with the Department of Education first, Woolf said.

"It would be like the governor wanting to do something different with the Statehouse dome and saying, 'I have a buddy in Oklahoma who put a new roof on his garage and he seems to know what he is doing,'" 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.

Santa City now open on weekends

Santa City will be open 1 to 5 p.m. weekends until Monday, then will be open from 6 to 8 p.m. weeknights as well. On Christmas Eve, hours will be 1 to 3 p.m. Bring the whole family with their Christmas lists. For information, call the Colby Chamber office at 460-3401.

Big Brothers needs clothing for 'littles'

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County's "Christmas for Kids" project runs through Saturday, Dec. 21. Get your name on a stocking at an area businesses, including Dillons, F&M Bank, The Bank, Western State Bank, BankWest, Peoples State Bank and Farmer's Bank and Trust of Brewster. The group's angel tree at Orcheln's has paper angels with the names of "littles" who need clothes. Bring gifts to the Colby United Methodist Church by next Wednesday. For information, call Orvella Romine at 460-9125.

Fourth graders to give musical on Thursday

Join the Colby Grade School fourth graders for "A World of Christmas," a free musical focusing on Christmas carols from around the world, at 2 and 7 p.m. Thursday in the school auditorium. For questions, contact music teacher Jennifer Otten at 460-5100.

Corrections board to meet in Hays

The governing board on Northwest Kansas Juvenile Services and Northwest Kansas Community Corrections will meet at 4 p.m. Thursday at Whiskey Creek, 3203 Vine in Hays. This meeting is open to the public. For information, call Brenda Ulery, (785) 475-8113.

Once a Month Lunch coming up this week

Once a Month Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St. This free meal is served to all who come the second Saturday of each month. No reservations. Call the church office with questions at 462-6342.

Orchestra plans holiday concert Sunday

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will present "Many Merry Melodies," conducted by Andrew Salvador, at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College. The program includes a sing-a-long and gift drawing. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for students or patrons. For questions, call Mary Shoaff, 462-2159, or Janet Hopson, 462-5102.

Foundation for Hope tickets now on sale

Tickets are on sale for the Northwest Kansas Foundation for Hope's annual New Year's Eve banquet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31, at the City Limits Convention Center. Tickets are \$40 each or \$280 for an eight-person table, including a social hour, dinner, auction and dance. Contact Pat Sloan at 443-3261. Tickets normally sell out, so get yours early.

Living Nativity scheduled for next weekend

A Living Nativity Scene in memory of Theron Johnson will be staged from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 20 and 21, at the Jane Johnson Ranch, 2626 K-25 (intersection with County Road Z). Hot cider and cookies will be provided and donations will be accepted for the Genesis-Thomas County food bank. For information, call Cade Carter at 462-7525.

Library will take food to pay your fines

The Pioneer Memorial Library will have its annual Christmas "Foods for Fines" campaign through Monday, Dec. 23. Bring canned or packaged food to pay your fines. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

Church women selling nuts for holidays

The women of Ascension Episcopal Church are selling fresh holiday nuts, including pecans, walnuts, cashews and variety packs. For delivery, call Martha Hullett at 462-2505, or pick some up at Colby Canvas.

Food for Thought to feature Kansas writer

December's *Food for Thought* program will feature Kansas writer Joyce Thierer on "Our Land, Our Food" at noon, Thursday, Dec. 19, at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin. Call the museum at 460-4590 for information

Send local news to colby.editor@nwkansan.com

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Thursday Evening December 12, 2013										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Once Wonderland	Grey's Anatomy	Scandal		Local			Jimmy Kimmel Live	Nightline	
KBSL/CBS	Big Bang	Millers	Crazy	Two Men	Elementary		Local	Late Show Letterman	Ferguson	
KSNK/NBC	The Sing-Off	Sean Save	Fox Show	Parenthood		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	J. Fallon		
KSAS/FOX	The X Factor	Glee		Local						
Cable Channels										
A & E	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck Dynasty	Rodeo Girls	Rodeo Girls		Duck D.	Duck D.		
AMC	Love Actually			Miss Congeniality						
ANIM	North Woods	North Woods	North Woods Law	North Woods	North Woods Law					
BRAVO	Matchmaker	Matchmaker	Courtney	Courtney	Happens	Matchmaker	Matchmaker			
CMT	Grumpy Old Men			Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.			
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360	Piers Morgan Live	AC 360 Later	Tosh.0	11th hour	ICYMI	Piers Morgan Live			
COMEDY	Chappelle Key	Sunny	Sunny	Tosh.0	Daily	Colbert	Tosh.0	Adam D.		
DISC	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Tanked	Wildman	Wildman	Tanked			
DISN	Beethoven-Adv		Wander	Dog	Jessie	Austin	Dog	Good Luck	Good Luck	
EI	Kardashian	Kardashian		Party On	Party On	Chelsea	EI News	Chelsea		
ESPN	Football Awards	Bowl Mania			SportsCenter		SportsCenter			
ESPN2	High Scho	30 for 30		Sports	This Is Sportscenter		Olbermann	Olbermann		
FAM	Nat'l-Christmas		Scrooged		The 700 Club		Date Christmas			
FOOD	Restaurant Express	Mystery D	Mystery D	On the Rocks	Diners	Diners	Mystery D	Mystery D		
FX	Thor			Rush Hour 2			Sons of Anarchy			
HGTV	Rehab	Rehab	Rehab	Rehab	Hunters	Hunt Intl	Rent/Buy	Rent/Buy	Rehab	Rehab
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn		
LIFE	Project Runway		Project Runway		Come Dine With Me	Come Dine With Me	Project Runway			
MTV	Girl Code	Girl Code	Girl Code	Girl Code	Snooki	Snooki	Awkward.		Scrubbing In	
NICK	PAW	SpongeBob	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SCI	V		V		Dungeons & Dragons					
SPIKE	Cops	Cops	iMPACT Wrestling		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops		
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Big Bang	Ground	Big Bang	Conan		Holmes	Conan
TCM	Cinema Paradiso				Sullivan's Travels		Two Weeks			
TLC	Gypsy Sisters		Gypsy Sisters		Gypsy Christmas	Gypsy Sisters	Gypsy Christmas			
TNT	NBA Basketball				NBA Basketball					
TOON	Smurfs	Grinch	Johnny T	Johnny T	Cleveland	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Eaglehear	The Eric
TRAV	Bizarre Foods		Mysteries-Museum		America Declassified	Mysteries-Museum	Mysteries-Museum			
TV LAND	Andy Griffith Show		Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	The King of Queens			
USA	Law & Order: SVU	White Collar			Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	White Collar			
VH1	Sister Act 2: BVU				Mob Wives	Mob Wives	Love & Hip Hop			
WGN	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	WGN News at Nine	How I Met	Rules	Rules	Parks	
Premium Channels										
HBO	Getting	Ted			Ja'mie	Cathouse	Real Sex	Mike Tyson		
MAX	Harry Potter-Chamber				Snitch					
SHOW	The Words	War Horse			Gigolos	Masters of Sex	50/50			

Friday Evening December 13, 2013

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Last Man	Neighbors	Shark Tank		20/20		Local	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Nightline	
KBSL/CBS	Undercover Boss	Hawaii Five-0			Blue Bloods		Local	Late Show Letterman	Ferguson	
KSNK/NBC	Dateline NBC		Grimm				Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	J. Fallon	
KSAS/FOX	Bones		Raising Hope		Local					
Cable Channels										
A & E	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48	
AMC	White Christmas				White Christmas				The Birds	
ANIM	Whale Wars		Whale Wars				Whale Wars			
BRAVO	Styled to Rock		40-Year-Old Vir						Styled to Rock	
CMT	Waitress				Sweet Home Alabama	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Live		Crossfire	Unguarded	Anthony Bourd.		Anderson Cooper 360	
COMEDY	Futurama	Futurama	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	South Pk	Key	Key	Key	Katt Williams: Pimpin' Pimpin'	
DISC	Gold Rush - The Dirt		Gold Rush		Last Frontier		Gold Rush		Last Frontier	
DISN	Austin	Liv-Mad.	Dog	ANT Farm	Liv-Mad.	Austin	Austin	Dog	Jessie	Jessie
EI	After Shock: Heidi &		Fashion Police		The Soup		Chelsea		EI News	Chelsea
ESPN	NBA Basketball						NBA Basketball			
ESPN2	College Football						SportsCenter		Olbermann	
FAM	Toy 2	Toy Story 3			Toy Story		The 700 Club		Christmas Cupid	
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FX	Colombiana		Colombiana				The One			
HGTV	Celebrity Holiday		Hawaii		Hunters	Hunt Intl	Hunt Intl	Hunt Intl	Hawaii	Hawaii
AmericanProfile // CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN SPIRIT //										
HIST	American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers	
LIFE	Dear Secret Santa				Dear Santa				Dear Secret Santa	
MTV	Wait 'Til Next Year		Wait 'Til Next Year		Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Liar Liar	
NICK	Turtles	Turtles	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SCI	WWE SmackDown!						Being Human		Haven	
SPIKE	Training Day				Law Abiding Citizen				Killer Elite	
TBS	Grinch	Fred Claus					Holmes	Office	Office	Office
TCM	Funny Girl						Who's Afraid			
TLC	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes to the Dress		Four Weddings		Say Yes to the Dress		Four Weddings	
TNT										