

Weather



National Weather Service

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 25. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 59. Northwest wind around 10 mph becoming south in the afternoon.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27. South wind 10 to 15 mph.
Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 63. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 44.
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 30.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 17.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 20.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 44.

Friday: High, 47; Low 17
Saturday: High, 48; Low 21
Sunday: High, 61; Low 25
Precip: Friday None
Saturday None
Sunday None
Month: 0.02 inches
Year: 14.46 inches
Normal: 20.86 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Tuesday 7:59 a.m. 5:22 p.m.
Full moon at 3:29 a.m.
Wednesday 7:59 a.m. 5:23 p.m.
Moon: waning, 98 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)



Colby Free Press

The Embark Building at 455 N. Franklin still sits empty in downtown Colby over three years after the Florida firm closed its doors here and the city bought the property.

Renovated building on market

From "BUILDING," Page 1

Chief Executive Officer Michael Brouthers originally promised an influx of perhaps 130 jobs to Colby. He went to the council several times to ask for more money, but the call center was gone by that summer, leaving 13 people out of work and a debt of \$966,815 owed to the city for three loans.

The Thomas County Economic Development Alliance with a proposal to put 10 to 75 government employees in the building not long after the building went on the market. Gov. Sam Brownback was hoping to move state jobs to a "rural opportunity zone" area, which Colby had recently become.

Rick Patrick, who was economic development director at the time, has since left his job, along with Armstrong and several council members. The city was still hoping for an influx of state employees in October of last year.

U.S. 36 chase ends in cornfield

From "CHASE," Page 1

He said the driver turned off the highway, stopping briefly to let his passenger out. "That's when the passenger got out of the vehicle and waited for law enforcement," he said. Holmes kept going until he got to a ravine on the edge of the field and wrecked the car, then fled on foot, Hileman said.

eye on the car as he searched in case Holmes was hiding under it. They found Holmes lying down in the ravine and took him into custody at 11:27 a.m. The dog, which officers described as a grey pit bull, stayed near the driver and was also picked up.

Lawmaker says over-pumping fines should be higher

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas may want to consider instituting stricter penalties for irrigators who pump beyond their allotted amount, a state legislator says. Rep. Joe Seiwert, R-Pretty Prairie, told colleagues on the Special Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources he has received letters from irrigators trying to follow water conservation rules and angry about neighbors who flout those rules.

"You've got producers who say, 'I'll pay the fine, here's an extra \$2,000, write me up for four more days.' That's a joke. We look like idiots up here." He said it may be time for tougher enforcement and penalties, similar to efforts to make drunken driving a more serious crime.

ton, urged caution, saying not everyone who over pumps does it intentionally. "There are people who don't look at their water meter," said Schwartz, a committee member who also runs hog farms. Jackie McClaskey, acting secretary of the Department of Agriculture, said Seiwert was right in asserting that some producers are abusing the system.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table with columns for Tuesday Evening, Wednesday Evening, and Premium Channels, listing various TV shows and their times.

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.

Tree of Hope supports area animal shelter

A Tree of Hope supporting the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter is at the Farmers and Merchants Bank. For a donation of \$10 toward providing homeless animals with food and shelter this winter, your pet or loved one's name can be on a keepsake magnet displayed on the tree.

Big Brothers needs clothing for 'littles'

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County's "Christmas for Kids" project runs through Saturday. Get your name on a stocking at an area business, including Dillons, F&M Bank, The Bank, Western State Bank, BankWest, Peoples State Bank and Farmer's Bank and Trust of Brewster.

Economic Development board to meet

The Thomas County Economic Development Alliance board will meet at 8 a.m. Thursday at the county office complex, 350 S. Range, Suite 12. For questions, contact Kayla Faus at 460-4511.

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 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.

Library will take food to pay your fines

The Pioneer Memorial Library will continue its annual Christmas "Foods for Fines" campaign through next Monday. Bring canned or packaged food for Genesis-Thomas County to pay your fines.

Mingo church plans Christmas Eve service

The Mingo Bible Church will have its first Christmas Eve candlelight communion service at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24. It is open to everyone.

Church women selling fresh nuts

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.

Foundation needs grant applications

The Thomas County Community Foundation will accept applications for its fourth-quarter grant cycle until Tuesday, Dec. 31. Grant areas include children, education, literacy, cultural, senior citizen services, beautification and more.

Tickets still on sale for Hope benefit

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.

Trash crew off Christmas, Christmas Eve

Colby city offices will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 24 and 25, and city workers will be off. The residential trash route for Tuesday, Dec. 24, will be picked up on Monday, Dec. 23.

Foster parenting classes set for next month

Foster parenting classes by TFI Family Services will begin Wednesday, Jan. 6, in Colby, with the time and location to be determined by interested families' schedules. Immediate training also is available.

AmericanProfile // CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN SPIRIT // Wednesday Evening December 18, 2013. Table listing TV shows and times for Wednesday evening.