

Weather



National Weather Service Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 13. East wind around 5 mph becoming southwest after midnight.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 34. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 15. Blustery, with a southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northwest 15 to 20 mph in the evening. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 30. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

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

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 32.

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

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 47.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24.

Christmas Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 42.

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

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 41.

Thursday: High, 45; Low 10
Precip: Thursday None
Month: 0.02 inches
Year: 14.46 inches
Normal: 20.86 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Saturday 8:01 a.m. 5:24 p.m.
Moon: waning, 84 percent
Sunday 8:01 a.m. 5:25 p.m.
Moon: waning, 76 percent
Monday 8:02 a.m. 5:25 p.m.
Moon: waning, 68 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Contract to realtor approved

From "REALTOR," Page 1

Sam Brownback's administration had considered moving 10 to 75 state employees here, but the state gave McGreer the go-ahead to sell the building last month.

In other business, the council: Approved ordinances changing the rules for city employees. One gives employees up to 10 paid vacation days per year, and lets them carry up to three unused days over into a new year.

The other prohibits employees who are not in law enforcement from carrying guns on the job. That ordinance was inspired by the recent state law which keeps the city from banning guns in its buildings, McGreer said. The manager said he and City Attorney John Gatz looked at what other municipalities have been doing in Kansas after the law was passed, and talked to the Kansas League of Municipalities. Their understanding was that cities have can still ban em-

ployees from carrying guns under state statutes, McGreer said. Voted to rezone about 17 acres near Colby Community College from R-1, or single-family dwellings, to R-3, multi-family. Hoxie-based Bainter Construction bought the land this summer from the college to build apartments. McGreer said that Bainter will be able to choose among different kinds of houses or apartments on land that is zoned R-3.

Health group briefs county

From "COUNTY," Page 1

self-control and self-management skills. While this improves classroom behavior, studies indicate it also makes kids less likely to abuse drugs and alcohol in the future, said Evans.

The group is also offering area employers information about secondhand smoke in the workplace, promoting access to fresh produce and encouraging commitments to "pass on pop" by going soda-free on Sundays.

"We're really seeing a strong momentum for healthy lifestyle change," said Carmichael, adding the coalition has become an example for similar groups in other places.

In other business, the commissioners Authorized the purchase of a patrol vehicle for the sheriff's department, using \$12,000 from budgeted funds and about \$15,000 from drug forfeiture money. The commissioners had not budgeted enough for the department to buy a new vehicle this year without using money from forfeitures.

Approved the purchase of three new computers for the county clerk's office, totaling \$4,959. Ntronic won the bid over Cumulus Computers by a \$70 margin. Both bidders are Colby companies.

Entered a 10-minute closed-door session to discuss nonelected health department personnel.

Approved five tax abatements: for Jason and Suzanne Schielke, a reduction of \$815 for a farm-use trailer that should have been tax-exempt; for Duane and Velvola Brown, \$130 for a mobile home that taxed twice; for Golden Eagle Trust, \$951 for a vehicle that was taxed when tagged; for Kansas Natural Gas Operating Inc., \$948 due to a decision from the state Court of Tax Appeals; and for Raymond and Donna Morris, an increase of \$419 for a parcel left off their taxes by mistake.

Approved accounts payable of \$56,844.

Accepted inventories from several county departments, including health, elections, register of deeds and noxious weed.

Appointed Commissioner Paul Steele to another term on the Thomas County Economic Development Alliance board and Tylon Mengel to another term on the zoning appeals board.

Asked County Clerk Shelly Harms to get bids for installing a new mini-split heating and air conditioning unit for the Thomas County Community Foundation's office at the Thomas County Office Complex.

College costs under budget

From "COLLEGE," Page 1

where it will be evaluated and agrees to report on its performance.

That the college is reviewing a draft of the year-four annual performance report for its Title III federal grant, which will be submitted next month, Nichols reported. The report is required for the five-year grant of about \$3 million that the college got from the federal government four years ago.

The first quarterly report for a Carl Perkins Grant of about \$68,000 was submitted last month, and the due date was extended from the first day of this month to the first of March.

Nichols reported that Ruth Wolfram, who had planned to retire, will stay on as the director of the nursing program until May and Jennifer Landis has agreed to oversee CNA and

CMA nursing programs. Nichols said he thinks the college has found a viable candidate to replace Dr. Lorna Pelton as director of the beef management program. He reported that the part time Title III project director position had been offered to Barry Kaaz, former dean of external affairs who retired earlier this year, and trustees approved his hiring at the meeting.

The college farm sold some of its cattle for just under \$39,000 at the Oakley Livestock Auction, he said.

Public Information Director Debbie Schwanke reported that the college has prepared an eight-page newsletter that Nick Wells plans to send out to about 11,000 people to solicit donations for the endowment and the college. She said one page of the newsletter will be devoted to a 1964 Chevy Impala that Wells bought for the foundation. He is

trying to sell keys to the car, one of which will work.

Several college groups including students and teachers, helped with holiday activities around town, collecting food and money for charity groups and setting up the.

Leroy Towns, a professor at the University of North Carolina and a Colby native, will speak at the college's Cultural Arts Center on Tuesday, Feb. 11, as part of the Max Pickerill Lecture series.

Athletic Director Ryan Sturdy reported that the college wrestling tournament will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday instead of 7 p.m. This will be a busy time of year for the department, he said, as grades are being given out to students.

Xuemei Yang, vice president of institutional effectiveness, reported that the college has completed a data request from the Business Department for a program review, an error resolution with the National Student Clearinghouse, and a fall semester survey on student enrollment and students' declared majors.

Weather threatens travel

By Jim Salter

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — A stew of foul weather, ranging from freezing rain and snow in the Midwest to thunderstorms and possible tornadoes in the South, is arriving just in time for one of the busiest travel weekends of the year.

Much of the nation was bracing for something, with freezing rain then snow likely in the northern Plains, downpours expected from St. Louis through Appalachia, and even weekend tornadoes a possibility in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

While much of the East awoke today to unusually warm weather, the region was next in the storm front's crosshairs, creating pre-Christmas travel worries from Chicago and Detroit to Boston and New York.

AAA projected that nearly 95 million Americans would travel 50 miles or more during the holiday period, which runs from Saturday through Jan. 1.

Temperatures that hovered in the 60s in some parts of the Midwest on Thursday plummeted overnight, and freezing rain this morning snarled traffic and forced some school closures

in Michigan and Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation said Interstate 90/94 was ice covered from Tomah and Mauston. The state was bracing for snow, sleet and ice.

Although few flights had been cancelled by midday, the weather was taking a toll on air travel: FlightStats.com reported more than 1,300 U.S. delays, with the most at Chicago's O'Hare, Denver International, and the three big New York-area airports.

Kansas City, Mo., was bracing for freezing rain, then 6 inches of snow.

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.

Methodists plan potluck on Christmas Day

The Colby United Methodist Church plans a Christmas potluck meal and fellowship at noon next Wednesday. Everyone is invited to bring a Christmas dish to share, along with a favorite board or card game. For information, call Kim Barnett at the church, 460-2761.

Living Nativity scheduled for this 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, at the 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.

Trash crew off Christmas, Christmas Eve

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

The city sanitation trucks will not be running on New Year's Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1, either. Residential trash will be picked up on Thursday, Jan. 2. For information, contact Omar Weber at the Public Works Department, 460-4420.

The Thomas County Landfill will be closed Tuesday and next Wednesday for Christmas Eve and Christmas, reopening at 9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 26. For information, call Larry Jumper at 462-8139.

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. Call Angie Harris at 460-1078 for information.

Library will take food to pay your fines

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

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. It is open to everyone. For information, call Pastor Tom Peyton at 462-2992.

Church selling fresh 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.

Foundation grant applications due Dec 31

The Thomas County Community Foundation will accept applications for its fourth-quarter grant cycle until Tuesday, Dec. 31. Go to www.thomascountycommunityfoundation.com for an application or call Executive Director Melinda Olson at 460-9152 if you have questions.

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, including a social hour, dinner, auction and dance. Contact Pat Sloan at 443-3261. Tickets normally sell out, so get yours early.

Foster parenting classes set for January

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. Call Vicki Beiser at (785) 443-0650 or (800) 279-9914.

Wellness Challenge to kick off next month

Dr. Doug Gruenbacher, a Quinter physician, will speak at the kickoff for the Thomas County Wellness Challenge at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, in the multipurpose room at the college Student Union. Blood will be drawn for lab tests from 6 to 9 a.m. Thursday to Saturday, Jan. 9 to 11, and Monday, Jan. 13, at Citizens Medical Center. For information, call the county Health Department at (785) 460-4596.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Monday Evening										December 23, 2013	
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	Shrek	Chipmunk	Light Fight				Local	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Nightline		
KBSL/CBS	How I Met	2 Broke G	Mike	Mom	Elementary		Local	Late Show Letterman	Ferguson		
KSNK/NBC	The Sing-Off				Hollywood Game Night		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	J. Fallon		
KSAS/FOX	Almost Human		Sleepy Hollow		Local						
Cable Channels											
A & E	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck Dynasty		Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	
AMC	Home Alone				Home Alone 2					White Chr	
ANIM	My Cat From Hell		My Cat From Hell		Treehouse Masters		My Cat From Hell		Treehouse Masters		
BRAVO	Real Housewives		Vanderpump Rules		Real Housewives		Vanderpump Rules		Real Housewives		
CMT	A Christmas Story 2					Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.		
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Live		AC 360 Later			E. B. OutFront	Piers Morgan Live		
COMEDY	Futurama South Pk		South Pk South Pk		South Pk South Pk		South Pk South Pk		Tosh.0 Tosh.0		
DISC	Street Outlaws		Street Outlaws		Street Outlaws		Street Outlaws		Street Outlaws		
DISN	Santa Clause 3: Escape Clause		Mickey		Dog		Jessie		Dog Austin Good Luck Good Luck		
E!	E! News		It's Complicated				Chelsea		E! News		
ESPN	Countdown NFL Football							SportsCenter			
ESPN2	This Is Sportscenter		College Basketball				SportCtr	Obermann	Nation		
FAM	The Polar Express				Prancer				Scrooged		
FOOD	Kids Cook-Off		Kids Cook-Off		Diners		Diners		Kids Cook-Off		
FX	Chipmunks-Squeakquel				Alvin-Chipmunk				Chipmunks-Squeakquel		
HGTV	Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Hunters		Hunt Intl		Love It or List It		
HIST	Pawn Stars		Pawn Stars		Christmas		Pawn		American		
LIFE	Merry In-Laws				The Real St. Nick				Merry In-Laws		
MTV	Awkward.		MTV Special		Generation Cryo		Generation Cryo		True Life		
NICK	Full H'se		Full H'se		Full H'se		Full H'se		Friends		
SCI	The Matrix				Batman Begins				Sin City		
SPIKE	The Expendables		Day-Tomorrow					Cops		Cops	
TBS	Fam. Guy		Fam. Guy		Big Bang		Big Bang		Conan		
TCM	Meet Me in St. Louis				Bells-St. Mary's				Movies		
TLC	Bigger & Batter		Bakery Boss		Best Fune		Best Fune		Bakery Boss		
TNT	Major Crimes		Major Crimes		Rizzoli & Isles		Major Crimes		Hawaii Five-0		
TOON	Steven		Uncle Gra		Regular		Adventure		Fam. Guy		
TRAV	Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		
TV LAND	Griffith		Griffith		Raymond		Raymond		King		
USA	WWE Monday Night RAW							NCIS: Los Angeles		NCIS: Los Angeles	
VH1	Black Ink Crew		Black Ink Crew		T.I. and Tiny		Black Ink Crew		New Jack City		
WGN	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		WGN News at Nine		How I Met		Rules		
Premium Channels											
HBO	Chronicles-Ridd		Battleship				Getting		Stoker		
MAX	Summer		Madagascar 3: Wanted		Mission: Impossible						
SHOW	Intolerable Cruelty				Gone				Jeepers Creepers 2		

Perfect gifts for someone who already has everything!

Holiday Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

PALACE DRUG STORE
460 N. Franklin • Colby • 785-462-7507