

Weather Corner



Partly cloudy and winter

The forecast
Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 16. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Friday — Partly cloudy with a high around 41. Calm wind becoming south between 5 and 10 mph. **Friday night** — A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy with a low around 19. Northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Saturday — A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy with a high around 34. North wind around 10 mph becoming east.
Saturday night — A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy with a low around 18.
Sunday — A 20 percent chance of snow before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a near 36.
Temperatures
Wednesday's high, 40
Low this morning, 2
Records for this date, 80 in 1917, -1 in 1985
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
December's precipitation, 0.00
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Briefly

Fair board to meet Dec. 8
The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8 at the Thomas County 4-H Building. Items on the agenda include Thomas County extension agent report; financial report and bills; committee reports on the buildings and grounds, carnival, rodeo, parade, demolition derby, races, fair book, advertising expenses and income. The meeting is open to the public.

Spaghetti feed Friday
The Colby High School Dance Team is sponsoring an "All-You-Can-Eat" spaghetti feed starting at 5:30 p.m., Friday, in the basement of the Colby Community Building. The event is in conjunction with the first high school basketball game when the Colby Eagles take on Scott City. The girls varsity game starts at 6:30 p.m., with the boys game immediately following. Proceeds from the feed will benefit the team in buying equipment and uniforms.

Gaither video concert Sunday
The Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine, is hosting a Gaither video concert on the big screen at 6 p.m., Sunday.

The concert will feature "A Gaither Homecoming in the Holyland," and is open to everyone free of charge.

Piano recital Sunday
Piano students of Shirley Malcolm are presenting their winter recital at 2 p.m., Sunday, at the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave. Christmas duets performed by the pianists will be accompanied by parents or other family members. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Last Lunch-n-Learn program Dec. 6
Lunch-n-Learns last meeting will be Tuesday from 12:05 to 12:55 at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range. The program will be "Candy, Candy, Candy," said Diann Gerstner, the Thomas County Extension's family and consumer science agent. Everyone is encouraged to bring a sack lunch for the activity. For questions, call 460-4582.

Genesis needs holiday donations
Genesis-Thomas County is making preparations for its annual Christmas Food Basket project. Non-perishable food items or monetary donations are needed. Donations may be

dropped off at the food bank, 350 S. Range, Suite 6 on Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and noon and 1 and 4 p.m.; at Leroy's Printing, 560 N. Franklin; Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1065 W. Fifth St.; First Presbyterian, Colby United Methodist or Trinity Lutheran Church. Donations may be mailed to Genesis-Thomas County, Inc., P.O. Box 214, Colby, Kan. 67701. For questions, call 460-7930.

Chorus rehearses every Tuesday
The Hi-Plains Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines holds rehearsals every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave. Female singers welcome.

County seeks service projects
The Thomas County Attorney's office is looking for community service projects for defendants and juvenile offenders to do as part of their sentence or as a condition of probation or diversion. For those who are members of the community or a local business and have a project that needs done or have ideas for some community service projects, write: Thomas County Attorney's Office, Attn: Community Service, 140 W. 4th, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Soldiers say they can't forget

From "HOME," page 1

A driver for Tony Kuhlman Trucking of Monument, Luvender is not sure when he'll return to work.

"My boss Tony has worked with me and he's held my truck for me and he supports the National Guard," Luvender said.

He said while Babcock, Bailey, Wolf and he are glad to be home, they will not forget their fellow soldiers.

"We won't forget our brothers and sisters, especially Derrick Lutters of Goodland," Luvender said. Lutters was assigned to the 170th Company in Colby and died in Iraq.

Babcock also believes America's involvement in the war was necessary.

"We are doing a great job for those people and it's something we needed to do and then get our guys home," Babcock said. "I'm just happy to have done my part."

Happy to be back in Kansas, Babcock plans to look for a civilian job when he moves to Manhattan in January. He will start college in the fall at Kansas State University where he'll major in psychology.

Contrasting winter conditions in Kansas with those of sweltering heat in Iraq, Babcock said he'll actually miss the heat.

"I enjoyed the heat, but not the extremely hot days," he said, "but going from one extreme to the other hurts."

Snow fun



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Aaron Faber of Colby took advantage of the post-holiday snow storm earlier this week to go sledding in front of his home on West Sixth Street. The forecast for this weekend is predicting a chance for more snow.

Technology keeps dad in touch

From "HOLIDAY," page 1

Having left when Ainsley was 17 months-old, Wolf said technology helped him stay connected to his family while he was gone.

"I made it home for Ainsley's second birthday while I was on (leave) in June, and I spent a lot of time on video camera so she'd know me," Wolf said.

Wolf said despite living in a tent with wooden floors in Kuwait, the military provides computer for soldiers' use.

Wolf will have 90 days off before returning to his unit for training, and he won't return to his civilian job with the Kansas Department of Transportation until after the first of the year. A strong supporter of the war, Wolf said the United States' efforts are worth it.

"If we'd stop now we'd loose

everything we've worked for," Wolf said. "What you see on television is only 1 percent of the bad stuff that happens and it doesn't show the 99 percent of the good stuff."

"Television only shows the soldiers getting hurt or killed and doesn't show the people who are glad we are there or the little kids getting candy and gifts from us soldiers."

Winners from last year reviewed

From "PARADE," page 1

area and Sunflower Bank will be roasting hot dogs.

The parade route will begin at the TNT Building with Santa and Mrs. Claus leading the way north on Franklin to Santa City.

"The parade marks the beginning of the holiday shopping season in Colby," Downing said, "and the theme is meant to remind all of us to remember to shop locally."

Winners last year
Last year's parade winners included First National Bank in the

"Best Lit" category for its "Shrek" theme.

Lon Sowers and his "lighted nose" oxen finished second.

Business entry winners were Colby Ag in first and Lang Diesel, second.

The only religious theme winner was Knights of Columbus with a theme of keeping "Christ" in Christmas.

Dale Deaver, representing the VFW, won first place in Patriotic theme.

About 50 Colby Girl Scouts to include Brownies, Daisies, Cadets and Juniors earned first place in organizational. Toys for Tots placed second.

Matt Lindberg riding a three-wheeler pulling a small float earned first in the youth division. The Quagliano children received second place riding their pedal cars.

Santa City will be open at 8 p.m. and businesses are urging shoppers to take advantage of extended hours downtown and throughout the city.

"Mark your calendar to come out for the eighth annual parade," Downing said.

For questions call 460-3401.

Deer poaching growing problem

HUTCHINSON (AP) — Deer poachers looking for money or bragging rights are killing thousands of deer illegally across the state, Kansas wildlife officials say.

"It's a big issue," said Sam Allred, a natural resources officer with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. "These people want the big racks they can sell or put on the wall and brag about."

Allred said he believes most poachers are in it for the money, given that the biggest deer racks can sell for thousands of dollars.

Earlier this month, a rural Clay County man was stabbed after he caught poachers with a deer they had killed on his property. And last spring, a Butler County man who was selling deer racks or exchanging them for guns was prosecuted for poaching after wildlife officials found more than 60 deer racks and 100 turkey beards at his home.

Kansas convicted 91 poachers for trespassing while hunting in 2004. But one study estimates that for the 77,000 deer taken legally in Kansas, poachers kill almost as many illegally.

"For every 20 we find, there are 100 we probably don't know about," said Mark Rankin, assistant director of law enforcement for the wildlife department.

Poachers find willing buyers at sporting goods stores, who resell the deer racks or put them up in their businesses.

Others are sold through word of mouth and other markets, including eBay.


"There's a market for the larger deer racks, for people to mount and put on their walls," Rankin said. "If

it is a trophy record book class, you could be looking at \$10,000 to \$12,000."


Rankin said the department's ability to fight the problem is hampered by limited funds and staffing. The state has only 63 field officers for its 105 counties.

Wildlife officer Phillip Kirkland, of St. John, said part of the problem is that penalties aren't as stiff as in other states, where poachers could be fined thousands of dollars. And sometimes, county attorneys will dismiss cases or file lesser charges.

"The mindset has been these professional deer criminals are just harmless good ole boys poaching a deer or two over the limit — boys being boys," said Dan Ward, executive director of the Kansas Wildlife Federation. "There isn't an awareness that this is a way for organized crime to come into Kansas."



High Plains Lions Club
Pancake Feed
December 3, 2005
\$3.50 Donation
Colby Community Building
7am - 2 pm
\$ goes toward community projects!





Christmas Open House
Saturday, Dec. 3rd ~ 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Enter to win one of four \$25 Gift Certificates
Select items 20% off
Located Upstairs at the Oasis Travel Center
700 Horton Ave. * Colby * 460-0566

Fill out a wish list and choose from a votive candle or Camille Beckman lotion.

ANNIVERSARY Celebration SALE

FRIDAY * SATURDAY * SUNDAY
December 2nd, 3rd & 4th
Check out Saturday Only Alltel Specials!

NO INTEREST on everything in the store until JANUARY 2007

LG Plasma TV's NO INTEREST until JANUARY 2008!

 **BOSCH** Invented for life

We are the largest RCA Scenium dealer in Northwest Kansas. Come in and see our complete Home Entertainment section...featuring Pioneer, Phillips, Toshiba, RCA, and LG products.

Special: Super Spec Eggshell Interior Paint \$19.99/gal

 **BEST BRANDS PLUS™**

PRICED RIGHT Every day!

165 W. 4th St.
Colby, Kansas 67701

BERINGER HARDWARE

Ph: 785-460-2432
Fax: 785-460-6292

Join Us For FREE POPCORN & SODA ALL THREE DAYS!
Saturday, 11:00-1:00
Free Hamburgers, Hot Dogs & Soda

HDTV IS HERE
We have the largest selection of HDTV's and the most knowledgeable staff in the Tri-state Area!


LG

Hourly Drawings on Saturday THE PHOENIX GRILL MASTER WILL BE DOING DEMONSTRATIONS ALL DAY SATURDAY

Close-out Special on select appliances! 30 Day Price Guarantee!
If you find a lower price on any like-model, we will difference 110% of the price on any difference! All charges must be considered. Including delivery and installation.

you're on the right track in the CLASSIFIEDS!