

Weather
Corner



Warmer, but
high winds

The forecast

Tonight — Mostly clear with a low near 18. Blustery with a west wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Saturday — Partly cloudy with a high around 41. Windy with a north wind between 20 and 30 mph with gusts as high as 45 mph.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 20. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

Sunday — Partly cloudy with high around 49. West wind around 10 mph.

Sunday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 22. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

Monday — Partly cloudy with a high around 40. Monday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 19.

Tuesday — Mostly sunny with a high around 47.

Temperatures

Thursday's high, 26

Low this morning, -10

Records for this date, 78 in 1939, -20 in 1919

Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.06

December's precipitation, 0.06

A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Briefly

Commissioners to meet Monday

The Thomas County commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include a discussion with landfill supervisor Larry Jumper on issues from 2005-2006; Ken Gatlin on a service contract; Wade McCarty about a possibility of a Web site for the county; Marilyn Bailey, Mary Cech and Maybelle Moore on smoking concerns at the courthouse; approval of the Dec. 5 minutes and first half of December bills and appointments to the board of zoning appeals, planning commission and Thomas County Economic Development Alliance. The meeting is open to the public.

Commodity distribution Wednesday

United States Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1:30-3 p.m. Wednesday at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park in Colby. For information, call 462-6744.

Pancake feed in Gem

The Gem Lions Club is sponsoring a pancake feed from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday at the Gem Community Building. The group will serve pancakes, sausage, eggs, pie and mints for a free-will donation. Proceeds will go toward sight programs, education and other community projects.

College to hold special meeting

There will be a special meeting of the Colby Community College Board of Trustees at 5 p.m., Monday, in the Thomas Hall board room. The agenda was amended Thursday to include consulting the board's attorney regarding legal matters, along with meeting to discuss the presidential search process. All meetings are open to the public.

Basket volunteers needed tonight

Genesis-Thomas County is needing volunteers to help fill Christmas Baskets at 7 p.m., today, at the Thomas County 4-H Building in Colby. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to come by. The baskets will be distributed to those eligible from 9 to 11 a.m., Saturday, also at the 4-H Building.

Agency plans annual open house

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, 404 E. Front St., Oakley, is having its annual open house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 20.

Big Brothers Big Sisters plan event

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County is planning a fundraising breakfast from 7 to 8 a.m., Tuesday, at the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave. The break-

Christmas dance Saturday

Ron Snyder of Colby will call for the Golden Buckle Christmas Dance starting at 8 p.m., Saturday, at the Colby Community Building. Admission is one (nonperishable) food item for Genesis Thomas County or by paying the regular admission. This will be the only dance held in December, officials said.

Diabetes workshop Dec. 15

People with diabetes can learn more about the disease at a workshop from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 15, sponsored by Citizens Medical Center in the hospital meeting room. For information about the workshop call 460-4850.

Dance team plans cookie walk

The Colby High School Dance Team is sponsoring a cookie walk, from 1 to 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec 18, at Pioneer Memorial Library. The cookie walk is to raise money for the dance team to help defray expenses when they compete at nationals in Florida.

Judge rules man
will go to prison

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

A month after being given a second chance, a Goodland man is going to prison.

Ronald R. Thompson, 44, told District Judge Glenn Schiffner Wednesday he was sorry for the mess his life was in and wanted help getting free of drugs.

He told Schiffner the same thing Nov. 2.

Charged with possession of the narcotic drug codeine, Thompson was sentenced Aug. 3 under the state's drug law — Senate Bill 123 — which requires all options of treatment be exhausted before a person goes to prison.

Thompson was placed on probation in lieu of a 15-month prison sentence, but violated the terms of his probation when he tried to ob-

tain another person's medication and money from elderly Goodland residents to buy prescriptions.


Last month, Colby Attorney Todd Stramel said his client was "addicted to being addicted" and Wednesday said Thompson was prepared to admit he had a problem.

Thompson's community corrections officer Dian Organ on Dec. 3 filed an affidavit stating on many occasions in November the terms of the probation were violated.

"I did mess up again," Thompson told Schiffner.

"I have a step-daughter and wife who need me to succeed. I have the pressure of God, my wife and the court for asking for one more chance."

In November, Schiffner sentenced Thompson to Thomas County's Alcohol Drug Abuse Council half-way house. On Wednesday,



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Ronald Thompson, left, stood by his attorney, Todd Stramel, and pleaded with District Court Judge Glenn Schiffner to give him another chance to complete probation.

Schiffner imposed the original 15-month prison sentence and ordered Thompson to the custody of the Thomas County Sheriff's office until he can be placed in one of the state prisons.

Schiffner told Thompson he had a lot of empathy for this situation and he "must have a real addition to narcotic drugs."

Corkins
hopes fuss
will die down

TOPEKA (AP) — Bob Corkins hopes the hubbub over his appointment as education commissioner will die down, making his job easier.

But two months into his tenure, he still faces speculation that he'll be fired if the balance of political power on the State Board of Education changes from its current 6-4 conservative Republican majority.

He said Thursday he can't let that prospect affect him as he runs a Department of Education with 260 employees and an annual budget of more than \$3 billion.

Next week, he'll present proposals to the board for a limited school voucher program and a change that could create more special charter schools in Kansas.

Woman pleads 'no contest' on trafficking charge

By Jan Katz Ac kerman
Colby Free Press

A mother accused of trafficking contraband into a penal institution pleaded no contest Wednesday in a Colby court.

Connie Schiltz, 41, told District

Judge Glenn Schiffner she wanted to waive her rights to a formal arraignment for having tried to sneak a screwdriver and tobacco into the Thomas County Jail on Aug. 4. Schiltz's no contest plea is legally equal to that of a guilty plea.

After asking Schiltz a series of

questions about her decision to plead no contest, Schiffner said based on her answers he'd accept her plea. He also told her she faces between 17 and 46 months in prison and a fine of not more than \$100,000.

Thomas County Attorney Andrea

Wyrick told Schiffner that Schiltz tried to get a screwdriver hidden in a shirt and a bag of chewing tobacco hidden inside a radio to her 24-year-old son, Eric S. Schiltz who at the time was in jail on a probation violation.

Out of jail on a recognizance bond, Eric Schiltz was charged with the same charge as his mother and will have a preliminary hearing at 1:30 p.m. Dec. 20.

Connie Schiltz remains out of jail on a recognizance bond and will be sentenced at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 23.

Colby man sentenced on burglary

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

A Colby man was sentenced on burglary charges Wednesday in Thomas County District Court.

Joseph L. Delancey, 19, was sentenced to an underlying prison term of 12 months and placed on probation for 24 months for the July 3 break-in of a fireworks stand in Colby.

Delancey was originally charged with burglary, a felony, and criminal damage to property for breaking in to Chad and Angela Zimmerman's fireworks stand located on Franklin Avenue.

He was also charged with theft under \$1,000 in the same incident, as well as criminal trespass, the later three charges are all misdemeanors.

Delancey on Nov. 23 entered a plea of guilty to the burglary charge and District Judge Glenn Schiffner also ordered him to pay the Zim-

mermans \$1,004 in restitution. Delancey will also have to pay \$1,855 in court costs and supply the Kansas Bureau of Investigation with blood and saliva samples within the next 10 days.

As part of a plea agreement, Delancey was sentenced to an underlying term of one year in the custody of the Thomas County Sheriff's office.

In lieu of time in jail Schiffner ordered Delancey to serve a 12-month probation concurrent with

the 24-month term on the burglary charge. The other two charges were dismissed as part of the plea agreement.

After breaking into the Zimmerman's fireworks stand Delancey passed some of the items taken from it to 24-year-old Colby resident Eric Schiltz.

Schiltz was charged with possession of stolen property and conspiracy to commit a crime. That case is set for a two-day trial starting at 8 a.m. Feb. 15.



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