

Weather Corner



Highs near 51, lows in the 20s

**The forecast**  
**Tonight** — Clear with a low around 27. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Tuesday** — Partly cloudy with a high around 51. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Tuesday night** — A 20 percent chance of snow showers after 1 a.m. Partly cloudy with a low near 22. North wind between 10 and 15 mph.  
**Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 37. Breezy with a northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph with gusts as high as 35 mph.  
**Wednesday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 17.  
**Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a low around 14.  
**Thursday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 14.  
**Friday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 33.  
**Temperatures**  
Sunday's high, 54  
Low this morning, 25  
Records for this date, 68 in 1921, -21 in 1932  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
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

**Transit van for Colby residents only**  
The Thomas County transit van is available to all people in Colby, said Shelly Harms, county clerk. Operating from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, Colby residents needing to use this service can call 460-2901. Harms said the transit van is not available to make emergency runs to the hospital. "If you are in need of an ambulance," she said, "you need to call 911." The transit van driver, Ed Dean, is not qualified to transport patients to Citizens Medical Center or any other hospital facility. For questions about the transit van, either call the service number or the county clerk's office, 460-4500.

**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. "This is a great opportunity to provide input into future classes, programs, and services for people with developmental disabilities," said Pam Sager, administrator. Everyone is welcome to attend the come and go and visit with staff about programs such as the

College for Living, Business of My Own and Employment Connections. Refreshments will be provided.  
**Soup supper Friday**  
The Colby High School All Sports Booster Club is sponsoring a soup supper, from 5 to 8 p.m., Friday, at the Colby Community Building when the Eagles take on the Oakley Plainsmen. Menu items include chili and chicken noodle soup, vegetables, desert, and drink for a free-will donation. Proceeds will go toward the Dennen Field Project.  
**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, Colby. For information, call 462-6744.  
**Pancake feed planned in Gem**  
The Gem Lions Club is sponsoring a pancake feed from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday, at the Gem Community Build-

ing. 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, said Ken Poland, publicity chairman.  
**Breakfast fundraiser Tuesday**  
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 breakfast is by free-will donation and the purpose is to either introduce people to the benefits of being a Big Brother or Big Sister or educate individuals on what the program is about. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

**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, sponsored by Citizens Medical Center in the hospital meeting room. Most health insurances will pay for the workshop and it will help if the person's own primary care physician sends a physician

Winter fun



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press  
Sam Bretz, 5-year-old son of Mike and Mollie Bretz of Hoxie, took advantage of the snow before the warmer temperatures Sunday morning by sledding down hills in the walking park in Hoxie.

Two Colby men sentenced for break-in

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

Two Colby men were sentenced Wednesday for a July break-in which resulted in more than \$1,000 damage.  
Bryce C. Clark, 18, and Nolan J. Hull, 18, were sentenced in Thomas County District Court for breaking into the home of Joseph and Mildred Lauritsen July 12.  
Clark and Hull were originally charged with two felonies, burglary and criminal damage to property, and criminal trespass, a misdemeanor.  
On Oct. 28 both men pleaded guilty to the criminal damage to property charge as part of a plea agreement with the state.  
Clark and Hull admitted to having intentionally knocked holes in walls and broke windows in Lauritsen's home. They also admitted to breaking the driver's side window on a pickup owned by the Lauritsens.  
Judge Glenn Schiffner ordered Clark and Hull to pay the Lauritsen's \$700 in restitution and told them they would each be required to serve six months in prison if they violated the lesser sentence of 12-

months probation.  
In addition, Clark and Hull are required to serve a post-release probation period of 12-months, pay court costs and attorney fees, submit blood and saliva samples within 10 days to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and refrain from owning a firearm for a period of five years.

911



Thank You Brewster E.M.S. for your fast response to my call for help. Also for getting me to Colby and Denver. I am doing better! Thanks again to all who helped me.

Jerry Dittbrenner



Please Recycle

Younger students learn by handhelds

OLATHE (AP) — Aesop's fables came beaming across the classroom and landed in Eva Hernandez's Palm handheld.  
On the bottom floor of Ridgeview Elementary School, she sat scrolling, using her stylus to navigate through "The Flies and the Honeypot."  
"Hmm," said the 12-year-old. "I think I can animate the flies."  
Eva, a sixth-grader, is part of a new generation of kids using handhelds to read, write, do math, take pictures of the human eye or research Egyptian hieroglyphics — all as a regular part of their curriculum.  
As school districts scout ways to engage students already accustomed to instant messaging and interactive video games, they're buying up the kind of tech tools once reserved for jet-setting corporate executives.  
Educational sales of personal digital assistants, laptop computers and handheld remote controls called "clickers" are ballooning nationwide.  
Last year, a survey by Quality Education Data Inc. found that 28 percent of U.S. school districts offered handhelds for student and teacher use. One of every four computers purchased by schools was a laptop.  
One of the front-runners was Yankton High School in South Dakota, which adopted Palm handhelds in 2001 and found they improved students' grades.  
Electronic learning has become so popular that one school in Arizona went textbook-free this year, instead equipping its students with

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Kelly Ralston, principal  
Ridgeview Elementary

laptops. Seventeen schools outside Eugene, Ore., now use handhelds on most science field trips.  
Eva Hernandez's district has spent \$1.84 million to build "smart classrooms" with electronic interactive whiteboards, handheld computers, DVD-VHS players, high-definition sound and video systems and wireless keyboards and mice, all of which connect to the teacher's desktop computer.  
High schoolers use their Palms to write college applications and work through calculus problems. Nine-year-olds routinely "beam" in their homework, making the district a poster child for the digital classroom.  
For Eric Johnson, who directs educational sales for Palm Inc., the manufacturer of Eva's Zire 71 model, public schools represent a \$300 million market.  
And as schools purchase handhelds, dozens of spin-off industries are racing to integrate themselves into teachers' lesson plans.  
Ridgeview Elementary, which sits in a squat building on the edge of this booming Kansas City suburb, bought Zire 71 and Zire 72 models for the fourth and sixth grades.  
Studies show that when used regularly, such media-rich instructional tools can work well to assess student performance.  
But some worry that while children may learn to beam in their papers, this generation of "digital natives" could come up short in learning basic math, science and English.  
Ridgeview's principal, Kelly Ralston, is aware that technology won't erase the difficulties faced by her students, over half of whom come from low-income families.  
Last year, she spent just one-third of her annual \$63,000 budget for handhelds; the district has spent at least \$952,000 to equip 4,000 students with the devices in the last four school years.  
"The overall achievement is rising and the Palms have been a piece in keeping our kids engaged," said Ralston.  
But for Georgia Ross, who teaches special education math at Indian Trail Junior High in Olathe, the handhelds offer a way to reach students who struggle with traditional instruction methods.  
"I don't know if it's that they feel cool or they're just jazzed about the technology," Ross said. "But having some of those bells and whistles make the kind of information they really need to learn exciting."

Organizations can be sued under treaty

From "HAWKS," page 1

He said entities such as government bodies, businesses or individuals can be sued under the migratory bird treaty.  
"If you have an organization responsible, not only could the organization be held criminally responsible but the individual directed to apply the chemical could be held responsible if the application of

chemical was found to have been the cause of death or injury of the migratory bird," he said.  
Kessler said two key issues are raised when chemicals are used to eradicate prairie dogs.  
"Were the chemicals used lawfully and were they applied in a lawful manner?" he asked.  
Logan County Prairie Dog Manager Denny Mackley has been in charge of application of Rozol to

land infested with prairie dogs.  
After the county receives a complaint a landowner is making no effort to control prairie dogs, Logan County Attorney Andrea Wyrick sends a letter to the landowner saying he or she must comply within 15 days.  
If after the 15-day period no control effort is made, Mackley takes necessary steps to eradicate the prairie dogs.

Dear Friends and Patients:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Colby and surrounding communities for their support during my tenure here since 1996. I am making a personal and professional decision in my life to move to Missouri to continue my practice there and to be closer to my family. I will miss so many of you who have become friends and colleagues through the last 10 years. I have learned so much from all of you and will take my experience from Colby and rural medicine with me into the future. I plan on holding monthly clinics in Colby for consultations and for the benefit of patients that need specialized pediatric care.

I would like to thank Colby Medical and Surgical Center and Citizens Medical Center for their support and efforts. The professional staff at the hospital is unique and everyone should be proud of the medical capabilities they provide in Colby. Citizens Medical Center has worked hard to meet my needs, and have been very willing to step up and develop ways for me to keep practicing in Colby. It is simply time for me to move on and build a Pediatric Fast Track System in a large facility close to family.

I look forward to working in a larger medical community, but will miss the small town atmosphere that allows rural providers the opportunity to become more involved in their patient's lives.

Citizens Medical Center is easily the most progressive hospital in the north-west Kansas area.

Sincerely

Dr. Raymond Ketting, Pediatrician

