

Weather  
Corner



Highs in 40s  
lows in teens

**The forecast**  
**Tonight** — Partly cloudy, then gradually becoming clear with a low around 13. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Tuesday** — Sunny with a high around 42. North wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Tuesday night** — Clear, with a low near 20. North wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Wednesday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 50. North wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Wednesday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 24. **Thursday** — Mostly sunny with a high around 55. Thursday night — Mostly clear with a low around 24. **Friday** — Partly cloudy with a high around 57.

**Temperatures**  
Sunday's high, 18  
Low this morning, 13  
Records for this date, 71 in 1979, -18 in 1989  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.0  
December's precipitation, 0.08

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

Limits on BTK  
killer's prison  
life undecided

WICHITA (AP) — A judge's recommendations to set strict limits on what serial killer Dennis Rader can write, read and watch still has not been considered two months after they were made.

The hearing at the El Dorado Correctional Facility was held Oct. 12, but a certified copy of District Judge Gregory Waller's recommendations was not sent until Friday, when The Wichita Eagle asked court officials about it.

Kansas Department of Corrections spokeswoman Frances Breyne said once the document arrives, the department's legal team, the secretary of corrections and deputy secretary will formally consider it. There's no timeline for a decision on the recommendations.

Sedgwick County District Court Clerk Susan Tanner said her office receives thousands of papers, which are processed in order unless they are flagged to be expedited. That didn't happen in this case.

Neither District Judge Greg Waller, who presided over Rader's case, nor District Attorney Nola Foulston said they were concerned with the delay.

"We probably wish that it had gotten there sooner," Foulston said. "But as I said, no harm, no foul."

Air quality workshops scheduled in three Kansas cities

MANHATTAN — Air quality workshops designed to walk business owners through the Kansas Air Quality Act with a focus on regulatory updates and changes will be held in three Kansas cities during January.

"Air Quality 101 Workshops" will be held Tuesday, Jan. 10 in Salina at the Carver Center at 315 N. 2nd St.; Thursday, Jan. 19 in Wichita at the K-State Sedgwick County Extension Center at 7001 W. 21 St.; and Tuesday, Jan. 24 in Overland Park at the KU Edwards Campus-Regents Center at 12600 Quivera Rd.

The workshops are sponsored by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Small Business Environmental Assistance Program. The state's environmental assistance program is administered by the Pollution Prevention Institute at Kansas State University.

Business owners and employees from many industries, including industrial paint and coating, wood

Briefly

January dance cancelled

The Friday, Jan. 6, Singles Dance was cancelled due to the extremely cold weather, said Carolyn Miller, one of the organizers. The February dance is still planned.

Middle schoolers invited to event

The next date for "Third 2" activities for middle school students at the Pioneer Memorial Library is Tuesday, Dec. 20. The theme is "HO-HO-HOLIDAY Humbug." Participants meet in the library basement, 375 W. Fourth St., from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m. No fee or registration is required for the program. Questions, call 460-4470.

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.

Enrollment underway

The Thomas County Interagency Coalition in conjunction with area businesses and organizations will continues its After School Program for students in third, fourth and fifth grades. The program will run Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays Jan. 9 through March 16.

Transportation from Colby Grade School to the Colby Community Building will be provided by the school district; parents must pick up their child from the community building at 5:15 following the program. For questions or to enroll a child, call 460-8177.

Sanitation schedule announced

The City of Colby's sanitation trucks will run the following holiday schedule: Friday, Dec. 23 - normal routes; Saturday, Dec. 24, normal commercial routes; Monday, Dec. 26, no sanitation service; Tuesday, Dec. 27, Monday route and regular Tuesday service routes. During the New Year's Week on Friday, Dec. 30, trucks will run normal routes; Saturday, Dec. 31, normal commercial service; Monday, Jan. 2, no sanitation routes; and Tuesday, Jan 3, Monday route with regular Tuesday service route. For questions, call 460-4410.

County offices plan closings

The Thomas County Courthouse, landfill and health department will be closing next week for the Christmas holiday. The landfill will close at noon on Saturday, Dec. 24 and will be closed Sunday, Dec. 25 through Tuesday, Dec. 27. It will reopen at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28 at 9 a.m. The courthouse and health department will reopen on the same day.

Four dairy co-ops  
eye western Kansas  
for processing plants

HUTCHINSON (AP) — Dairy cooperatives based in Missouri, New Mexico and Texas are considering a milk processing plant in southwest Kansas, an area that has notable growth in dairy cattle herds.

There are now 20 large-scale dairies in western Kansas, mostly in the southwest corner of the state. Mike Brouk, a dairy extension specialist at Kansas State University, estimates 65,000 to 70,000 dairy cows are in that zone, well over half the 112,000 in the state.

The cooperatives interested in a western Kansas plant are Dairy Farmers of America, of Kansas City, Mo.; Select Milk Producers, of Artesia, N.M.; Lone Star Milk Producers, of Windthorst, Texas; and Zia Milk Producers, of Roswell, N.M. They purchase the bulk of western Kansas milk and would like to have a plant closer to that area so they can cut their transportation costs.

"I would say yes, we're going to build," said John Dunker, spokesman for the Greater Southwest Agency, marketing arm of the four cooperatives.

He said a feasibility report is nearing completion and a decision probably won't be made until the first quarter of next year.

Dunker, who is based in Rogersville, Mo., said seven potential sites, which he would not identify, are being investigated.

He said the plant, if built, would be located "where the dairy cows are."

The co-ops are also looking at eastern Colorado, but Dunker said southwest Kansas is a more probable location for a plant, which would employ 45 to 55 people. The \$50 million plant would produced annual revenues estimated at \$105 million.

Kansas ranked 18th in the nation in milk production last year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It says volume of the state's dairy industry increased by 57.7 percent between 1999 and 2004.

Frosty and Santa



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

The home of Bradley and Brette Pfeifer on North Lincoln Avenue is all decked out for Christmas. It is one of many around the community showing the signs of the season.

Growing numbers of elderly make gerontology important

MANHATTAN - Between 2000 and 2030, the older population — people age 65 and older — in the United States will more than double from 35 million to 71.5 million, with the oldest of the older population — people over age 85 — as the fastest growing segment, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

With this growth will come an increasing demand for personnel in nearly every field to seek specialized training in gerontology, according to faculty with Kansas State University's gerontology program.

"Everyone is growing older," said Pam Evans of K-State's Center on Aging. "Many times the information received about gerontology is helpful not only in students' jobs, but with their own family and friends. Because of the growing numbers of the older population, every field will need workers with some background or experience in gerontology."

"People who work in the field of gerontology have great job satisfaction by helping others maintain the quality of life, addressing the challenges of those growing older and enjoying the wisdom and creativity

“ People who work in the field of gerontology have great job satisfaction by helping others maintain the quality of life, addressing the challenges of those growing older and enjoying the wisdom and creativity of older people.”

Pam Evana,  
Kansas State Center on Aging

of older people," she said.

Gerontology, officials at Kansas State said, is the multidisciplinary study of the aging processes and individuals as they grow from middle age through later life. It includes the study of physical, mental and social changes in people as they age; the investigation of the changes in society resulting from the aging population; and the application of this knowledge to policies and programs.

K-State has offered a secondary major in gerontology since 1978. A graduate emphasis in gerontology

was approved in 1981, and an emphasis in long-term care has been offered since 1985. These programs allow students to integrate knowledge received in their major professional discipline with academic study and field experience in gerontology. Emphasizing in gerontology may be of special interest to students preparing for careers in such fields as social work, nursing, counseling, recreation, public policy, long-term care administration, medicine, architecture, psychology, adult education, rehabilitation therapy, psychology, management,

marketing, law, ministry, community and regional planning, sociology, speech pathology, horticulture therapy, clothing, media and foods and nutrition.

The K-State gerontology program is interdisciplinary, drawing from departments across campus to give students a thorough knowledge of the field. Participating departments include human ecology; apparel, textiles and interior design; architecture; biology; family studies and human services; history; horticulture; human nutrition; interior architecture; kinesiology; philosophy; psychology; regional and community planning; sociology; and speech. Courses include those in gerontology, designing supportive environments, environment and aging, biology of aging, human development and aging, estate planning, economics of aging, death and dying in history, life-span nutrition, medical ethics, life-span personality development and drama therapy for older adults, among others.

The program in long-term care administration also requires business courses in accounting and management, with courses in fi-

nance and marketing also recommended.

K-State participates in online degrees in gerontology through the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance, which pools the resources of various Midwestern universities to create degree programs. These degrees include a master's in gerontology and a certificate in gerontology. K-State has accepted students for this program since fall 2003.

The introduction to gerontology class is a university general education course. Administrators in the gerontology program are encouraging every department to consider collaborating with aging studies as the demand for those with training in gerontology increases.

MOVIE  
PASSES

Watch for your  
name in the  
Wednesday movie  
listings  
for 2  
free passes.



(Passes must be used within 7 days.)

Pick up your passes at your:



American Profile

Celebrating Hometown Life

(available in trade area only)

See American Profile Magazine in today's issue of the



Brought to you by  
the Free Press and:

1195 S. Range  
Colby, KS  
460-2000

"Neighbors helping neighbors"

SHOP COLBY FIRST

SHOP COLBY LAST

GREAT PRICES - GREAT VARIETY

Over 300 Stores to Shop

8 Parks for Families to Enjoy • Colby Community College  
• Beautiful 9 Hole Golf Course • Large Municipal Pool  
• Prairie Museum of Art & History

SHOP COLBY AND SAVE!!

 ON THE PLAINS

Faced with a Drinking Problem?

Perhaps  
Alcoholics Anonymous Can Help

Meetings are Open to the Public  
City Hall Basement  
Mondays & Thursdays - 8:30 p.m.