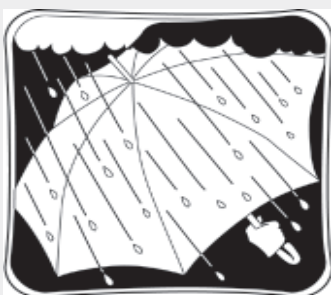


Weather Corner



The forecast
Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 23. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 56. South wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Saturday night** — Partly cloudy with a low near 29. South wind between 5 and 10 mph. **New Year’s Day** — Partly cloudy with a high around 54. South wind to 5 to 15 mph becoming northwest. **Sunday night** — Mostly clear and blustery, with a low around 24. **Monday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 59. **Monday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 26. **Tuesday** — Partly cloudy and breezy with a high near 58. Tuesday night — Partly cloudy and blustery with a low near 23. **Wednesday** — Mostly sunny and breezy with a high near 58.
Temperatures
Thursday’s high, 60
Low this morning, 26
Records for this date, 73 in 1921, -9 in 1911
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.

Little Apple ball drop going national

MANHATTAN (AP) — Television viewers from across the country will get a glimpse on New Year’s Eve of a smaller ball-drop celebration in a college town that promotes itself as the “Little Apple.” Fox News Channel plans to broadcast portions of the event live to a national audience. Now in its third year, the festivities are designed to mimic the televised event in Times Square in New York City. The event takes place in Aggieville, the bar district in the city, which is home to Kansas State University and has about 48,000 residents. Last year, planners estimated 9,000 people attended the event, compared with about 4,800 who turned out for the first celebration. Just before midnight, recently retired Kansas State football coach Bill Snyder will push the button that will trigger the descent of a red apple that is 5 feet in diameter and made of 3,000 pieces of hand-cut Plexiglas. “The Fox folks expressed particular interest in coach Snyder,” said Kate Watson, a co-founder of the event. The ball drop will be preceded by a laser light show, video presentations and a tribute to the military. The Fort Riley military base is about 20 miles west of Manhattan. Afterward, a fireworks display is planned. “It’ll be a lot like the Big Apple,” Watson said. She said city leaders have issued a proclamation designating Moro Street, which runs down the middle of Aggieville, as Broadway for the night’s festivities. “I’m very pleased to be able to report that our celebration and ball drop will be a lot more family-friendly than the one in New York,” Watson said. “We’ll have everyone from grandmothers to grandchildren in the crowd.” Earlier in the day, a streetcar-style trolley will transport shoppers to businesses participating in a “Shop ‘til the Drop” sale that spans Aggieville, downtown Manhattan and outlying shopping areas.



Briefly

County annual reports due

Shelly Harms, Thomas County clerk, has forwarded notices and annual report forms to the township, cemetery and fire districts so they may begin compiling the information for the annual report on Nov. 30, 2005. The report contains information on all income and expenses in each fund. It provided certification from the financial institutions on their ending balances in each fund. The reports are due in the office of the county clerk no later than Jan. 31, 2006.

Youth all-night party Saturday

The Rappin’ and Rockin’ New Year’s Eve Concert and Party begins at 9 p.m., Saturday and will continue through 6 a.m., Sunday, said Rich Epp, co-owner of J&R Marketing. The concert and party is open to middle school, high school and college students under 21. Christian rap band “Grits” will kick off the night with Christian rock band “Pillar” following all at Colby Community College. After pizza and a battle of the bands later in the evening, participants can take part in bowling, dodgeball, movies, and basketball

with fear factor at 5 a.m. and closing ceremonies at 6 a.m. For questions, call (785) 443-1994 or (785) 460-9751.

Blood testing for Wellness Fair nears

The Colby Wellness Fair will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, 2006 and as in previous years, prior to the fair, a variety of screening laboratory tests will be offered, said Tracey Gilcrist, wellness committee member. Blood tests will be drawn on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 4 and 5 and also on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 7, 9, and 10. All blood testing will be done from 6 until 9 a.m. with registration in the lobby of the Citizens Medical Center Specialty Clinic. Anyone planning to be tested should fast 10-12 hours prior to the test so an accurate level on the Lipid Profile can be attained. Healthcare providers will share general explanations of the test results during the fair at 9:15 and 10:15 a.m. and again at 11:12 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on the day of the fair. More details about the Wellness Fair will be published in future editions of the Colby Free Press. For questions about testing or

general information, call Jeanene Brown, 460-4850, another committee member and the education director at Citizens Medical Center.

Genesis food drive to continue

With the holiday season behind us Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3882 Auxiliary will continue the Genesis food collection at LeRoy’s Printing, 560 N. Franklin in Colby.

After school enrollment continues

The Thomas County Interagency Coalition in conjunction with area businesses and organizations will continue 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.

Professor creates tools to make better wine

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Distinguishing fine wine from plonk is usually left to connoisseurs and winemakers, who rely on their senses, rough chemical measurements and the whims of nature to produce an exceptional tittle. But a Carnegie Mellon University professor, working with industry scientists in Chile, is hoping that computer models will identify the traits of good wine to help vintners produce more of it. Lorenz “Larry” Biegler, who teaches chemical engineering at the university, is working on mathematical formulas to automate the fermentation process, adjusting ingredients and conditions to ensure robust flavors and higher yields from grape harvests. Scientists don’t fully understand the delicate mix of compounds that emerge during fermentation and why they create such pleasing sensations for wine drinkers. Biegler’s research focuses on yeast, which consumes sugar and produces alcohol. “We would like to come up with a reasonably good model of how this yeast cell behaves ... then control this fermentation process so we can make better-quality wines,” he said.

Much of the work is being carried out at an “aroma lab” at Pontifical Catholic University in Santiago, Chile, where industry-sponsored researchers are trying to isolate chemicals that produce desirable fragrances and flavors, Biegler said. One goal is to help vintners avoid “stuck batches” — batches that spoil and are thrown away when fermentation stalls, leaving too much sugar. Biegler hopes to make winemaking more efficient, consistent and, ultimately, profitable. Similar computerized systems are routinely used at chemical plants, oil refineries and pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities, he said. The researchers have been collaborating for more than two years and are studying only white wines, since reds are more complex and

contain solids that make them difficult to analyze. Stephen Menke, an oenologist at Pennsylvania State University’s Cooperative Extension, said sorting out wine ingredients is difficult “because it’s a natural product and we don’t really do much processing.” Researchers are trying to refine more traditional methods of assessing a wine’s quality — tasting it, sniffing its bouquet — and monitoring production, Menke said. Scientific efforts to unlock wine’s secrets have generally met with little success, said Mark Chien, a wine grape specialist also at Penn State. “I wish it were that easy,” he said. “In a textbook sense, it should be, but it never quite is. It’s a fascinating scientific exercise, but nobody’s been able to prove you can do something like that.” That has not stopped some from trying. One company, Enologix, of Sonoma, Calif., takes juice samples, analyzes them and, using proprietary software, recommends how to make wines that please leading critics.

Candy Cane Contest Winner
Terry Wendell
There was 238 Candy Canes displayed and Terry guessed 237!
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GOOD SHEPHERD THRIFT STORE
Happy New Year and a BIG THANK YOU to all our wonderful customers and volunteers!!
New Opening times for 2006:
• Tuesday – Friday Noon to 5 pm
• Saturday 10 am to 4 pm
Our Mission
1. Fund Christ-centered Mission Trips
2. Provide N.W. Kansas with “Mall Quality” merchandise at Thrift Store prices!!
3. A constantly rotating inventory of the Highest Quality merchandise!
4. Provide a clean, warm, welcoming Christ-honoring environment for customers and volunteers alike.
Please come visit us at 480 N. Franklin, Colby, KS 720-936-2621

‘On the road again...’

TISHA COX/Colby Free Press
Trucks were lined up today at the Oasis Travel Center as the sun came up. Travelers won’t have erally nice weather for travel as recent warm weather will take a break this weekend with rain and snow sprinkles in the forecast for Sunday.

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 2001 Eddie Bauer Expedition - Green w/Tan Leather, 5.4L, V-8, Moonroof, Quad Buckets, Rear Entertainment, 59K Miles. \$18,500	 2000 Beatele - Silver w/Gray Cloth, 4 Cyl., Great Fuel Economy. \$6,995	 2000 Focus ZX3 - Blue w/Gray Cloth, 4 Cyl. 5 Speed, 60K Miles. \$5,500
 1997 Cougar - Green w/Gray Cloth, V-6, Auto, P Seats, Air. \$4,995	 2005 Mountaineer AWD - French Silk w/Tan Cloth, 4.0L V-6, 10K Miles, PW, PL. \$22,995	 2005 Mountaineer AWD - Red w/Tan Leather, 4.0L V-6, CD, 3rd Row Seat, 12K Miles. \$22,500
 2004 Expedition Eddie Bauer - 4x4, Red W/Gray Leather, 5.4L, 20K Miles, Navigation System. \$30,500	 2003 Focus - 4 Door, Blue w/Gray Cloth, 4 Cyl., 16K Miles. \$8,995	 2004 LeSabre Custom - Silver w/Gray Cloth, V-6, Like New! Only 2,900 Miles. \$17,850
 1997 G Voyager SE - Plum w/Gray Cloth, 6 Cyl., 1 Owner. Nice! \$4,995	 2000 Windstar - Blue w/Gray Cloth, V-6, Cruise, Quad Seats, Rear Air. \$5,500	 1994 Taurus Wagon - White w/Gray Cloth. Only 73,000 Miles. Wow! \$3,350
 2005 F150 Supercab STX - 4x4, Shadow Gray, V-8, CD, Cruise, Tilt, Aluminum Wheels, 7K Miles. \$21,995	 2001 Sports Ext Cab - 4x4, Red w/Gray Cloth, 360 Auto. \$10,500	 2005 Grand Caravan - Red w/Gray Cloth, 6 Cyl., Stow & Go, 17K Miles. \$17,995
 2005 Taurus SEL - Gold w/Tan Leather, 6 Cyl., Sun Roof, CD, Aluminum Wheels, 14K Miles. \$16,500	 2001 F350 XL Cab Chassis - Flatbed, Silver w/Gray Vinyl, Diesel. \$16,850	 2004 F150 Reg Cab STX - Silver w/Gray Cloth, 6 Cyl., 19K Miles. \$15,850
 2002 F150 Supercab Lariat - 4x4, Toreador Red & Beige w/Leather. \$20,850	 2003 F250 Crewcab Lariat - 4x4, Arizona Beige w/Tan Leather, 6.0L V-8 Diesel, 45K Miles, 1 Owner. \$31,500	 2000 Venture LT - Silver w/Gray Cloth, 6 Cyl., 99K Miles, Power Sliding Door. \$6,995