

Weather Corner



High 73 for Saturday

Tonight — Mostly clear with a low around 32. West wind around 10 mph.

Saturday — Partly sunny, then gradually becoming sunny, with a high near 73. West wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming north. **Saturday night** — Partly cloudy with a low near 28. North wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Sunday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 59. North wind around 10 mph. **Sunday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 23. **Monday** — Partly cloudy and breezy with a high near 46. **Monday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 20. **Tuesday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 59.

Temperatures
Thursday's high, 50
Low this morning, 18
Records for this date, 67 in 1902, -24 in 1912
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.0
January's precipitation, 0.03
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Briefly

Colby singles, couples dance today

The Colby Singles and Couples dance, which was cancelled, is now back on from 8 p.m. to midnight, today, at the City Limits Convention Center in Colby. Entertainment will be provided by Jim Barnes. The event is open to both single people and couples.

Gaither Video returns Sunday

The Gaither Video Concert is returning to Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine, Sunday, starting at 6 p.m. This concert will feature, "A Gaither Homecoming Concert," which is free and open to everyone. The concert is gospel music and will be shown on big screen television.

Dog training class begins soon

Dog training classes, sponsored by the Thomas County 4-H Dog Program, begins at 7 p.m., Tuesday, with an orientation meeting at the 4-H Building in Colby. For this first

meeting, participants are asked to bring current vaccination papers on their animals and a \$60 registration fee, but no dogs, said Carrie Bredemeier, 4-H dog leader. The class is open to anyone interested in training their dogs — old or young. Bredemeier does ask that pets be at least five to six months old. For questions, call 460-3816.

College to meet Monday

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting at 5 p.m., Monday, in the board room of Thomas Hall to discuss the presidential search and consulting with the board's attorney. In addition, the board will also talk about the progress of the Wellness Center. For questions or an agenda, call 462-3984.

Two-day dance festival planned

Square dancers in Colby and the area are invited to the annual Snowball Festival at the Black and Gold Ballroom, Memorial Union on the Fort Hays State University Campus,

Hays, Friday and Saturday, Jan. 20-21. Events begin at 8 p.m., Friday, and is open to singles and couples. The festival is sponsored by the shooting Stars Square Dance Club. For full details, call Opal Flinn, publicity chair, (785) 726-4432.

Blood testing continues Saturday

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 Gilchrist, wellness committee member. Blood tests will continue Saturday, Monday and Tuesday.

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.

Former assistant coach charged with four felonies

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

A former Colby Community College assistant basketball coach has been charged with beating one female student threatening another and pulling a knife on a male student.

Giang Thai Thanh Phan, 27, has been charged in Thomas County District Court with four felonies and one misdemeanor.

Skip Sharp, interim college president, said Thursday he is aware charges have been filed against Phan, who voluntarily resigned at the Dec. 19 board meeting.

"We've taken our action as far as Phan's resignation and wish him well," Sharp said. "There's no hard feelings of any kind. He's simply a college employee who had some trouble with the law, but he took action he felt was in the best interest of the college and himself." As

far as the student victims, Sharp said the college has taken "appropriate action to help them and their parents" and the case with the college is closed.

Phan is charged with criminal threat for his alleged attempt to terrorize a 20-year-old Norton woman sometime between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Oct. 28. While the name of the victim is being withheld, according to court documents filed Nov. 22, Phan is alleged to have told the woman he was "going to hurt her." If convicted, and depending on a presentence investigation, Phan faces 5 to 17 months in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000 for the incident.

Phan is also charged with aggravated battery sometime between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. the same night having taken the same woman to Beulah Cemetery where he allegedly hit her head against a car window, pushed her to the ground,

choked her, and hit her head against the ground during a struggle. If convicted, Phan faces between three and 14 years in prison and a fine of up to \$300,000 for this charge.

He is also charged with criminal restraint, a Class A person misdemeanor, for allegedly having interfered with the woman's liberty to get away from him. If convicted, Phan faces a year in the county jail and a fine up to \$2,500.

"According to the suspect, the woman was a girlfriend or former girlfriend," Colby Police Detective Sergeant Gary Shull said.

In two unrelated incidents, Phan is charged with aggravated burglary for allegedly breaking into a college dormitory room sometime between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. the morning of Nov. 17.

According to court documents, Phan allegedly entered the room where a 20-year-old male and a 19-year-old woman were located. Phan

is alleged to have committed aggravated assault of the two individuals. If convicted, and again, depending on a presentence investigation, Phan faces somewhere between two and one-half years and 11 years in prison and a fine up to \$300,000 for the incident.

At that same time, Phan is alleged to have threatened the male, who is a relative, with a knife, for which he is additionally charged with aggravated assault and faces one to three years in jail and a fine up to \$100,000. Shull said the last two incidents were not reported to the Colby Police Department until Nov. 21.

Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick said she is not certain when the case against the former coach will be heard in court. Phan is presumed innocent until such time the case makes its way through the court system. Should he be found guilty of the most serious offense,

aggravated battery, according to state law, the maximum penalty would receive would be up to 336 months in prison. However, should he be convicted of other charges their penalty could be added.

"We are visiting with victims and deciding how to proceed because of the age of the victims and family member and sensitivity of the case," Wyrick said.

Wyrick said Phan posted a \$2,000 cash bond to get out of jail and to her knowledge is currently residing in Kentucky.

Brewster USD #314

is accepting applications for an **Assistant High School Girls' Basketball Coach**. Pay based on experience on the salary schedule. Deadline for applications is Friday, January 13th. To apply, mail a letter of interest and resume to Sherri Edmundson, Superintendent, Brewster USD #314, PO Box 220, Brewster, Kansas 67732, or fax to 785-694-2746. *EOE*

Colby's school district prepares for teacher training

From "FUTURE," page 1

and middle schools and Thomas County Academy to do live broadcasts.

On the curriculum side, Nielsen said the district is preparing for teacher training this summer, and implementing the Transitions program for students this semester.

By the end of the year, students will start to receive "credentials," which will show how prepared they are to transition from grade to grade, and from grade school to middle school, and from there to high school.

"It's a matter of preparing for it," he said.

The district is also dealing with meeting future technology needs. In the near future, Colby High School will be going wireless.

Nielsen said the commons area at the school already has WiFi, and in the near future, he hopes to have it available throughout the entire building.

Andy Boell, a teacher at the high school and PowerSchool administrator, said WiFi is only available to staff right now. It's been used during enrollment and during teacher in-services, which are held in the commons area. He said it's been a valuable asset.

And in 18 months, Nielsen said they hope to go completely wireless by implementing the district's laptop initiative, which would give

every student at the high school a laptop.

Another future project is security upgrades. He said they're looking at the possibility and cost of putting in video equipment or access cards.

Nielsen said it's down the road, and they're just looking at the feasibility right now.

Colby Community College currently has two ongoing projects — the board of trustees is engaged in a search for a new college president, and the endowment association is conducting a fund-raising campaign to build a wellness center.

Don Kready, chairman of the board of trustees, said the search, which started in October, is going well.

"I think we're pretty much on schedule," he said.

The board put together a search committee after president Mikel Ary resigned in October.

Kready said the committee is currently going through applications and narrowing them down to a pool that will possibly interviewed. Those will probably be done by ITV at a future date, and after that, the pool will be narrowed further for in-person interviews.

He added he is "pleased" with interim president Skip Sharp. Kready said the attitude at the college is "favorable" and things are going well.

The school is also in the middle of implementing two new programs as well as updating the business curriculum, said public information officer Deb Schwanke.

This spring, the college added a new 2+2 program with Kansas State University with Manhattan.

She said it will enable students to get their associate's degree in Colby, then transfer to K-State to earn their bachelor's degree.

Colby College already has similar agreements in place with Kansas Wesleyan, Fort Hays State University and Washburn University.

In the business program, new courses in computer information systems are being added, and other courses are being updated.

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