


Weather Corner



*Sunny, warm
highs about 54*

The forecast
Tonight — Clear with a low around 21. West wind between 10 adn 15 mph. **Tuesday** — Sunny with a high near 54. Northwes wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Tuesday night** — Clear with a low near 23. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Wednesday** — Mostly sunny with a high around 57. South-west wind between 5 adn 10 mph. **Wednesday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 26. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 51.

Temperatures
Sunday's high, 41
Low this morning, 13
Records for this date, 75 in 1967, -12 in 1915
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.48
January's precipitation, 0.55
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Employees sue Payless

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Three employees of Payless Shoe-Source Inc. have filed suit against the shoe retailer, claiming the company regularly requires managerial employees to work 60 to 90 hours per week without paying them overtime.

The three employees, all Mississippi residents, filed the suit on Tuesday in federal court in Jackson, Miss., on behalf of themselves and all other managerial employees of the Topeka, Kan.-based chain.

Their lawsuit, brought by Robin Quick and Christell Hicks, of Jackson, and Vicki Stokes Pheal, of Madison, claims Payless has had a policy of scheduling and paying managerial employees for 40 hours of work a week but actually requiring them to work up to 50 hours beyond that without compensation.

The employees said they perform about five to 10 hours of work a week that could be considered managerial while the remaining time is spent on such things as cleaning stores, stocking merchandise and running registers.

The suit also claims the company regularly requires employees to make bank deposits, buy store supplies and perform other tasks away from the stores but not count it as time worked.

“(Payless) has intentionally and repeatedly misrepresented the true status of managerial compensation to its employees as well as their entitlement to managerial overtime compensation in order to avoid suspicion and inquiry by employees regarding their entitlement to monies owed to them,” the lawsuit said.

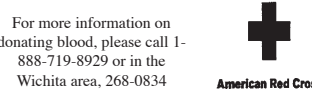

The lawsuit seeks all unpaid overtime for the three employees and others in similar circumstances, as well as unspecified damages.

Quick and her attorneys filed the same suit Tuesday against Fred’s Inc., a Memphis, Tenn.-based discount chain.

A spokeswoman for Payless, which operates more than 4,600 stores, did not immediately return a phone call for comment Thursday.

Shares of Payless closed up 35 cents at \$23.87 in trading Thursday on the New York Stock Exchange, where it has traded in a 52-week range of \$11.35 to \$25.74.

GIVE BLOOD.
SHARE LIFE!



For more information on donating blood, please call 1-888-719-8929 or in the Wichita area, 268-0834

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 Tuesday, Jan. 31.

Kansas Day celebration Sunday

The Prairie Museum of Art and History is planning a Kansas Day celebration, Sunday, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the facility, 1905 S. Franklin Ave., Colby. The event will feature demonstrations, crafts, and other activities about the High Plains. For questions, call 460-4590.

Irrigation conference planned

The Central Plains Irrigation Conference and Exposition, sponsored by the association of the same name, will be held

Feb. 21-22 at the Comfort Inn in Colby. Registration postmarked by Friday, Feb. 3 will have discounts and all fees include admittance to all sessions and the equipment exposition, a copy of the proceedings, two lunches, breaks and a social hour. Some of this year’s topics include *Wastewater Utilization, Residue Management for Efficient Water Use* and *Limited Irrigation Crop Options*. For a registration form, hotel accommodations, or for information, interested persons can go to www.oznet.ksu.edu/sdi/REvents/cpia.html. Registration forms and payments should be mailed to Donna Lamm at 760 N. Thompson, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Drug program planned

Mary Ramey, Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas, and a volunteer at the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging, will be at the Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park, Wednesday. She will be talking one-on-one with people who have questions about prescription drug coverage or would like to enroll in a plan. Individual counseling appointments can be scheduled for that day from 1-3:30 p.m.

by contacting her at the area agency on aging at 1-800-432-7422.

Museum offers traveling exhibit

“Playas: Gems of the Plains” has opened at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin Ave., Colby. This traveling exhibit is by the Northwest Texas Museum Association and can be viewed during regular museum hours, said Sue Taylor, museum director. The exhibit features 20 separate 80-inch tall and 40-inch wide panels illustrating a wide range of topics.

Playa lakes are shallow, usually round, wetlands with clay floors that lie in the lowest point of a generally large closed watershed and collect runoff from surrounding uplands. The exhibit will be on display until Tuesday, Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

Admission to the exhibit is free; however there is a regular admission charged for the rest of the museum. For questions, call 460-4590.

Colby man charged with forgery and theft

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

A Colby man has been charged with forgery and theft for cashing a check that was not his.

Tyler L. Robinson, 21, is charged with forgery for “feloniously, intentionally, knowingly and with intent to defraud make, alter or endorse” a check owned by his mother, Laura Robinson of Norton.

Robinson is alleged to have cashed a check worth \$120 at Farmers & Merchants Bank Oct. 19. The charge of altering the check is a felony, while cashing it is a misdemeanor.

Should Robinson be found guilty

of the felony charge, he faces probation or between seven and 23 months in prison and a fine between \$500 and \$2,500. For the theft charge, Robinson faces a fine not to exceed \$2,500.

Colby Police Detective Sergeant Gary Shull said there are similar pending charges against Robinson in Thomas County, as well as in Kansas and Nebraska.

Robinson is scheduled for a preliminary hearing at 10 a.m. April 6.

Make a Difference
RECYCLE

*Town 'N Country
Beauty Salon*

• Introduces New Stylist •

Aaryss Kogl

She has moved from Topeka and is offering all salon services including manicures, pedicures, facials & body waxing. Specializing in color/color corrections and foil hi-lites.

Stop by 160 W. 3rd, Colby or call 462-6001 for appts.
Monday thru Saturday! Walk-Ins Welcome!

Democratic governor welcomes Bush

MANHATTAN (AP) — A visit from President Bush put some fellow Democrats in a mood to protest, but Gov. Kathleen Sebelius conceded that Kansas is friendly ground and sought to make the most of her time with the Republican president.

Bush was scheduled Monday to give a Landon Lecture at Kansas State University, with the White House saying his remarks would cover ongoing efforts to fight terrorism. Officials, including Sebelius and other Democrats, said they were honored Bush was visiting.

The governor expected, after Air Force One landed at Forbes Field south of Topeka, to board the presidential helicopter for the brief flight to Manhattan. She then planned to sit on stage with Bush in Bramlage Coliseum.

“Personally, I’m kind of excited,” she said during a Statehouse news conference.

“I might get to bend his ear on a few topics.”

Bush was the third sitting president to deliver a Landon Lecture in the 40-year-old series, following Ronald Reagan in 1982 and Richard Nixon in 1970.

And if Sebelius had things to say to Bush, so did critics of Bush’s economic policies and the Iraq war. The Manhattan Alliance for Peace and Justice was organizing a protest.



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Happy chore

Bill Warren of Oakley took time late last week to clear his sidewalk of a very welcomed moist snow. Weather officials reported snowfall totals between one and four inches. In Colby, the average was about six inches.

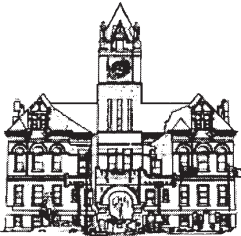
Don't Miss this Unbelievable SPECIAL OFFER!

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY!

From NOW until Feb. 10,
place a
FULL PAGE
advertisement in the
Country Advocate and
the *Colby Free Press* and
pay less than one-half
the full price

plus we'll throw in
SPOT COLOR for FREE!

Call Crystal, Jasmine
or Cindy at
785-462-3963!



COLBY
FREE PRESS

155 W. 5th
Colby



The Country Advocate

Internet

NOW SERVING COLBY

Unlimited Hours, No Contracts!

\$9.95 /mo. 

- FREE 24/7 Technical Support
- Instant Messaging - keep your buddy list!
- 10 e-mail addresses with Webmail!
- Custom Start Page - news, weather & more!

Express
Surf up to **6X faster!**
just \$3 more

Sign Up Online! www.LocalNet.com

Call Today & Save!
LocalNet 462-2147

Reliable Internet Access Since 1994