

Weather Corner



Partly cloudy and warmer

**Tonight** — Partly cloudy with a low around 19. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 41. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

**Thursday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 21. North wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Friday** — A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly after noon. Mostly cloudy with a high near 33. Breezy with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Friday night** — A 20 percent chance of snow before midnight. Partly cloudy with a low around 16.

**Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 41.

**Saturday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 11.

**Sunday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 43.

**Temperatures**  
Tuesday's high, 35  
Low this morning, 8  
Records for this date, 67 in 1964, -22 in 1911  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
January's precipitation, 0.00  
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-8367.

Briefly

No trash pickup until Monday

City of Colby officials said there will be no residential trash service until Monday. Residential trash trucks will resume the normal collection routes. For the remainder of this week, commercial service will be on an as needed basis. "Please make sure the dumpster area is free of snow and call 460-4420 for collections," said city of Colby Manager Carolyn Armstrong.

No prostate checks at fair

The Thomas County Wellness Fair Committee announced there will not be a prostate check at this year's event, sched-

uled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 13, in the Colby Community College student union.

Childbirth classes scheduled

The next four-week series of childbirth education classes will be from 7 to 10 p.m., Thursday and continue on Jan. 11, 18 and 25 at Citizens Medical Center, 100 E. College Dr. in Colby. Expectant mothers in their last trimester are encouraged to attend, said Jeanene Brown, education department. The labor support partner who plans to be with the mother, is also encouraged to attend classes. The next series is in April. For information or to register,

call Brown at 460-4850.

Colby College plans auditions

Auditions for the Colby Community College spring play will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., Jan 17-18 in the Frahm Theatre in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center. No experience or advance preparation is required, said Deb Bickner, theater department director. "Those who audition will be reading from the comedy fantasy Card Play, which is a family play suitable for all ages," she said. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to audition. The play performances will be March 2-4.

Wish upon a falling star?



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

A semi-truck snagged the wire leading to this Christmas star in downtown Hoxie late Sunday night or early Monday morning pull-

ing down not only the wire but damaging the poles on both sides of K23, also known as Main Street.

Colby men charged

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

Two Colby men have been charged with multiple charges stemming from the alleged breaking in of a house in Colby.

Timothy E. Sutton and Justin T. Barton have each been charged with three felonies after allegedly entering a home located in the 1300 block of West Fourth Street Dec. 10.

Charged with one count of burglary, Sutton and Barton face 11 to 34 months in prison and a fine up to \$100,000 for breaking into the residence of Mark Cox and Jamie Curtis.

Sutton and Barton both face five to 17 months in prison and a fine up to \$100,000 for the alleged property damage at the location totaling about \$1,040.

In addition, the two men face five to 17 months in prison and a fine up to \$100,000 for allegedly taking 18 bottles of wine, five bottles of liquor, one case of beer, a laptop computer, numerous pieces of jewelry and rare coins, a box of 19 cigars, a video game and cash, all totaling about \$11,000.

Sutton is being detained in the Thomas County Jail, but Barton was released on a supervised bond on Dec. 19.

Kansas governor seeks to expand insurance for children

TOPEKA (AP) — Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has the backing of a key state agency for a proposal to expand state health insurance coverage for young children, but House Republican leaders are still resisting.

Sebelius unsuccessfully sought the expansion last year, hoping to ensure that all children, from birth through age 5, have coverage. This year, the Kansas Health Policy Authority is asking legislators to

spend from \$4 million to \$6 million to make it happen.

But incoming House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, called the proposal the "wrong model." And Rep. Brenda Landwehr, R-Wichita, the new chairwoman of the House Health and Human Services Committee, called the plan socialized health coverage.

"Sure, everyone wants to see a child with health insurance, but it's at the expense of other people," said

Landwehr, expressing concern that the state would have to rob other programs of money to sustain the spending in future years.

Sebelius said repeatedly during her successful re-election campaign last year that tackling health care issues would be among her top priorities during the 2007 Legislature, which convenes Monday.

Last year, some legislators said Sebelius needed to run her proposal past the Health Policy Authority, set

up in 2005 to manage the state's health programs.

Sebelius appoints three of the authority's members, while legislative leaders appoint six.

But expanding state health coverage for children is now the authority's top goal, spokeswoman Megan Ingmire told The Topeka Capital-Journal.

The authority believes an additional 2,000 children would be covered during the first year.

Sebelius' fellow Democrats are behind her plan as well.

"I certainly support widening coverage to those who can least afford it," said Sen. David Haley, of Kansas City, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Health Care Strategies Committee.

Currently, children can obtain state coverage if their families earn up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$40,000 for a family of four.

Sebelius wants to allow families earning up to 300 percent of the poverty level to buy into the program.

But Neufeld said the best way to help uninsured Kansans is to enable them to take their health insurance with them when they change jobs. He said most uninsured Kansans who lost their coverage within the past five years did so because of a job change.

"So if you want to address the uninsured thing, you have to address the portability issue," he said.

Rexford residents pull together during storm

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

Hard work and volunteerism is being attributed to Rexford's response to a weekend storm that blasted through northwest Kansas.

Rexford Mayor Bill Dible said he

knows of about 10 residents who stayed in their unheated homes during the power outage.

Rexford lost power about 3 a.m. Friday and was without it until late Monday evening.

"Deb Stepper is in her early 90s and she and her daughter, Cindy,

who was here from Kansas City, stayed in Deb's home which got down to about 39 degrees," Dible said.

"They stayed warm by just covering up a lot."

Dible said while Rexford usually receives electricity from Midwest Energy's system along U.S. Highway 24 from Hoxie, power was brought in from sources west of town Monday night.

Dible said power was restored in phases throughout Rexford to avoid overloading the power company's system all at once.

"The ice and wind took down power poles, lines and cross arms but they said it was mud under the poles which made it hard to restore. They had to bring in tractors to get to the poles," he said.

"We were sure glad to see the electricity come back on."

Rexford City Council Member Dave Williams said if residents didn't rely on forced air they were

better off.

He also said in order to keep water flowing to residents, a generator was placed on one of two city water wells.

"I haven't heard of anything too traumatic," Williams said. "And we've had a lot of people help out with streets."

Williams said several farmers used tractors in town to help city superintendent Bill Scott move snow.

"We had farmers come in and open streets and get to their houses," he said.

Others coping with Rexford's power outage were owners of nearby McCarty Dairy.

Located about six miles southwest of Rexford, Mike McCarty said back-up generators kept the dairy operational.

"We came through OK," he said. "We've been out since Friday, and it just got back on about 9 p.m. Monday night so we are fine."

Firehouse future uncertain

From "COLLAPSE," page 1

"We are thankful for having the armory in Colby," Armstrong said.

How long the firetrucks will be in the armory is unknown. Both Armstrong and McLemore said it will be temporary.

McLemore said the fire department responded to two auto accidents during the weekend, one before the roof collapse and one after. He said having equipment and fire trucks at the armory did not change the fire department's procedures to respond to calls.

Armstrong expects the future of the fire department building to be on a city council agenda soon.

Armstrong said it is too early to tell if the current building will be rebuilt or a new firehouse will be constructed.

The city owns land near Country Club Drive and Hill Street on the east side of Colby. Armstrong said that land has always been speculated as the future site of a new firehouse.

"I do expect this to be a discussion item," Armstrong said.

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Colby Cinema  
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**For Sale**  
**By Sealed Bid**

Tract #1: SW/4 25-4-27, Decatur County

Tract #2: W/2 W/2 36-5-27, Decatur County

**Seller: Dena Gillespie Estate**

The Seller reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope, one for each tract. The envelope should be marked "LAND BID" on the outside of the envelope. Bids are to be received not later than January 10, 2007 at Box 296, Oberlin, Kansas 67749

**Rawlins & Sheridan County**

**LAND AUCTION**

**Friday, January 5, 2007 ~ 1:30 p.m.**  
**Held at Comfort Inn, Colby, KS**

**Tract 1:** Rawlins County Land, The South 1/2 of Section 36, Township 5, Range 34 Rawlins County Kansas, 320 Acres more or less. 218 Acres Crop, 122 Acres Pivot Irrigation, 100 Acres Grass. Reinke, 7 Tower Pivot, 2 Well. No power units included. Water permit numbers 19774; 17019. 300 Acres Feet. Located from Atwood, 15 miles South on Hwy 25 to Rd. B, 2 miles West to Rd. 18 and 1/2 mile South.

**Tract 2:** Sheridan County Land, The Northwest 1/4 of Section 19, Township 8, Range 30 Sheridan County Kansas, 156 Acres more or less. Combination Farm consisting of 108 Acres Pivot Irrigated, 20.95 Acres Dry Crop, 25.82 Acres Grass. Reinke, 7 Tower Pivot, 1 Well, No power unit included. Water permit number 21782. 180 Acres Feet. Located 1/4 mile South of Menlo on the corner of Rd. 10 South and Rd 150 West.

**Auction Terms:**

**Sale Method:** The property will be offered in 2 tracts for bidding and will not be combined. Bidding on both tracts are open for advancement until the Auctioneer announces that the property is sold or closes the bidding process.

**Farmers National Company**

**Gary Joseph, Broker**  
**308-697-4550**  
**Cambridge, Nebraska**