

Weather Corner



Cold snap breaking up

**Tonight** — Mostly clear with a low around 12. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northwest.

**Thursday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 26. Blustery with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as mph. **Thursday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 7. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Friday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 31. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Friday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 13. Saturday — Partly cloudy with a high near 33. **Saturday night** — A 20 percent chance of snow. Partly cloudy with a low around 15. **Sunday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 37.

**Temperatures**  
Tuesday's high, 14  
Low this morning, -7  
Records for this date,  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
January's precipitation, 0.07  
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-8367.

City to try to lower rent fee

From "STORM," page 1

item for snowstorms and, as a result, will mean something previously budgeted will be omitted in order to compensate for the storm's unexpected expenses.

Regarding the fire hall roof, the city's insurance carrier, Employers Mutual, a nationwide company, brought in a structural engineering firm to inspect the damage, but their reports were not ready by the meeting date.

Insurance officials did recommend the roof over the north bay be taken down as a precaution, but it was unclear if there was structural damage in the middle wall, she said.

When Woofter Construction Company in Colby removed the collapsed portion of the roof last week, she said there was only minor damage to the pumper truck and rescue vehicle.

Fire Chief Bob McLemore said the rural pumper truck had a tear on the hose bed cover, which is a canvas cover for the hoses. The pumper also had an orange-size dent on the side. The red rescue vehicle had a scratch down on side and a small dent in the left rear portion. No cost estimates on the minor damage were available at the meeting.

Councilman Jim Tubbs said he was concerned that a lot of the fire hydrants in town were covered in snow and could be difficult to find by firefighters in case of a fire.

McLemore said that coinciden-

Briefly

Food refunds, other tax help Friday

Rosalie Seemann, Silver-Haired legislature and former Thomas County clerk, will be at Meadowlark Manor from 9:30 to 11 a.m., Friday to assist with food sales tax refunds, Homestead refunds and telephone tax refunds.

Commodity distribution Monday

United States Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Monday at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office at the Senior Progress Center in Colby.

Eligible people may receive them according to income guidelines.

No other arrangements for pickup will be made. Distribution is on a first-come, first-served basis and may not begin

until the advertised time. Participants are asked to not arrive at the distribution site before 12:30 p.m. Eligible people who are not able to attend the distribution may send a signed permission slip with another person to pick up their commodities. For information, call 462-6744.

Malt beverage renewal time

The Thomas County Clerk's office is reminding businesses it's renewal time for county-issued cereal malt beverage licenses. "Cereal malt beverage stamps are issued by the county for those businesses that serve malt beverages and are not located within the limits of an incorporated city," said County Clerk Shelly Harms.

"The state fee for the license is \$25 with the local fee of \$50 set by the county commissioners." In 2006, three licenses

were issued for businesses in the county.

Gaither video Sunday

There will be a Gaither video concert 6 p.m., Sunday at the Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine. This concert will feature Ernie Haase and Signature Sound. The concert is open to the public and free of charge.

Girl Scout cookie orders underway

Colby Girl Scouts are taking cookie orders through Jan. 28. This is the scouts biggest fundraising event of the year and if residents are not contacted by Jan. 26, either call Penny Cline, 460-2929 after 6 p.m. or Mint Culver, 460-6005, cookie coordinators, to place an order.

County interested in child dental screening

From "COUNTY," page 1

the health department, the public school nurse and dentists.

The Colby School District no longer holds dental screenings for all grade school children. School nurse Emily Strange said when she started with the district seven years ago, it held screenings, but that has since stopped.

Strange said many students already visited the dentist regularly. Now, during enrollment, there is a sign-up sheet for parents to sign if they don't have a dentist. Those students are screened and referred to a dentist. Strange said Head Start still holds the screenings for all students.

Steele said the Thomas County Health Department could lead the event, because the nurses have the ability to conduct such a screening. Children from Colby, Rexford, Brewster, Sacred Heart School, Heartland Christian School and homeschool would be eligible for the screening.

He suggested the county could

pay for the screening if it isn't expensive.

In other business, the commissioners approved:

- Approval of a letter of support to Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas for capital assistance and an agreement for services.
- An agreement to treat noxious weeds along federal and state roads.

The commissioners also went into executive session twice.

The first was with emergency management director Jim Engel; the second was to discuss non-elected personnel issues at the road department.

After the last executive session, commissioners approved raising the hourly rate for an employee to \$9.25 after his probationary period was over. They also raised the starting wage at the road department to \$9 per hour.



J. Engel

Superintendent's future in doubt

From "SCHOOL," page 1

comes to making him superintendent for an eighth year. He said he is not ready to retire.

"My contract came up for renewal in December 2005, and now 13 months later nothing's been done," Baskerville said. "Back then, I told the board I was getting close to 85 points and didn't know what I wanted to do and I still don't know what I'm going to do, but nothing has been decided."

Kansas law allows individuals who have attained 85 points as a combination of age and time in service to draw retirement from the Kansas Public Employee Retirement System. The point value is figured on an individual's current age, plus the current service credit for years worked. In Baskerville's instance, he is 60 and has been a superintendent for 31 of those years.

Baskerville said he has children in college who he wants to continue helping financially so retirement is out of the question.

"While I'm not shocked about the board's decision, I am sur-

prised," Baskerville said.

Purcell said he would not speak for the board as a whole, but he is looking at all aspects of the district, including the two buildings 10 miles apart in Rexford and Selden. The junior and senior high schools are in Rexford and the grade school is in Selden. Baskerville also serves as principal for the grade school.

"In my mind, for me personally, the lack of a second is telling him we are not going to renew his contract," Purcell said this morning.

Purcell said the district is financially sound, but lacks in other areas.

"Doc, as superintendent, has been excellent in the financial end," he said. "But we don't have a high school principal, we have an administrative assistant and both he and Doctor Baskerville have been stretched pretty thin."

Smith teaches history and coaches football and track.

Purcell said other than an isolated incident of alcohol on the school grounds last year, Baskerville's leadership has included overseeing the start of the district's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Purcell said Baskerville's family lives in eastern Kansas

where he serves as a lay minister for Afton Trinity, a Missouri Synod Lutheran church near Waterville.

"We didn't want to keep going the way we were," Purcell said. "We are going to have to do something by next fall."

Brantley said the topic of Baskerville's contract is likely to come up at the February meeting.

"He's a good man and he needs to know his future," she said.

While Todd and Bruggemann were not available for comment, other board members seem as much in the dark as Baskerville.

"If it didn't get renewed I suppose we'll be looking for a new superintendent," Miller said.

Allison, in his second year on the board, said he's still learning about board functions and is unclear of the board's direction about keeping Baskerville.

"The district is in financial good shape and everything is going well," Allison said.

Despite not being at Monday's meeting, Spresser said he does not want to leave Baskerville in limbo. "If a man's contract isn't going to be renewed he ought to know," Spresser said.

Tournament team feels at home in Colby

From "O & B," page 1

Because of the number of sponsors for the tournament, participating schools receive assistance for mileage, lodging and meals during the tournament.

It's not just help with paying for the hotel rooms that Beloit girl's team likes.

Beloit has played in the Orange and Black for years, said girls coach Dallas Cox. Beloit won the girl's tournament last year.

"We like it because we see people we don't play during the year 4A, 5A and 6A schools," he said.

Cox said the Orange and Black also provides the team, and their fans, a chance to become even more close-knit.

"We always have a good time in Colby," Cox said. "It seems like everybody in town comes over."

If you want to find the town of Beloit in Colby, just check out the Days Inn. But don't worry about getting a room because Beloit team

and fans have reserved all 45 rooms.

"It's really good for business," said Days Inn assistant manager Nikole Subject. "Beloit wants to stay for awhile."

Because every room will be used, Subject said Days Inn will schedule more housekeepers when needed to make sure Beloit has a comfortable stay.

Colby's Quality Inn will house the Kansas City Christian School

team and Montbello, a high school from Denver, Colo. Quality Inn employee Jody Kobza said during her five years at the hotel, there have been no problems having Orange and Black teams stay.

"Coaches are good with the kids," she said. "We have heard some teams require the kids to pick up after themselves in the room and bag up their trash," Kobza said. "We have some good kids here."

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