Weather Corner



The forecast

Tonight — A chance of freezing drizzle. Areas of fog. Otherwise, cloudy with a low around 16. Southeast wind around 5 mph. **Thursday** — A chance of freezing drizzle. Cloudy, with a high near 28. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. Thursday night — Scattered flurries after midnight. Cloudy with a low around 17. Southeast wind around 10 mph. Friday — A 30 percent chance of snow. Cloudy with a high near 27. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. Friday night — A 20 percent chance of snow. Cloudy with a low around 17. Saturday — A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy with a high near 28. Saturday night — A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy with a low around 12. Sunday — A 20 percent chance of snow. Partly cloudy with a high near 33. **Temperatures**

Tuesday's high, 48

Low this morning, 24 Records for this date, 73 in 1963, -22 in 1982

Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00

February's precipitation, 0.00 A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119.

For the Record

Briefly

Colby Rotary serving soup

Colby Rotary's soup supper will be held 5-7:30 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Colby Community Building. The supper will be held during Colby High's basketball game with Norton.

Library to sell books

Pioneer Memorial Library book sale will be held Thursday through Saturday during regular business hours. There has been a complete turnover of books since last book sale.

Soup supper Friday

The Colby High School Technology Student Association will hold a soup supper before the Colby-Oberlin basketball game Friday at the Colby Community Building. Cost is a free-will donation.

Soup supper, square dance

The Golden Buckle Square Dance Club is holding a soup supper at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Community Build-

ing. A square dance will follow at 8 p.m.

Fair Board to meet Thursday

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include approval of Jan. 11 meeting minutes; Thomas County extension agent report; bills and financial report; reports on the buildings and grounds, rodeo, parade, demolition derby, races, fair book and advertising expenses and income; a discussion on the bluegrass festival contract; a drip irrigation system; committee for map of vendor sites; profit-loss report for the end of 2006 and the 2006 audit. The meeting is open to the public.

Families wanted

High Plains Mental Health Center is searching for families to help with its new program Homeward Bound. The program will serve children with emotional and behavioral problems and their families in crisis situations. Participating families will provide a home and daily needs for children from overnight to several weeks. "Colby is a hot sport for this service," said program manager Audrey Harper Schoenberger. She can be reached at (785) 628-2871 or aschoen@hpmhc.com. Also, Becky Kirchhoff, a program social worker, can help interested people. Kirchhoff can be reached at (785) 346-2184 or rebecca@hpmhc.com

Tax help available

Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. 4th, will be the location on Thursdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and until April 15 assisting with tax returns for the elderly or low to middle income families and individuals. Alvin Volk is coordinating the project in Colby and will help in tax preparation at no charge. For information, call 460-2645.

Soup supper to benefit preschool

Kappa Upsilon is sponsoring a benefit soup supper for Puddle Duck Preschool from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9 at the Colby Community Building. Cost is free-will donation. For information, call Amy Jennings at 460-2603.

Some lawmakers skeptical about university repair claims

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Gov. pair projects is even larger and will package, of what do we really need Kansas State University has been Neufeld and other legislative lead-Kathleen Sebelius and higher education officials are facing a backlash after telling legislators that millions of dollars to tackle a backlog in building repairs.

Some lawmakers simply aren't buying it.

"Why weren't they maintaining their buildings for the last two decades?" said Sen. Tim Huelskamp, ing pictures of decay and disrepair, R-Fowler, said Monday.

"What has happened to the moneys we've been giving them to take care of their buildings?"

Sebelius has proposed a package for repairs on state university campuses over the next six years. More from issuing bonds, then using million worth of projects. Kansas Turnpike tolls to pay them

But as generous as Sebelius' proposal seems, the Board of Regents contends the backlog of critical re-

grow more serious if legislators don't act.

"Right now, we have 55 acres of state universities need hundreds of roofs that need to be replaced, 12 miles of steam lines and 1.1 million square feet of sidewalks and curbs," said Jon Wefald, Kansas State University's president. "Our buildings are falling apart."

The regents have been distributand they have been noting when delaying a project has caused probluems, such as last week, when human waste dripped from a leaky sewer pipe through ceiling tiles in designed to generate \$575 million a chemistry classroom at the University of Kansas.

Last year, the regents said their than half the money would come campuses had a backlog of \$727

> After legislators questioned individual items, the regents trimmed \$64 million of less critical projects from its list, making it \$663 million. But for some legislators, the re-

gents still have a lot of list-shorten-While the regents contend they need \$84 million a year to prevent

the backlog of projects from growing, House Speaker Melvin Neufeld contends \$40 million is a more accurate figure.

"I think the package needs to be more of an actual needs-based

to do this year and next year?" said Neufeld, R-Ingalls.

Even some legislators who view the maintenance problems as serious, such as Sen. Jim Barone, D-Frontenac, question whether the universities have been diligent in keeping up with their problems.

As some lawmakers are quick to note, the Legislature in 1996 authorized \$156 million in bonds to help the universities catch up.

'The regents need to treat maintenance just like they do salaries and utilities and everything else. It is an ongoing business expense," said Barone, whose district includes Pittsburg State University.

"Apparently, the regents have not treated it that way for years."

But Wefald considers such criticism unfair. He said in recent years,

receiving \$4 million in funds from ers said proposals to require univerthe state dedicated to maintenance sity communities to levy special and diverting an additional \$9 mil-property taxes — just as counties lion in operating funds. It actually needs \$28 million a year for repairs under discussion. and maintenance, he said.

"Do you know how much money I have in my university reserves, for the whole university?

Oh, about \$150,000," Wefald said. "That's not even one roof. in 1996. That's all I've got. Yeah, we're

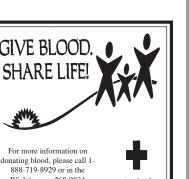
Barone suggested the regents could consider tapping some pri- of your buildings. We expect that of vate moneys they've raised. every state agency."

with community colleges do — are

But Huelskamp said the regents have hurt their credibility with his constituents because they're back for another big package after the "Crumbling Classrooms" initiative

'Where did that money go?" he

"The expectation is, you take care



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The following arrests or incidents have been provided by either the Thomas County Sheriff's office or the Colby Police Department. All suspects were booked into the county jail and are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The Thomas County Jail is used by the towns of Colby and Oakley and Logan and Thomas counties.

Thomas County Sheriff's office Sunday, Jan. 21

Disorderly conduct, property damage: Ramon Michel-Barajas. 39, of Tecalitlan, Mexico, was ar- 19, of Colby, was arrested at 8:30 rested by the Colby Police at 8:26 p.m. at the 24/7 Store on Range Avenue for criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct.

Monday, Jan. 22

Dean Kriegh, 21, of Sharon at 1:44 a.m. Springs, was arrested at 4:45 p.m. der 14, and released to Wallace sion Ridge.

County law enforcement. Friday, Jan. 26

Driving under the influence: Arron John Rondeau, 25, of Colby, was arrested at 6:30 p.m. at the Tho-

mas County Law Enforcement Center for driving under the influ-Sunday, Jan. 28

Criminal damage: Jason Darrel

Fikan, 19, of Colby, was arrested at 2:28 a.m. at the 100 block of West Willow for criminal damage. Monday, Jan. 29

p.m. in the 1100 block of Summersun for burglary. **Colby Police Department**

Burglary: Angela Kay Tubbs,

Monday, Jan. 15 Service rendered: Colby police **Indecent solicitation:** Nathan provided an escort for McDonald's

Animal complaint: An officer at the Thomas County Law En- was told at 9:06 a.m. of an animal forcement Center for aggravated complaint received by the city manindecent solicitation of a child unager in the 300 block of South Mis-

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