

Weather Corner



The forecast
Tonight — Areas of fog. Otherwise, cloudy with a low around 17. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east. **Friday** — Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy with a high near 30. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm. **Friday night** — A 20 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 22. Calm wind becoming southeast between 5 and 10 mph. **Saturday** — Cloudy with a high near 36. North wind around 10 mph. **Saturday night** — Cloudy with a low around 15. **Sunday** — Mostly cloudy with a high near 35. **Sunday night** — A 20 percent chance of snow. Cloudy with a low around 20. **Monday** — A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy with a high near 35.
Temperatures
Wednesday's high, 27
Low this morning, 20
Records for this date, 76 in 1943, -23 in 1936
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. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-8367.

For the Record

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.
Colby Police Department
Monday, Jan. 15
Hit and run: A hit and run call was received at 9:26 a.m. about an accident in the parking lot at Colby Medical and Surgical Center.
Parking complaint: At 9:57 a.m., a clerk at the Oasis Travel Center called police about a vehicle parked there almost a week.
Accident: A call came in at 10:28

Democrat could keep his seat in contested election

TOPEKA (AP) — A Democrat who was declared the winner of a House seat by two votes in GOP-dominated Johnson County should keep his seat, a committee concluded Tuesday.
The election-night victory of Rep. Gene Rardin, D-Overland Park, was certified by local and state officials and confirmed by a Johnson County judge. But Rardin's GOP opponent, John Dennis Kriegshauser, also of Overland Park, had appealed to the House, which is the final judge of elections for its members, and Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, had appointed a bipartisan committee to review the evidence.
The committee's decision makes it unlikely the House would vote to remove Rardin and seat

Book drive ongoing

Colby Girl Scouts and Sunflower Girl Scout Council are holding a book drive through Saturday, Feb. 24. They are collecting children's to young adult books that are new or slightly used to give to children who are in the hospital at Children's Hospital in Kansas City and Citizens Medical Center in Colby.
The Colby Girl Scouts' goal is to collect 300 books.
Drop-off boxes are located at Dillons, Pioneer Memorial Library, Colby United Methodist Church, Trinity Lutheran Church and Dollar General.
Monetary donations are also being accepted, and may be sent to Penny Cline, 765 S. Range, Colby, Kan., 67701. Please make payable to Colby Girl Scouts

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.

School changes announced

Colby Public Schools' late start Wednesday has been canceled. The day will have regular school and class time. Buses will run their normal routes.
Also, there will be no school for students and staff Friday, Feb. 23. This is an incentive day for the students and staff because the district met the requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress.

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.

'Daffodil Days' begins

American Cancer Society Daffodil Days run through this month.
The deadline to order is Saturday, Feb. 24. The daffodils will arrive in Colby around March 5-7 and will be available for pick-up at Sompelace Special, 185 W. Fourth St.
To order, or for more information, call or e-mail Cathy Harrison, Daffodil Days coordinator, at 460-2501, 462-2331 or harrison@st-tel.net.

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 Saturday

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.

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.
Single people are also asked to help with such children. Interested people will take a seven-week training course. Participating people will be reimbursed.
"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

Human smugglers indicted on conspiracy charges

WICHITA (AP) — Two Mexican citizens were indicted on federal conspiracy charges Wednesday, accused of taking illegal immigrants hostage in Arizona and threatening them with torture unless they raised a ransom, U.S. Attorney Eric Melgren said.
The indictment accuses Ramiro Alapizco-Valenzuela, 29, and Rene Cota-Beltran, 27, of taking 30 immigrants hostage in Arizona on Jan. 18 and demanding \$2,000 from each of them. They allegedly threatened said if they didn't pay they would have their fingers, hands or ears cut off, or be otherwise maimed, prosecutors said.
Eleven hostages who were able to get the money wired from friends or families were put in a van headed for Jacksonville, Fla., and told they would have to pay another \$500 cash when they arrived.

That had a flat tire on Jan. 24 in Reno County. Sheriff's officers would stopped to check on the van called Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents after they became suspicious it was transporting illegal immigrants, according to the indictment.
"Illegal immigration is a growing problem in our state and our country and more often than not the federal and state law enforcement officers are encountering not just aliens who have illegally entered the country but a new breed of criminals who prey on these very vulnerable people," Melgren told reporters.
Alapizco-Valenzuela and Cota-Beltran were charged in a superseding indictment with conspiracy to take hostages and conspiracy to knowingly transport aliens unlawfully in the United States. They also

face separate counts of taking hostages and knowingly transporting aliens unlawfully in the United States.
Alapizco-Valenzuela was also charged with unlawfully re-entering the United States after being deported.
Cyd Gilman, the defense attorney representing Alapizco-Valenzuela, said Wednesday she had just read the indictment and could not comment on the case. Philip White, the attorney for Cota-Beltran, was out of the office and did not immediately return a message.
Prosecutors said on Jan. 18, smugglers who brought the 30 immigrants to the U.S. hid them in a so-called drop house in Peoria, Ariz., until they could be driven to their next destination. Four men guarded them, taking their shoes and other personal belongings to

keep them from leaving, according to the indictment.
The next morning, seven men with firearms broke into the house and tied up the guards before taking the immigrants to another house. Of the group, the 10 men and one woman who were able to get the \$2,000 were then loaded into a minivan en route to Jacksonville, Fla., according to the indictment.
The case represents a growing and disturbing trend in illegal immigration, Melgren said.
"Trafficking in illegal aliens is becoming a growing source of income for organized crime operations," he said. "It is profitable and low risk because the victims are not likely to complain or contact law enforcement."
Kansas is seeing a sharp increase not only in the number of illegal immigrants entering the state, but in

the number who have been injured or killed getting here, he said.
Pete Baird, assistant special agent in charge of the ICE office in Kansas City, said many accidents take place because smugglers and hostage takers do not have any regard for the immigrants.
"People are treated as chattel," he said. "It is unfortunate, it continues and it is worsening."
An average of two or three van loads of illegal immigrants are stopped in Kansas each week, Baird said. That number is usually higher after Christmas until April, and drops to about one a week in the summer. But it is not unusual for ICE to process as much as three or four van loads of illegal immigrants at a time.
"The policy in my office is we don't let vans go. ... Every time we can respond, we will," Baird said.

Kansas senator lobbies for biodefense site

TOPEKA (AP) — With the site for a proposed \$451 million National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility up for grabs, Sen. Pat Roberts returned home Monday to coach fellow Kansans on showing the right attitude for landing the jobs-generating project.
Speaking to a joint session of the Legislature, Roberts encouraged more state support to attract the project to either the Leavenworth or Manhattan areas, although he emphasized that he was not asking legislators to appropriate money. Roberts said state and local officials must be willing to help the federal government acquire land and extend utility services to the new lab, which would replace an existing Plum Island, N.Y., facility.
"The key point is that the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security needs to know Kansas is serious about its commitment to the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility and has a plan to get the job done," Roberts said.
Eighteen sites in 12 states are competing for the new lab. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has said land acquisition, research capabilities, work force and community support are key criteria for site selection.
"We have to put a proposal and the incentives on the table that proves Kansas will support this effort," said Roberts, who has served 26 years in Congress, the last 10 in the Senate, and is seeking re-election next year. "That means financial incentives — in the form of local cost share proposals by

Leavenworth and Manhattan."
Kansas officials believe the large number of agriculture research and development entities already along the Interstate 70 corridor make the state well-suited for the facility.
"It has been made clear to me by Homeland Security officials that one of the biggest factors in locating this new facility will be community, state and local support," Roberts said.
He added: "Given that there is strong competition from other locations, the current advantage and support we enjoy on this front is one we must maintain. To do so will take a coordinated effort on a daily basis."
Other states being considered include Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina and Wisconsin. The field is expected to be narrowed after the next round of applications are due Feb. 16.
Kansas already has pooled its efforts in the Bioscience Authority, created in 2004 to attract and develop agriculture and biological research and industries to the state. Roberts said that is the kind of support needed to land the project.
There are three bills in the House related to the federal project, including one to transfer land at Kan-

sas State University to the federal government for construction.
The new lab would bring about 1,000 construction jobs, 250 science-based jobs and \$3.5 billion to the economy over 20 years. The project would be completed by 2015.
"Rarely do we have the opportunity to work together on a project so large that we can honestly say it has the potential to impact the lives of all Kansans, our children and grandchildren, and the economy of the state for years to come," Roberts said.
He noted that the region is already home to more than 100 animal health companies, including 37 in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Those firms account for \$1.37 billion in animal health sales and \$4.3 billion in global sales.
Manhattan is home to Kansas State, which is known for its veterinary school and extensive agriculture research, including a new center constructed through the Bioscience Authority.
Leavenworth County is home to the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks and the Army's Fort Leavenworth.
Ron Trewyn, vice provost at Kansas State, said the Biosecurity Research Institute could handle much of the research currently done at Plum Island.

Kriegshauser.
The committee still must make recommendations in writing to the House, and Chairman Mike O'Neal, R-Hutchinson, said he hopes its report will be ready Wednesday, so the chamber can vote Thursday.
Kriegshauser could prevent the first House vote on a contested election in 50 years by withdrawing his challenge to Rardin's victory. Kriegshauser's attorney, former GOP Rep. Eric Carter, said he'd be discussing options with him.
At issue were five ballots out of more than 8,200 cast in the 16th District. The last tally in the race, set by Judge Stephen Tatum, was 4,131 votes for Rardin to 4,129 for Kriegshauser.
Kriegshauser said four of the five ballots reviewed by the committee should not have been counted because they were cast by voters not living in the district. Carter argued that all four were cast for Rardin.
The committee decided it could not say definitively that two of the four voters lived outside the district.

Thus, their votes should count.
The committee decided that the other two voters' ballots were illegal but could not definitely determine whether those ballots were cast for Rardin, meaning the tally couldn't be adjusted.
The final disputed ballot belonged to a woman who voted in advance, along with her husband. They put their ballots in the wrong envelopes; the husband was able to correct his mistake in time, but the woman was not.
The judge counted the ballot anyway, including it Kriegshauser's total, based on a sworn statement she signed as to which candidate she supported. The committee decided the envelope containing her ballot should be unsealed and the ballot reviewed before a final tally is set.
"The committee took the cautious approach," Carter said after its meeting. "I think the committee tried to be fair."
Democrats worried that Republicans would use their 78-47 majority to remove Rardin from office, and the House's review of the race

WINTER CLEARANCE SALE

Saturday, Feb. 10 ~8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

HUGE SAVINGS STORE WIDE!

Lunch Served
Hamburger with chips and drink \$3.00

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