

Weather  
Corner

Rain likely

The forecast

Tonight — Mostly cloudy with a low around 41. Southeast wind between 5 and 10mph.

Friday — Mostly cloudy with a high near 69. Southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Friday night — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a low around 44. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cloudy with a high near 60. Calm wind becoming east between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday night — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a low around 42.

Sunday — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a high near 67.

Sunday night — Partly cloudy with a low around 41.

Monday — Mostly sunny with a high near 68.

Temperatures

Wednesday's high, 70

Low this morning, 35

Records for this date, 87 in 1910, 2 in 1898

Precipitation last 24 hours, 0.00

March's precipitation, 0.22

A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119.

# Hays Daily to stop Colby circulation

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

Newspapers readers in three northwestern Kansas counties will have one less option for a daily paper starting April 1.

Bob Weigel, circulation manager for the Hays Daily News, announced Wednesday that the newspaper will discontinue carrier delivery to Colby, Goodland and Norton.

"It was costing us a lot of money to bring the papers out there," Weigel said. "And it cost so much to find someone to drive the routes, and we've had fewer ads and fuel costs more."

The Hays Daily News started carrier delivery in Colby in November 1998. Weigel said since then, the company has tried to build circulation so the process was a "profitable venture."

"We have come to the realization that it is too expensive for us to continue daily deliver, due to the lack of interest in the paper and declining circulation numbers," Weigel said.

Weigel said circulation numbers in Colby, Goodland and Norton were down to a "couple hundred." He said the company is sorry for any inconvenience the discontinuation of carrier delivery causes readers; however, said subscriptions will be provided by mail.

"But the papers will be a day late," he said.

The Hays Daily News is owned by Harris Enterprises, a private individual and employee stockholder owned news group.

Besides The Hays Daily News other newspapers making up the Harris organization are The Hutchinson News, The Salina Journal, The Garden City Telegram, The Parsons Sun, The Chanute Tribune, The Ottawa Herald, and The Burlington Hawkeye at Burlington, Iowa.

Some like it HOT... and some like to shop the COOL way!!

The Colby Free Press - 462-3963

# Briefly

- Square dance changes location
- The Golden Buckle Square Dance club is sponsoring a dance at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Colby Middle School gymnasium, 750 W. Third St. Organizers ask attendants note the diffence in location this month. The event is open to anyone interested in square dancing.
- Easter Egg hunts planned
- Colby's Assembly of God Church is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt from 1 to 2:15 p.m., Saturday, April 7, at its facility, 245 W. College Dr. The hunt is open to children ages infant to 10 years old. Children under 6, should be accompanied by a parent. For questions, call 462-8234.
- The Kiwanis Club Easter Egg Hunt will be at 10 a.m. March 31 at Fike Park.
- The hunt for children 3 and younger will be at 10 a.m.; 4-6 years old, 10:10 a.m. and 7-9 years old, 10:20 a.m. In case of bad weather, listen to KXXX or KQLS for more information.
- Youth horseback riders wanted
- The Logan County Equestrian Drill Team will meet at 7 p.m., Sunday, at the 4-H Building in Oakley, said Ashley Moser, coordinator.
- "We are looking for interested youth riders from ages 7-18 to participate in the drill team," she said.
- For questions, call Moser at (785) 462-0261.
- Park permit prices going up
- The Thomas County Clerk's office staff reminds residents beginning Sunday, April 1, park vehicle permits will go up in to \$24.35 annually. For senior or disabled people, the price will be \$13.25.
- Childbirth education classes planned
- Citizens Medical Center, Inc. will hold a four-week series

- of childbirth education classes. The series will start at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 5, and will continue on April 12, 19, 26. Expectant mothers in their last trimester are encouraged to attend, said Jeanene Brown, RN at Citizens Medical Center and coordinator of the classes.
- The labor support partner who will be with the mother in labor is also encouraged to attend classes.
- The next series of classes will be in July. For quesitons or to register, call Brown at (785) 460-4850.
- Kindergarten pre-enrollment
- Kindergarten pre-enrollment for the 2007-2008 school year will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 4 at the Colby Grade School conference room.
- Parents or guardians need to bring the child's birth certificate, immunization records and Social Security card.
- Call the grade school office at (785) 460-5100 for information.

# Pay raises, primary funding key issues in budget talks

TOPEKA (AP) — Pay raises for government workers and funding for a presidential primary in February 2008 are among the biggest issues facing House and Senate negotiators as they draft the final version of a bill containing most of the next state budget.

Negotiations began after senators approved three spending bills Wednesday. The votes were 32-8 on a bill revising the current budget, 29-11 on a measure outlining construction and repair projects and 26-14 on a bill financing agencies' operations for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

House members approved three bills of their own last week. After solving dozens of disagreements, the negotiators plan to put everything into a single bill, so both chambers could vote on it as early as next week.

While overall state spending is likely to remain about the same during the next fiscal year, at \$12.4 billion — almost \$12,000 for every household in Kansas — there will be big shifts in how the money is spent. Public schools will see a big increase in aid, in keeping with a plan approved last year to end a lawsuit, while highway spending, which fluctuates from year to year, will decline about 24 percent.

The two chambers disagree on whether the state should spend \$2 million on the presidential primary next year or have the Democratic and Republican parties hold caucuses at their own expense to choose delegates to their national nominating conventions. The Senate approved the spending; the House rejected it.

Another key issue is Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' proposal to give state employees a 4 percent pay raise, which would cost more than \$86 million during the next fiscal year. The House's Republican majority fashioned an alternative that spends the same amount of money

but distributes it differently; the Senate hasn't acted on any plan.

As with any budget decision, negotiators could sidestep the issue, forcing legislators to resolve it at the end of their session in late April or early May.

"The biggest thing is the state pay plan," said Neufeld, R-Ingalls. "We don't need to put it off. It's not necessary to put it off."

Both chambers approved about \$12.2 billion in spending, deferring some important decisions. For example, the House didn't include any money for aid to vocational colleges, normally a \$40 million item, or any money for disaster relief, which could cost the state an additional \$30 million.

Legislative leaders hope to pass the bill being drafted by negotiators before legislators begin their annual spring break on April 4. Lawmakers will resume their session on April 25 and will consider one, last budget reconciliation bill.

None of spending bills senators approved Wednesday contain any money for state employee pay raises. However, the Ways and Means Committee has endorsed Sebelius' proposal.

The House GOP alternative would give state workers a 1 percent pay raises, plus \$1,450 in one-time bonuses during the next fiscal year. It gives an additional 5 percent increase to about 1,500 workers whose salaries are at least 25 percent below market rates.

House Republicans argue their plan would move the state toward a better pay system for civil service workers that will be drafted by a study committee this summer and fall. Neufeld said the current system is outdated and unfair, paying some workers better than the private sector while shorting others.

"We really need to send a message that we are going to make a change," Neufeld said.

Democrats argue that state em-

ployees would rather have permanent pay raises than bonuses, which the Legislature could eliminate in future years.

Sen. Dwayne Umbarger, R-Thayer, his chamber's lead negotiator, agreed that the civil service pay system should be overhauled but said it makes no sense to create a transitional system in place for only a year.

Meanwhile, enthusiasm for holding a presidential primary appears to have eroded, even though Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback is a Republican candidate and the two parties' races are competitive. Critics contend the \$2 million, which would reimburse counties for costs associated with the special election, could be spent on social services or other programs. The attraction for supporters of a primary is greater participation. Only about 2,100 people participated in the 2004 caucuses, more than 373,000 cast ballots in the 1992 election.

# Federal government offering citizen course on justice

WICHITA (AP) — U.S. Attorney Eric Melgren announced a pilot project aimed at teaching community leaders and others about the federal criminal justice system.

Flanked by law enforcement officials from state, local and federal agencies, Melgren told reporters he was hopeful the U.S. Attorney's Citizens Academy would become an annual affair and that it could be duplicated in northeast Kansas.

"Sometimes the whole issue of federal law enforcement and the efforts that we do are a bit shrouded in mystery and confusion. So because of that, we have decided to start a citizen's academy," Melgren said.

The four-session academy begins

April 9, and runs from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The remaining sessions are April 16, 23 and 30. The free classes will be held at Wichita State University's School of Community Affairs.

"We hope to give community members the opportunity to engage themselves as active participants in learning the importance of the federal criminal justice system and its vitality in safeguarding our community," Michael Birzer, the school's director, said in a news release.

Melgren says the goal of the academy is to inform and educate participants about the agencies, investigators and prosecutors who fight crime and enforce federal laws.

Topics include the federal justice system, domestic and international terrorism, drug trafficking, gangs, white color crime, immigration offenses and crimes against children.

Classes will be taught by representatives from the U.S. attorney's office; the Regional Community Policing Training Institute; the FBI; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Immigration and Customs Enforcement; the Secret Service; and other agencies.

There's room for 24 people to take the course. The deadline for applications is March 26. Applications can be downloaded at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ks>.

# 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.
- Thomas County Sheriff
- Sunday, Feb. 25
- Service rendered: A 911 call at 1:11 a.m. sent a deputy to the intersection of County Roads 30 and E to assist motorist getting stuck and locking keys in the vehicle.
- Monday, Feb. 26
- DUI: Jason Allen Zerr, 24, of Levant, was arrested at 11:47 p.m. by the Kansas Highway Patrol at Fourth and Chick in Colby. The charge pending is driving under the influence.
- Colby Police Department
- Monday, Feb. 26
- Service rendered: Prompted by a call from Healthy Hearts Nursing Services, 330 N. Lake, police did a welfare check at 8:43 a.m. on an employee late for work. The person was found at her residence.
- Tow away: An officer was advised at 2:20 p.m. about a vehicle parked at the 24/7 Store, 1980 S. Range Ave.
- The vehicle was towed.
- Lost/mislaidd items: An individual went to the law enforcement center at 4:30 p.m. saying he found two cell phones.
- At 4:50 p.m., police were advised of lost keys at Fairview Estates Retirement Community, 1630 Sewell Ave.

# Vote April 3rd for Arlen Leiker

I WILL BE AN ADVOCATE FOR:

•Growth

•Technology

•Academic Programs of Study

•Student Activities

•Athletics

For

Colby Community College

Board Of Trustees

Your Vote Will Be Appreciated!

Political ad paid for by Arlen Leiker

# If you have any of these certificates...

Good Only at Participating Merchants

Expires March 31, 2007

...remember - they expire on March 31st!!

Spring Mower Tune-Ups!!

BASIC

Quarterly Protection Plus Package

Price includes parts and labor

Change and add Briggs & Stratton Warranty Certified Engine Oil

Change Oil Filter (if equipped) and install a Briggs & Stratton genuine Oil Filter

Replace Air Filter with a Briggs & Stratton genuine air cleaner element

Replace Spark Plug

Sharpen Mower Blade

Adjust and Lubricate Cables

Set proper engine operating speed

Check all safety components for proper operation

Pkg, Price

\$49.99

SAVINGS OF \$56.00

BASIC

Quarterly Protection Plus Package

Price includes parts and labor

Change and add Briggs & Stratton warranty certified engine oil

Change Oil Filter (if equipped) and install a Briggs & Stratton genuine oil filter

Replace Air Filter with a Briggs & Stratton genuine air cleaner element

Replace Spark Plug(s)

Sharpen Mower Blade(s)

Set proper engine operating speed

Adjust and Lubricate Cables

Clean and Service Battery

Check all safety components for proper operation

Adjust tires for proper inflation

Pkg, Price

\$79.95

SAVINGS OF \$51.00

BASIC

Quarterly Protection Plus Package

Price includes parts and labor

Change and add Briggs & Stratton warranty certified engine oil

Change Oil Filter (if equipped) and install a Briggs & Stratton genuine oil filter

Replace Air Filter with a Briggs & Stratton genuine air cleaner element

Replace Spark Plug(s)

Sharpen Mower Blade(s)

Set proper engine operating speed

Adjust and Lubricate Cables

Clean and Service Battery

Check all safety components for proper operation

Adjust tires for proper inflation

Pkg, Price

\$89.95

SAVINGS OF \$73.00

Protection Plus!  
Extends the Life of Your Equipment

165 W. 4th  
460-2432