

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 16. Windy, with a south wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.
Tuesday: A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly after 3 pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 28. South wind 5 to 15 mph becoming north. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.
Tuesday Night: Snow likely, mainly before midnight. Cloudy, then gradually becoming partly cloudy, with a low around 6. North wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 30. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 12.
Christmas Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 43.
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 19.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 18.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 15.
Friday: High, 30; Low 6
Saturday: High, 12; Low 0
Sunday: High, 18; Low 3
Precip: weekend 0.00 inches
Month: 0..59 inches
Year: 21.10 inches
Normal: 20.34 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Wheelchair traffic must avoid cars

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need to use the streets. The town needs more curb cuts, Skiles said, and there are some other things that could be done to make Colby more handicap accessible. Skiles said she would like to see more automatic doors at businesses and lower counters at stores. City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the city plans to build some new sidewalks next year. "The new sidewalks would be 5 feet wide and would meet the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act," she added. The new walks will be between Franklin and Range on College Drive and from College to Dillion's along Range, Armstrong said. Range is a state highway, so wheelchairs aren't allowed. The city will get as much done on the sidewalks as it can next year, she said, depending on costs. They will have \$25,000 from this year's budget and will get \$25,000 at the start of the new year.

Snow leaves a peaceful scene behind



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

Last week's snow storm caused many headaches, but also Beulah Cemetery on Country Club Drive in east Colby. The left beauty behind. This tranquil scene was photographed in weather is expected to warm up a little by Christmas.

Toyota posts first loss as world auto markets drop

NAGOYA, Japan (AP) — Toyota Motor Corp. projected its first-ever operating loss since it began such reports, acknowledging today that its nine-year stretch of global vehicle-sales growth had stalled. Crashing auto demand, especially in its key U.S. market, and the profit erosion from a surging yen proved too much for Japan's top automaker, which had been booming on the success of its fuel-efficient models, including the Camry sedan and Prius gas-electric hybrid. Gloom dominated the annual news conference by Toyota's president, who in recent years had outlined ambitious expansion plans. This year, Toyota President Katsuaki Watanabe even refused to give a worldwide vehicle sales goal for 2009. "The tough times are hitting us far faster,

wider and deeper than expected," he told reporters at Toyota's Nagoya office. "This is an unprecedented crisis requiring urgent action." Watanabe also blamed the strong yen, which has risen to 13-year highs against the dollar to about 90 yen recently. Toyota lowered its net profit forecast to just 50 billion yen (\$555 million) for the year through March 2009 — a tiny fraction of the 1.7 trillion yen it earned the previous fiscal year. Toyota expects to lose money on an operating basis of 150 billion yen (\$1.66 billion) for the fiscal year ending March 2009. Toyota has never reported an operating loss since it began giving such figures in 1941. The only such loss it has had is an internal calculation for the year ending March 1938,

a year after the company was founded. Operating income reflects a company's core business performance. Last fiscal year, Toyota had a whopping operating profit of 2.27 trillion yen. Toyota also lowered the number of vehicles it expects to sell globally this calendar year to 8.96 million, down 4 percent from a year ago. Earlier this year, Toyota had expected to sell 9.5 million vehicles around the world in 2008. Initially, it had an even more aggressive target of 9.85 million, and expectations had been growing that the tally would reach 10 million in coming years — allowing Toyota to dethrone General Motors Corp. as the world's top automaker. Watanabe vowed Toyota would grow so lean it would realize profitability even if its

worldwide sales slid to as low as 7 million vehicles — what he called the basic "bottom line" for Toyota. "We must change to become more slim, muscular and flexible," he said. Tsuyoshi Mochimaru, auto analyst for Barclays Capital in Tokyo, warned worse may be ahead. U.S. auto sales won't start recovering until toward the end of 2009, and the dollar may lag further, he added. "The problem is next year," said Mochimaru. "It's unmistakable that things are extremely tough for Toyota." Watanabe and other executives said production plans and other investment will be on hold, including a new plant in Mississippi and expansion plans in India. The automaker will focus on hybrids and small cars.



Our office will be closing Wednesday, December 24th at Noon and we will be closed all day on Thursday and Friday to observe the holiday.

THERE WILL BE NO PAPER DECEMBER 25TH OR 26TH!

The paper for December 24th will be delivered on December 23rd.

Deadlines: Country Advocate for 12/31/08 Wednesday, December 24th at Noon. Colby Free Press:

12/24/08 paper deadline is Monday, December 22nd by Noon.

12/29/08 paper deadline is Wednesday, December 24th by Noon.

We will be back to serve you on Monday, December 29th!

THANKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS THIS PAST YEAR!

