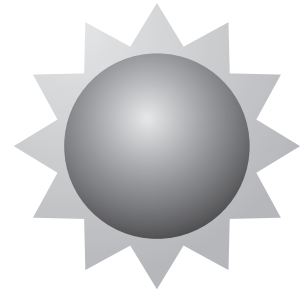


Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 17. West wind around 10 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 52. West wind around 10 mph.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 26. West wind around 10 mph.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 62. North wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27.
Monday: Sunny and breezy, with a high near 56.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 28.
Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 64.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 31.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 65.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 35.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55.

Thursday: High, 31; Low 5
Precip: Thursday 0.00 inches
Month: 0.19 inches
Year: 0.41 inches
Normal: 0.45 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
Saturday 7:40 a.m. 6:17 p.m.
Sunday 7:39 a.m. 6:18 p.m.
Monday 7:38 a.m. 6:20 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Police looking for stolen gator

MASTIC (AP) – Police in New York are investigating a pet store robbery in which several exotic animals were stolen.

Police say the owner of The Animal Hut in Mastic, Long Island reported that someone broke into the store and stole a 3 1/2-foot-long American alligator, three albino boa constrictors, and a 5-foot-long Argentine red tegu, a type of lizard.

Police say the robbery happened sometime between 7 p.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Monday.



George Elliott (left) and Dale Deaver stood with LeVeta Miller of the Central Plains Honor Flights of Great Bend, at the Thomas County Office Complex Thursday night. Miller gave information about the Honor Flights program for area veterans. Deaver said he has taken one of the flights, but would go again.

Honor Flight group makes pitch

From “FLIGHT,” Page 1

National Cemetery.

The cost per veteran is \$625 and includes the flight, hotel, food, tour bus rides and everything except souvenirs. Volunteers pay their own way at the same cost.

“Each veteran is accompanied by a volunteer guardian if they need one,” she added, “and although they are in their 80’s and 90’s when they leave, they are about 22 when they arrive home,

because the trip has been such a boost to their spirits.”

Volunteers are trained to take care of the veterans needs, she said, from pushing a wheelchair to taking the cap off a bottle of water. A doctor, nurse or medical attendant is on every trip.

Miller said her office is not sure if the database is complete with veterans from the eight counties that make up the western region. She encouraged people to get word to her if they know of a vet-

eran who doesn’t know of the program, and would like to go.

Miller said most flights leave from Denver or Wichita, but they were lucky to get one to leave in March from Garden City that can carry 172 people. If there is someone in this area who would like to go, she said, she needs to have the application by next week if they would like to make the March flight. She can be reached by calling the Great Bend office at (620) 792-6224.

State House passes health care freedom amendment today

From “FREEDOM,” Page 1

Missouri approved constitutional changes similar to the one being considered in Kansas. Colorado voters rejected a proposal.

Thursday’s debate in the Kansas House allowed GOP members to make now-familiar arguments that the law will hurt both consumers and businesses, while making the federal government far too intrusive.

Critics focused on doubts that amending the state constitution would have any practical effect if Kansas residents want to block the health insurance mandate in their state.

The U.S. Constitution grants Congress the power to regulate interstate commerce. Some House members said the U.S. Supreme Court ultimately will decide whether that power allows the health insurance mandate, not state laws or amendments to state constitutions.

Kansas is among 26 states challenging the health care law in a federal lawsuit in Florida, where a

judge struck down the law as unconstitutional last month. An appeal is expected.

“I think most of us understand that this is purely a political exercise,” said House Minority Leader Paul Davis, a Lawrence Democrat and attorney who opposed the amendment. “By putting this in the constitution, it is not going to have any consequence over what’s going to happen in the federal courts.”

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lance Kinzer, an Olathe Republican and attorney, came close to conceding the latter point in his defense of the proposed amendment. He said it’s “an overstatement” to suggest such a change in the state constitution could nullify a federal law in Kansas or directly block its implementation.

But he said the more states amend their constitutions, “The more ammunition there is for people who are litigating this issue.”

Yet House Health and Human Services Committee Chairwoman Brenda Landwehr, a Wichita Re-

publican, said she believes a constitutional change will allow Kansas to block the federal law.

The House considered a similar amendment last year, and it received 75 votes, nine short of the necessary two-thirds majority.

WWII veteran remembers war

From “VETERAN,” Page 1

He recalled one mission where his damaged plane lost three engines and had to limp back to England.

“I could see the ice floating in the Channel,” he said. “I thought we were going to crash on that ice.”

Cook’s plane made it back over the channel but had to crash-land on an airfield in the south of the country. Cook said the airfield was commanded by actor Jimmy Stewart, then a colonel in the Air Corps, who personally picked up the B-17 crew in a jeep.

Cook recalled another particularly rough mission, to Berlin on May 7, 1944.

“It was hell,” he said. “It was pretty rough. Everywhere I looked, a B-17 was going down.”

His crew suffered casualties. Cook said they lost the pilot on his ninth mission.

The bomber crews crew had to fight the cold as well as the Germans. Cook said they had to wear a heated uniform and gloves. B-17s could fly at alti-

tudes up to 35,600 feet, and at that height, Cook said, the air is so cold that his hands would have frozen to his guns if he touched them without gloves.

When not on a mission, the flight crews ate well, he said, and either played cards or went on trips to London.

“We knew the night before if we had a mission,” he said, “so we could get some rest.”

On mission days, they would wake the crews up at 3 or 4 a.m. for briefings. American bombers flew missions in the daytime, while the Royal Air Force conducted night raids.

After his 35 missions, he was rotated back to the United States, where he served as an instructor on B-29s. The newer B-29s were bigger, but not all that different from B-17s, he said.

When he was discharged, Cook returned to Colby and has remained here ever since. Over the years he farmed, ran the Veterans of Foreign Wars club and owned Mr. C’s Steakhouse. His wife died in 1980. He has three sons. The youngest, Tom Cook, lives in Colby.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



KAYLA HOCKERSMITH



Parents: Troy & Jeanette Hockersmith

Kayla, a senior at Colby High School, is Colby Rotary Club’s February 2011 Student of the Month.

Kayla’s school & community activities include Young Humanitarians, Student Council, Forensics, Cosmic Crayon, Tennis, Cross Country, Basketball, Track, FCA, C-Club, International Club, Prom Committee, Red Cross Blood Driver Volunteer, Genesis Food Drive, Youth Basketball Program Coach, Beulah Cemetery Clean-Up, Senior High Youth Group, CRD Volunteer.

Kayla’s special honors include National Honor Society, NWKL All-League Team, and Superintendent’s Honor Roll.

Kayla’s academic emphasis is Health Science. Her future plans include playing basketball and pursuing a degree in Dentistry.

Sponsored by: Colby Rotary

LOCAL TV LISTINGS

sponsored by the



COLBY FREE PRESS

Monday Evening February 14, 2011

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	The Bachelor				Castle		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live	
KBSL/CBS	How I Met	Mad Love	Two Men	Mike	Hawaii Five-0		Local	Late Show	Letterman	Late
KSNK/NBC	Chuck		The Cape		Harry's Law		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno		Late
KSAS/FOX	House		The Chicago Code		Local					
Cable Channels										
A & E	Intervention		Intervention		Heavy		Heavy		Intervention	
AMC	Shawshank R.						Shawshank R.			
ANIM	Fatal Attractions		Fatal Attractions		Fatal Attractions		Fatal Attractions		Fatal Attractions	
BRAVO	Housewives/Atl.		Housewives/Atl.		Tabatha's Salon Take		Tabatha's Salon Take		Housewives/Atl.	
CMT	The Dukes of Hazzard		Strictest Parents		Cheerlead Cheerlead		Cowboys Cheerleaders		Smarter	Smarter
CNN	Parker Spitzer		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360				Piers Morgan Tonight	
COMEDY	40-Year-Old Vir		Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Daily	Colbert	Sunny	Sunny
DISC	Gold Rush: Alaska		American Chopper		American Chopper		Gold Rush: Alaska		American Chopper	
DISN	Enchanted				Phineas	Phineas	Wizards-Place		Hannah	Hannah
E!	E! Special		E! Special		Fashion	The Soup	Chelsea	E! News		Fashion
ESPN	College Basketball		College Basketball				SportsCenter		NFL Live	Final
ESPN2	Wm. Basketball		Wm. Basketball				SportsNation		NASCAR Now	
FAM	Pretty Little Liars		Greek		Pretty Little Liars		The 700 Club		Whose?	Whose?
FOOD	Unwrapped/Candy		Diners	Diners	The Best	The Best	Good Eats	Good Eats	Diners	Diners
FX	Big Momma's House				Big Momma's House 2				Big Momma's House	
HGTV	Selling	Selling	Selling	Selling	Cash & Ca	Hunters	First	First	Selling	Selling
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	American Pickers		Pawn	Pawn	Larry the Cable Guy		Pawn	Pawn
LIFE	Reba	Reba	Chasing Liberty				How I Met		How I Met	Frasier
MTV	Movie		MTV Special		Skins		Skins		Jersey Shore	
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	Chris	Chris	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny
SCI	Being Human		Being Human		Joy Ride 2				Being Human	
SPIKE	Auction	Auction	Auction	Auction	Auction Hunters		Auction Hunters		Ultimate Fight Night	
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Conan		Lopez Tonight	
TCM	Rachel, Rachel				Casablanca				Treasure-Sierra	
TLC	Unpop	Unpop	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	19 Kids	19 Kids	Unpop	Unpop	Cake Boss	Cake Boss
TNT	Bones		Bones		Rizzoli & Isles		Rizzoli & Isles		CSI: NY	
TOON	Adventure	Regular	King-Hill	King-Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen
TRAV	No Reservation		No Reservation		No Reservation		No Reservation		No Reservation	
TV LAND	Sanford	Sanford	Something's						Retired a	Roseanne
USA	Westminster Dog Show		WWE Monday Night RAW				White Collar		CSI: Crime Scene	
VH1	You're Cut Off		You're Cut Off		The X Lif	Chilli	Chilli	The X Lif	You're Cut Off	
WGN	Chris	Chris	Funniest Home Videos		WGN News at Nine		Scrubs	Scrubs	South Pk	South Pk
Premium Channels										
HBO	Real Time/Bill Maher		Crazy Heart				Gervais	Cathouse	Couples Retreat	
MAX	Independ		I Love You, Man		It's Complicated				Sexy Wives Syndrome	
SHOW	A Single Man		Shameless		Californ.	Episodes	Californ.	Episodes	Shameless	