

Weather Corner



BOB HANZLICK

National Weather Service Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. East wind between 10 and 15 mph. Friday: Patchy fog before 1 p.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 50. East wind between 10 and 15 mph. Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28. East wind between 10 and 15 mph becoming calm. Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 52. East wind between 5 and 15 mph. Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35. Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 68. Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39. Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 66. Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 61. Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60. Wednesday: High, 79; Low 33 Precip: Wed. None Month: 0.44 inches Year: 0.87 inches Normal: 2.11 inches (K-State Experiment Station) Sunrise and Sunset Friday 7:51 a.m. 7:54 p.m. (U.S. Naval Observatory)

Free Press gets three awards from Kansas Press Association

From "PRESS," Page 1

Since the Free Press is the only daily in the group, the Kansas Press Association rules required the entry to be through this paper.

The Free Press won third place for column writing for copy editor Marian Ballard. Three columns were submitted: "'Pet pothole' goes along with roads," March 29; "Generation gaps hurt young and old," April 26; and "Free speech sometimes uncomfortable," March 1.

The judge said Ballard's impassioned defense of free speech should be discussed in civics classes.

The paper also won third place for a photo of a fatal wreck on U.S. 83 by Cynthia Haynes. A young man working in Colby was returning home to Oberlin when he lost control of his car and crashed.

A well-known name in Colby received an award in the contest. Former Publisher Tom Dreiling took second for his editorial writing for The Goodland Star-News. His writing also runs in the Free Press. The judge said of his editorials "entertaining writing about issues on all of our minds."

Dreiling took second behind editor Tom Betz, also of the Star-News, who received first place for his editorial comments.

Other papers in the group also won awards. • The Norton Telegram took first in small non-daily publications for a feature photo and a series of stories. The feature photo showed a young girl riding a sheep during the Norton County Fair.

The paper also won a first place for a series of stories on area servicemen who died in the Vietnam War. The stories ran in September as part of the lead-up to a visit by the Moving Wall in Norton.

• The Oberlin Herald took third place for best news story by Publisher Steve Haynes on a wreck on U.S. 83 that injured an Oberlin woman.

The paper also took third for a political ad for Republican candidates running in the 2010 election created by Leslie Nolette and sold by Tim Davis.

• The Saint Francis Herald took first place for a photo layout showing how the community pulled together to aid the elderly when the town's Good Samaritan Village burned last year. Photos were taken by Casey McCormick.

House adopts Brownback's cuts

From "CUTS," Page 1

Republican. "We're ready to move forward."

She said the Senate's version takes care of the special education while helping Brownback balance both the 2011 and 2012 budgets.

"We anticipate a positive ending balance," McGinn said.

Democrats, in the minority in both chambers, said the governor's actions are getting ahead of lawmakers. The issue is whether Brownback can claim he balanced the 2011 budget by shifting funds out of public schools and other agencies to shore up the books, and fund increase costs for social services.

Brownback's package requires spending \$49.6 million on social services, including increased Medicaid costs for health care for the poor. To do that, the governor seeks to reduce state aid to schools by \$75 per student, replacing most

of the money with one-time federal funds released to the 289 Kansas school districts earlier this year.

House Minority Leader Paul Davis said the governor is getting ahead of the Legislature by making the cuts and spending the money on caseloads. Davis argued that state law requires legislators to appropriate the caseload money first, and then the governor could impose cuts to pay the bills.

"I don't think he has the authority to anything and above \$7 million," said Davis, a Lawrence Democrat. "We have a law and we need to play by the rules."

In announcing his cuts, known technically as allotments, Brownback made the reductions contingent upon legislative action, a process used by previous governors forced to make cuts to balance the budget.

"The governor's allotments that were made on Friday clearly indi-

cate that legislative action is required," said Brownback spokeswoman Sherriene Jones-Sontag. "We are very confident that the Legislature will appropriate funding for human and health services caseloads."

Candidates to speak at library next week

From "CANDIDATES," Page 1

answer presubmitted questions, rather than questions from the floor, but she would like to get those questions from the public. Anyone with a question for the candidates can submit it at the library or by e-mail to contact_us@colbylibrary.com. Wilks' husband Sandy, who works at the Colby High School library, will serve as the moderator. Wilks said each of the three

candidates will write a 250- to 350-word statement that she will hand out for people to read at the forum.

Wilks said she was also asked by several people if the forum could include the Colby City Council Ward II candidates, Josh Faber and Mike Hake. Ward II is the only contested council race this year. However, one candidate will be out of town, she said, so the event will be limited to the mayoral race.

Senate panel modifies secretary's voter ID bill

TOPEKA (AP) — A Kansas Senate committee has modified a proposal from Secretary of State Kris Kobach requiring people who register to vote for the first time in the state to prove they're citizens.

The Ethics and Elections Committee amended Kobach's legislation to say the proof-of-citizenship requirement would not take effect until 2013. Kobach wanted it imposed next year.

The committee left another Kobach proposal intact. It would require voters to show photo identification at the polls.

The panel then endorsed the measure on a voice vote, sending it to the Senate for debate.

The committee also rejected a Kobach proposal to let his office file and prosecute election fraud cases in state courts.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table with columns for Saturday Evening March 19, 2011, listing various TV programs and channels.

American Profile We Celebrate Hometown Life Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

Table with columns for Sunday Evening March 20, 2011, listing various TV programs and channels.

Japan nuclear plant 'very serious but stable'

VIENNA (AP) — The situation at Japan's tsunami-stricken nuclear plant is "very serious," but at the moment it does not appear to be deteriorating, a senior official of the U.N. atomic agency said Thursday.

As emergency workers frantically worked to regain control of the dangerously overheated nuclear complex, Graham Andrew told reporters that "there had been no significant worsening" over the past 24 hours at the crippled plant.

Andrew, a senior aide to International Atomic Energy Agency chief Yukiya Amano, emphasized that the situation could change quickly, either improving or escalating into a wider catastrophe.

"It hasn't gotten worse, which is positive, but it is still possible that it could get worse," he said. "We could say it's reasonably stable at the moment compared to yesterday."

Andrew spoke shortly after Amano flew to Tokyo to assess efforts to fight the nuclear havoc unleashed by the massive earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan's northeastern coast Friday.

It was unclear what Amano hoped to accomplish during his one-day trip; he has said he plans to stay in Tokyo and meet with government officials but he had no agenda or scheduled meetings before takeoff from Vienna international airport.

"We don't have a fixed schedule and don't have all the information, so we will be thinking on our feet," Amano told reporters assembled in the departure hall.

Still, he suggested his trip was symbolically important as his home country wrestles with its worst nuclear crisis since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 66 years ago.

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