

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. South wind around 15 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 94. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Increasing clouds, with a low around 68. East wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 96. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east.
Sunday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 69.
Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 94.
Monday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 97.
Tuesday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68.
Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 95.
Wednesday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 68.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 96.

Thursday: High, 87; Low 64
Precip: Thursday None
Month: 1.48 inches
Year: 8.63 inches
Normal: 13.61 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
Saturday 6:25 a.m. 9:13 p.m.
Sunday 6:26 a.m. 9:13 p.m.
Monday 6:27 a.m. 9:12 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Colby Water Use
Thursday 1,738,000 gal.
(Colby Public Works)

Peacock living at high school returned to its owner

NEWBURY, Mass. (AP) — A lost peacock trapped by a retired high school science teacher and living in a courtyard at Triton Regional High School has been returned to its proper owner, who happens to be one of the teacher’s former students.
After seeing a story about the wayward bird in *The Daily News* of Newburyport, Byfield resident T.J. Martin went to the school to claim his peacock, dubbed Donald by his children.
He says he was given the peacock and a peahen by a friend, but they both escaped. The peahen was quickly recaptured, but he feared the peacock had been caught and eaten by a fox or coyote.
That was until he heard that retired teacher Dave Taylor captured it. Taylor was Martin’s seventh-grade science teacher.

Bluegrass festival to start Thursday

From “FESTIVAL,” Page 1

Dillon’s on South Range Avenue.
All events are included in an adult advanced weekend pass for \$35; or age 12-16 pass, \$10. Children under 12 are free with a paid adult. Evening passes will be available for \$15; evenings begin at 6 p.m. On Saturday, all day and evening passes will be available for \$25.
Dailey and Vincent will headline the event this year. The band was named by the *New York Times* as one of the best new acts in bluegrass music. They will play special 1 1/2 hour concerts at 8:15 p.m. Friday and 8:30 p.m. Saturday.
Also making a first-time appearance at the festival are Darin and Brooke Aldridge, a husband and wife duo known as the “Sweethearts of Bluegrass.” The couple and their accompanying band will be featured twice on Saturday, 3:40 p.m. and again at 6:50 p.m., and once on Sunday

For detailed event information and band biographies:
Check out the special Pickin’ on the Plains section in Monday’s *Colby Free Press*.

at 1:15 p.m.
Colorado couple Millie and Wayne Lauritsen, better known to Thomas County audiences as Sappa Strings, will make another return to the festival stage this year at 12:20 p.m. Saturday and again at 10:55 a.m. Sunday.
New to the festival stage are the Kansas Bluegrass Association Treblemakers Youth Band. The band members’ ages range from 13 to 20. The Treblemakers will make their Pickin’ on the Plains debut at 6:45 p.m. Friday and will make their second appearance at 2:50 p.m. Saturday.
Familiar faces to the festival will make their appearance with a relatively new band called Driven. Driven was founded by Brandon and Blake McLemore

who used to play in their family band, The McLemores. Brandon and Blake still participate in some gigs with the old band, but now their main focus is Driven. The band will perform at 9:55 p.m. Friday, 7:40 p.m. Saturday and 12:25 p.m. Sunday.
The McLemores are performing in addition to organizing the event. The band will play at 7:30 p.m. Friday, 10 p.m. Saturday and 2:10 p.m. Sunday.
The Hootin’ Annies, an all-woman group that has headlined at clubs around Kansas City, will play at 2 p.m. Saturday, 6 p.m. Saturday and may play a third show at 11:35 a.m. Sunday.
One-man band Larry Booth will be making a return to the Pickin’ on the Plains festival. He

will play at 1:10 p.m. Saturday.
Ozark Alliance, a family band, will also be featured in the band line-up this year. The band wasn’t present at last year’s festival, but will be making a return visit this year. Ozark Alliance will be featured at 6 p.m. Friday, 4:35 p.m. Saturday, and possibly again at the Gospel Sing-Along at 9:30 a.m. Sunday. If the band is not featured during the sing-along, they will appear at 11:35 a.m. Sunday and the Hootin’ Annies will cover the sing-along.
During stage performances on Saturday, workshops will also be held at the 4-H building for aspiring musicians. The workshops will begin at 10 a.m. with a program from Mark Johnson, banjo player and music coach for the Treblemakers. Throughout the day, other members from featured bands will host workshops for anyone wishing to gain musical and performing knowledge.

Atlantis blasts off on final space flight

From “FLIGHT,” Page 1

that will never end.”
He added: “Let’s light this fire one more time, Mike, and witness this great nation at its best.”
It wasn’t clear until the final moments of the countdown that the launch would come off. That was fitting in a way, since Florida’s famously stormy weather delayed numerous shuttle missions almost from the start of the program and was a major reason spaceflight never became routine, as NASA had hoped for.
Hundreds of thousands of spectators jammed Cape Canaveral and surrounding towns for the emotional farewell. Kennedy Space Center itself was packed with shuttle workers, astronauts and 45,000 invited guests, the maximum allowed.
NASA’s original shuttle pilot, Robert Crippen, now 73, was among the VIPs. He flew Columbia, along with Apollo 16 moon-walker John Young, on the inaugural test flight in 1981.
Other notables on the guest list: a dozen members of Congress, Cabinet members, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, four Kennedy family members, Jimmy Buffett, Gloria Estefan and two former NASA chiefs.
The space shuttle was conceived even as the moon landings were under way, deemed essential for building a permanent space station. NASA brashly promised 50 flights a year — in other words, routine trips into space — and affordable service.
But the program suffered two tragic accidents that killed 14 astronauts and destroyed two shuttles, Challenger in 1986 and Columbia in 2003. NASA never managed more than nine flights in a single year. And the total tab was \$196 billion, or \$1.45 billion a flight.
Yet there have been some indisputable payoffs: The International Space Station would not exist if it were not for the shuttles, and the Hubble Space Telescope, thanks to repeated tuneups by astronauts, would be a blue eye in the sky instead of the world’s finest cosmic photographer.
The station is essentially completed, and thus the shuttle’s original purpose accomplished. NASA says it is sacrificing the shuttles because there is not enough money to keep the expensive fleet going if the space agency is to aim for asteroids and Mars.
Thousands of shuttle workers will be laid off within days

of Atlantis’ return, on top of the thousands who already have lost their jobs. And the three remaining shuttles will become museum pieces.
This day of reckoning has been coming since 2004, a year after the Columbia tragedy, when President George W. Bush announced the retirement of the shuttle and put NASA on a course back to the moon. President Barack Obama canceled the back-to-the-moon program in favor of trips to an asteroid and Mars.
But NASA has yet to work out the details of how it intends to get there, and has not even settled on a spacecraft design.
The space shuttle demonstrates America’s leadership in space, and “for us to abandon that in favor of nothing is a mistake of strategic proportions,” lamented former NASA Administrator Michael Griffin, who led the agency from 2005 to 2008.
After Atlantis’ lights-out, 33rd flight, private rocket companies will take over the job of hauling supplies and astronauts to the space station. The first supply run is targeted for later this year, while the first trip with astronauts is projected to be years away.
Until those flights are up and running, American astronauts will be hitching rides to and from the space station via Russian Soyuz capsules, at more than \$50 million per trip.
Russia will supply the rescue vessels for Ferguson and his crew if Atlantis ends up severely damaged in flight. But the Russian spaceships can carry only three people, including two crew members, and any rescue would require a series of back-and-forth trips. That is why only four astronauts are flying Atlantis, the smallest crew in decades.
That reliance on Russia — with no other backup — has many space veterans worried. A contingent of old-time flight directors and astronauts, Crippen included, is seeking a last-ditch reprieve for the space shuttle, at least until something is ready to take its place.
Crippen acknowledged it is futile at this point.
“I’m afraid that ship has sailed,” he said on the eve of the launch. But noting the improvements that had been made in the shuttles over the past three decades, he said: “Those vehicles, in my opinion, could fly for another 30 years and could be flown safely.”
This last journey by Atlantis may be stretched to 13 days if enough power can be conserved.

Chamber looking for parade entries

From “PARADE,” Page 1

second place winners will get a \$20 gift certificate. The entry that best represents the theme of the parade, “Your Ticket to Fun,” will get a \$50 certificate.
Categories for the parade include horses and riders, implement dealers and riders, judged entries, dirt bikes and all terrain vehicles, entries by community and organizational groups, floats by youth ages 12 and under, businesses, musical organizations and antique vehicles.
“Dale Deaver won second place in the antique vehicle

category last year,” said Whitaker. “He’ll be honored as the Grand Marshall for the 2011 parade and fair.”
Deaver is a farmer from Levant and bought his first piece of Thomas County farmland in 1965. He is a veteran and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.
Whitaker said participants can pick up entry forms at the chamber office, 350 South Range, Suite 10. The office is in the Thomas County Office Complex. For information call 460-3401 or e-mail colbychamber@thomascounty.com.

Group urges feds to cut off arts money

From “ARTS,” Page 1

and Brownback appointed a new chairwoman last month to help set a course without state financial support.
Lynch said adequate support for the arts requires a partnership involving the federal government, states, local groups and private donors. If the NEA still gives Kansas funds, he said, for other states “it just makes it easier to not do the right thing.”
Brownback has argued Kan-

sas needs to rely on private funding for its arts programs so state government can concentrate on functions such as aid to public schools, social services and public safety.
The NEA said in a statement that Kansas was no longer eligible to receive funds as of June 10, when the Arts Commission laid off its staff. The NEA’s guidelines require a state to have an official arts agency with a staff, state dollars for arts programs and a plan for promoting the arts.

Briefly

Scholarships available for local college women

The Colby branch of American Association of University Women is offering a two-year scholarship for women from Thomas County who will be juniors or seniors in college this fall. Applications are available at Pioneer Memorial Library or by e-mail from frahm@kacct.org. The application deadline is Saturday, July 23. For information, call 465-6053.

Carnival association looking for volunteers

The Thomas County Amusement Association is looking for volunteers for the Thomas County Free Fair carnival, which runs from Tuesday to Saturday, July 26 to 30. They are looking for volunteers to help work the ball of chance, ring toss and the prize booth. Shifts are available from 7 to 9 p.m. and 9 to 11 p.m. To volunteer, call the Chamber of Commerce office at 460-3401.

Middle school team to hold football camp

The Colby Middle School seventh and eighth grade football teams will have a free team camp from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Monday to Thursday at the practice field north of the Thomas County Fairgrounds. For information, call Todd Murdock at 462-7997.

Colby doctor to speak

Dr. LaDonna Regier will present “Women’s Health in Ghana” at 7 p.m. Monday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 855 E. Fifth St. Regier has been practicing in Ghana in western Africa for the past six months. She will share her experiences treating the varied diseases that effect the women of Ghana. Due to some of the content, children under 12 years old should not attend. For information, call the church at 462-3497.

Walk in the river at the aquatic center

The Colby Aquatic Center is offering a River Walk Class, which uses water resistance to help sore joints and muscles, from 9 to 9:45 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning next week. No registration is required, just the entry fee of \$5 for the pool. For information, call the Colby Recreation Department at 460-4440.

Methodist church plans Bible school

The Colby United Methodist Church will hold Vacation Bible School from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Monday to Friday at the church. Children 4 years old through fifth grade are invited to attend the school. This year’s theme is “Island Odyssey.” For information or to register, call the church office at 460-2761.

Seniors plan potluck

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. For information, call 462-6342.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Monday Evening												July 11, 2011			
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30					
KAKE/ABC	The Bachelorette				Extreme Makeover		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live						
KBSL/CBS	How I Met	Mike	Two Men	Mike	Hawaii Five-0		Local	Late Show Letterman		Late					
KSNK/NBC	America's Got Talent		Law Order: CI		Law & Order: LA		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno		Late					
KSAS/FOX	MasterChef		MasterChef		Local										
Cable Channels															
A & E	Hoarders			Hoarders		Intervention		Intervention		Hoarders					
AMC	Kill Bill: Vol. 1						Kill Bill: Vol. 2								
ANIM	Wild	Wild	I Shouldn't Be Alive		River Monsters		Wild	Wild	I Shouldn't Be Alive						
BRAVO	Actor's Studio		Housewives/NJ		Platinum Hit		Housewives/NJ		Housewives/NYC						
CMT	The Whole Nine Yards						Terry Fator		Country Fried Home Videos						
CNN	In the Arena		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360				Piers Morgan Tonight						
COMEDY	Scary Movie 4		Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Daily	Colbert	South Pk	South Pk					
DISC	Man vs. Wild		Man vs. Wild		Surviving the Cut		Man vs. Wild		Surviving the Cut						
DISN	Good Luck	Shake It	Wizards-Waver				Vampire	Vampire	Wizards	Wizards					
E!	Sex/City	Sex and t	Kardas	Ice-Coco	Sex and t	Sex and t	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Chelsea					
ESPN	2011 Home Run Derby				Softball		SportsCenter		Baseball Tonight						
ESPN2	The Fab Five				2010 Poker		2010 Poker		NFL Live		Nation				
FAM	Secret-Teen		Switched at Birth		Secret-Teen		The 700 Club		Whose?		Whose?				
FOOD	Unwrapped	Candy	Diners	Diners	Tough Coo		Tough Coo		Challenge		Diners	Diners			
FX	Hancock				Hancock										
HGTV	House	Hunters	Design Star		Room Cr.	Hunters	House	House H.	Design Star						
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	American Pickers		American	Pawn	American	American	Pawn	Pawn					
LIFE	Born Bad				Vanished, Beth		How I Met		How I Met		Chris	Chris			
MTV	True Life		MTV Special		Teen Wolf		Teen Wolf		True Life						
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	Lopez	Lopez	70s Show	70s Show	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez	George					
SCI	Eureka		Warehouse 13		Alphas		Alphas								
SPIKE	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	The Natural				Lopez Tonight				
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Conan								
TCM	Gunman's Walk				Ride the Wild Surf						Retrn-Treasure				
TLC	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Surprise Homecoming		Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss					
TNT	The Closer		The Closer		Rizzoli & Isles		The Closer		Rizzoli & Isles						
TOON	Adventure	MAD	King-Hill	King-Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen					
TRAV	No Reservation		No Reservation		Dance the World		No Reservation		No Reservation						
TV LAND	AllFamily	AllFamily	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	The Nanny	The Nanny	Divorced	Roseanne					
USA	NCIS		WWE Monday Night RAW				Suits		Law & Order: SVU						
VH1	Basketball Wives		Single Ladies		Basketball Wives		Single Ladies		Basketball Wives						
WGN	Chris	Chris	Funniest Home Videos		WGN News at Nine		Scrubs	Scrubs	South Pk	South Pk					
Premium Channels															
HBO	Real Time/Bill Maher		Love Crimes of Kabul				The Hangover		Boxing						
MAX	The Book of Eli				Machete										
SHOW	Remember Me				Weeds		The Big C	Weeds	The Big C	The Real L Word					