

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 70. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 4 p.m. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 102. Breezy, with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. Breezy, with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Sunday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 102. South wind around 15 mph.
Sunday Night: Mostly clear and breezy, with a low around 68.
Monday: Sunny and hot and breezy, with a high near 100.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 71.
Tuesday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 102.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 69.
Wednesday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 100.
Thursday: High, 99; Low 71
Precip: Thursday 0.29 inches
Month: 2.40 inches
Year: 11.44 inches
Normal: 13.61 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Today 6:30 a.m. 9:10 p.m.
Full moon
Saturday 6:30 a.m. 9:10 p.m.
Sunday 6:31 a.m. 9:09 p.m.
Monday 6:32 a.m. 9:09 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)
Colby Water Use
Thursday 1,997,000 gal.
t(Colby Public Works)

Court study reaches its halfway point

From "COURT," Page 1

commission chair. Attending the meeting were area lawyers, judges, court personnel and business owners. They expressed concerns about losing jobs and access to court services if judge positions were consolidated among the northwest counties. Thomas County Attorney Kevin Berens in particular emphasized that the rural poor would have a tough time having access to a judge if they had to travel to another county.

The meeting, like the other 18 around the state, also produced some ideas. Nuss listed several ideas that caught his eye in his release. Using technology to bring urban court work to rural areas was brought up at the Colby meeting. Berens suggested eliminating judge positions in high-population areas where there are more judges already, and having western Kansas judges handle first appearances by remote.

Other ideas included an electronic court

cases filing program so litigants wouldn't have to go to a courthouse; expanding the use of video conferencing for first appearances from prisons and in mental competency hearings from the state hospitals at Larned and Osawatomie; increasing technological compatibility among the courts, county government, agencies and law enforcement; and using video conferencing for Court of Appeals and Supreme Court hearings.

Nuss said some of the information gathered at the meetings was contradictory.

"For example, there were numerous people asking to increase the use of video technology for conducting some hearings and court appearances," he said. "But others are convinced that face-to-face encounters with the judges are still needed, especially in juvenile offender cases."

"Still others commented that receiving forensic testimony via video technology from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation or other

crime labs could do much to speed up their work, while saving a lot of time and money by not requiring the witnesses to drive many hours for relatively short periods of trial testimony."

Nuss said the commission hasn't said yes or no to any of the proposals, but in some cases it has asked staff members do cost analysis studies of some of the ideas.

"The encouraging part to me is that Kansans really do care about how their courts are operating," he said. "Many people have put a lot of thought into how we might do things better and more efficiently, while still maintaining the public's access to justice."

The commission is also looking at weighted caseload studies. Judges and court personnel throughout the state have kept detailed time sheets. Nuss said the data is still being looked at by the court-appointed Judicial Needs and Staffing Needs Assessment Committees.

Farmland is big business for non-farmers

From "FARMLAND," Page 1

the second-largest corn crop in 70 years, corn prices dropped 8 percent in two days.

And even if crop prices hold up, land values could fall if another key prop disappears: low interest rates.

When the Federal Reserve cut its benchmark rate to a record low in December 2008, yields on CDs and money market funds and other conservative investments plunged, too. Investors were unhappy with earning less, but they were too scared about the economy to do much about it.

As they grew more confident – and more frustrated with their puny returns – they shifted money into riskier assets like stocks and corporate bonds.

In Iowa, investors pocket annual rent equivalent to 4 percent of the price of land. That's a 60-year low but almost 2.5 percentage points more than average yield on five-year CDs at banks. That advantage could disappear quickly. If the Fed starts raising rates, farmland won't look nearly as appealing.

For now, though, investors can't seem to get enough of it.

Demonstrating disaster relief



Colby Rotarians Nick Wells and Jeff Horlacher were camped out at Wednesday's Picnic in the Park showing off a new Rotary International project. Set up in the park was a large tent and a table displaying a ShelterBox, which contains items that are needed during an emergency when victims are displaced from their homes. The ShelterBoxes can be sent anywhere in the world.

Briefly

Register kids early for youth soccer league

Early registration for the American Youth Soccer Organization will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday and 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, July 23, at Pioneer Memorial Library. Early registration fee is \$45 thru Saturday, July 23 and \$50 after that. Volunteer applications will also be available. For information, call Emily Griffin 460-0647.

Carnival association looking for volunteers

The Thomas County Amusement Association is looking for volunteers for the Thomas County Free Fair, 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.

Salvation Army has fans to give out

For those looking to beat the heat this summer, the Thomas County Salvation Army has fans available. Call Kathy at the Thomas County Health Department at 460-4596 or Sue at Citizens Medical Center at 462-7511.

Clinic has pets available for adoption

Colby Animal Clinic has four 2-3-month-old, tan, mixed breed puppies available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

Order fresh fruit from youth group

The annual Catholic Youth Organization fruit sale is under way. Reserve an order of freestone peaches, Bartlett pears and Gala apples through Wednesday, Aug. 17, by calling Megan Augustine at the Sacred Heart Parish rectory at 462-2179. Pickup day will be at 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31, at the 4-H Building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

Picnic in the Park on Wednesday

Picnic in the Park begins at noon on Wednesdays at Fike Park. The entertainment for Wednesday will be the Prairie Rose. The event is sponsored by the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau and the *Colby Free Press*. In case of bad weather, listen to KXXX/KRDQ. For information, call the chamber at 460-3401.

Colby Middle School plans volleyball camp

Colby Middle School will hold a team volleyball camp from 10 a.m. to noon Monday to Thursday at the Colby Grade School Gym. For information, call Shirley Aramberger at 462-6464.

Colby Big Brothers Big Sisters creates lasting relationships

From "SISTERS," Page 1

sees a positive change in the adults as much as she sees progress in the kids.

There are currently six children on the waiting list in Thomas County, from ages 6 to 12; four are boys and two are girls.

"We are always in need of adults to mentor children in the program, especially guys," said Stithem. "For some reason, it is just harder to get big brothers involved."

She said that when she screens adults to get involved, it is preferred that they are willing to

give at least six months to the program. There are also opportunities for couples to mentor a child as a team and a "Bigs in School" program where eligible high school students can mentor during the school day.

"We provide supervision and support for our matches and even offer training to volunteers on an ongoing basis to address primary issues seen in children of families in need, at risk or in crisis," explained Stithem. "This wrap-around support, training and supervision assures the success of the match and allows implementation of any changes

necessary for the long-term benefit of the child."

"We are so pleased for the recognition Kansas has received for our great program and are excited to share our 2011 Quality Award with the bigs and littles who have made a difference in each other's lives," continued Stithem.

Easy options for adults to get involved and strengthen the state of Kansas' juvenile systems have been developed by the organization, called their new Start Something campaign.

Research compiled by Public Private Ventures found that af-

ter 18 months of spending time with a mentoring advocate the children in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program are much more likely to succeed and live a happier life. The study identified that these children are 46 percent less likely to begin using illegal drugs, 27 percent less likely to start using alcohol, 52 percent less likely to skip school and 33 percent less likely to hit someone.

"We know the issues – drop out rates, juvenile crime, teen pregnancy – the list of what hap-

pens when we do nothing goes on," said Soliday. "The Start Something campaign is an easy way to become a part of a proven solution and we hope that many more choose to be a part of our mission and our organization because when our kids improve in and out of school, the entire community succeeds."

Donations and participation are always welcome. Call (785) 460-9152 or email dstithem@kansasbigs.org for information about the organization and to learn how to get involved.

Rawlins County Health Center

RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

707 Grant
Atwood, KS 67730
(785) 626-3211

Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community

July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Dr. Rubinowitz Oncology	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab		Mammograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	MRI's	Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab		Dr. Frankum Surgery Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	MRI's	Cardiac Rehab	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology DEXA Bone Density	Dr. Curtis Cardiology Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	Dr. Saba Orthopedics Dr. Reeves Podiatry MRI'S	Dr. Reeves Podiatry Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab		Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	MRI's	Cardiac Rehab	
31	TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A VISITING PHYSICIAN, PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211 Cheryl Banister, RN Specialty Clinic Director					



LOCAL TV Listings

Sponsored by the
COLBY FREE PRESS

Monday Evening July 18, 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			Harry's Law		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late	
KSAS/FOX	Hell's Kitchen	MasterChef			Local					
Cable Channels										
A & E	Hoarders		Hoarders		Intervention				Hoarders	
AMC	The Matrix							The Matrix		
ANIM	I Shouldn't Be Alive		I Shouldn't Be Alive		River Monsters			I Shouldn't Be Alive	I Shouldn't Be Alive	
BRAVO	Housewives/NJ		Housewives/NJ		Housewives/NYC			Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NYC	
CMT	The Rookie							Smarter Smarter	Smarter Smarter	
CNN	In the Arena		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360			To Be Announced	Piers Morgan Tonight	
COMEDY	Talladega Nights:	Sunny	Sunny		Sunny Sunny		Daily Colbert	Surviving the Cut	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		The Incredibles				ANT Farm	Good Luck Wizards	Wizards	
E!	Sex and t	Sex/City	Ice-Coco	Ice-Coco	E! Special		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	
ESPN	MLB Baseball				Baseball Tonight		SportsCenter		Baseball NFL Live	
ESPN2	World, Poker				Soccer				World, Poker	
FAM	Secret-Teen		Switched at Birth		Secret-Teen		The 700 Club	Whose? Whose?		
FOOD	Design Star		Diners	Diners	Tough Coo	Tough Coo	Challenge	Diners	Diners	
FX	Death Race							Death Race		
HGTV	House	Hunters	Design Star		Selling L	Hunters	House	Hunters	Design Star	
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	American Pickers		Pawn	Pawn	American Restoration	Pawn	Pawn	
LIFE	Magic Beyond Words				Vanished, Beth		How I Met	How I Met	Chris Chris	
MTV	True Life		True Life		Teen Wolf		Teen Wolf		True Life	
NICK	Family	My Wife	Lopez	Lopez	70s Show	70s Show	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez Lopez	
SCI	Eureka		Warehouse 13		Alphas		Eureka		Warehouse 13	
SPIKE	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Conan		Lopez Tonight	
TCM	Romance-Seas				Luxury Liner					
TLC	Cooking	Cooking	Cooking	Cooking	Surprise Homecoming		Cooking	Cooking	Cooking	Cooking
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		No Reservation		No Reservation		No Reservation	
TV LAND	AllFamily	AllFamily	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	The Nanny			
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		Mann v. Fobd				Up in the Air		Going	
MAX	Face/Off	Just Married			Sex and the City 2				Voyeur	
SHOW	Twil: Eclipse				Weeds	The Big C	Weeds	The Big C	The Real L Word	