

Weather



National Weather Service Freeze Watch

Tonight: Widespread frost after 1 a.m. Otherwise, mostly clear, with a low around 26. Northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Thursday: Widespread frost before 10 a.m. Otherwise, sunny, with a high near 61. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 37. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming west.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 72. North wind around 5 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 41.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 42.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 70.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 44.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 73.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 43.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny and breezy, with a high near 59.

Monday: High, 55; Low 33
Tuesday: High, 58; Low 30
Precip: Monday 0.19 inches
Tuesday None
Month: 2.72 inches
Year: 19.19 inches
Normal: 17.78 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Charges filed in Decatur murder

From "MURDER," Page 1

Jeff Wagaman, deputy chief of staff with the state attorney general's office, said county officials had asked the attorney general to take the case and the office has accepted. Nicole Romine, an assistant attorney general newly stationed in Goodland, will lead the prosecution. Coryell's next court appearance is at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28.

The community was in shock Monday as the news spread. Cook, 22, graduated from Security Forces Technical School in Texas at the beginning of the month.

His father Todd Cook said his son was part of the 823rd Special Tactics Unit out of Moody Air Force Base in Georgia. He had been at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio for school, graduated and was on his way to Georgia. His dad said he had two weeks to get there and had come home for a visit.

Cook graduated from Decatur Community High School in 2007 and is remembered with kind words from his friends, family and others.

"Corey was such a special person," said Ron Jansonius, technology coordinator for the Oberlin schools, who worked with the young man for several years and considers himself a friend. "I always cherished the time we spent together."

"I cannot find the words to fittingly describe him, his character, his integrity, his willingness to help others, his love and compassion, his loyalty, his spirit, his determination and his desire to do the right thing."

Cook was hired as a summer helper on July 19, 2004, Mr. Jansonius said. He worked the summers of 2004 and 2005 and his junior year, 2006, began helping during the school year under the work-study program. Mr. Cook continued work-study and summer work through graduation in

May 2007, then during the summers of 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Classmates remember Corey as a friend who was always there for them.

"Corey was a great friend to me," said Chet Ely. "I have a lot of great memories of he and I hunting, fishing and just hanging out when we had nothing else to do."

"He was always there when something was wrong and I needed someone to talk to. Corey was like the brother I never had. Rest in peace, Corey."

You will be greatly missed."

A 24-hour-a-day prayer and preaching vigil is set to begin at 3 p.m. Sunday at The Gateway in Oberlin and will last as long as there are preachers to lead anyone wanting to pray. Organizer John Paulson said he hopes the vigil will last a week.

"People have been praying for a revival (in Oberlin)," he said, "and maybe this is how the Lord is starting it."

If you can lead at least one hour of prayer, call Paulson at (785) 386-8635.

Briefly

Sign up at office for Genesis food basket

Genesis-Thomas County is again planning to help Thomas County families during the holidays. Families in need who are interested in receiving a food basket should pick up a form at the food bank office, 350 S. Range, Suite 13, on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. or call 460-7930 and leave a message. Applications are due by Thursday, Nov. 10.

Colby Diplomats to hold luncheon in November

The Colby Diplomats are inviting local women to the annual Fall Luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at the Thomas County 4-H Building. Tickets are \$12. RSVP to the Chamber of Commerce office at 460-3401 by Tuesday, Nov. 1.

Driver's License Station closing for two days

The Colby Driver's License Station will close for staff training today and Thursday. The station will open again Friday. For information, call 462-3620.

Master gardeners to teach composting

Thomas County Master Gardeners Duane Cheney will speak about garden composting basics at 7 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H Building. There is no cost to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Sacred Heart auction planned for Saturday

The 14th Annual Sacred Heart Parish Auction will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday at City Limits Convention Center. Tickets are \$30 each or \$220 for a table of eight. Auction items have been donated by local people and businesses. A preview of the items will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday at City Limits. For information or tickets, call the church rectory at 462-2179.

'Jass' band to play at American Legion club

The Original Wildcat Jass Band will perform at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the American Legion club. The six-member band plays traditional New Orleans- and Chicago-style jazz. Cost will be \$10 at the door, with half the proceeds going to the Legion. For information, call 462-3809.

Grade school musical set for next week

Colby Grade School second graders will perform "Temples and Tombs" a musical about Egypt at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the grade school auditorium. There is no cost to attend. For information, call music instructor Jennifer Koel at 460-5100.

Kiwanis to serve pancakes on Oct. 27

The Colby Kiwanis Club will hold a pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars post, 220 Lake Ave.

National commander visits Colby Legion

From "LEGION," Page 1

of work, he said, it's important that the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs do not cut programs that deal with retraining or job placement.

Wong said he was told by the senators that the Legion had nothing to worry about, but that morning he heard that the leader of the Senate veterans affairs committee, Patty Murray, had sent a letter to the Super Committee offering to make cuts. Wong said he didn't know what those cuts are. The Legion and other veterans groups put together a list of possible reductions to recommend if necessary, and Wong said he hoped it was that list.

Wong was asked if the United States is doing an adequate job of taking care of wounded veterans.

"This war has changed a lot of the thinking," he said. "In the past we didn't have the advanced medicine we have now. We're saving more lives, which is good."

Wong said he visited Fort Riley on Monday and saw the special barracks built there for the wounded soldier transition program.

"The Army is spending a lot to care for these people," he said. "I can't tell if it's enough. We owe it to them to do everything we can."

Michael Tubbs asked Wong what budget the Legion has to help soldiers with post traumatic stress disorder. Wong said the Legion serves more as

a watchdog, making sure the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs are doing the right things. The Legion has an ad hoc committee, he said, that looks at different treatments and aims to make sure military facilities are using whatever treatment would be most effective with each soldier, rather than a one size fits all approach.

Wong was asked if the United States should reinstate the draft.

"That's a question above my pay grade," Wong said, but went on to offer his personal opinion.

Wong volunteered for the Army in 1960s, and in the 70s when the military shifted to an all-volunteer force, he had his doubts. However, he said, it's become clear to him that a volunteer military works unless there's a world war situation where a lot of manpower is needed.

"I don't believe we'll go back to that," he said.

Looking at history, he said, the United States has actually preferred not to use a draft. Before and after the world wars, Korea and Vietnam, the military was all volunteer.

"We're still manning out force adequately," he said, "but if recruitment and retention start falling and we get into a big conflict, we may need it."

Wong said he had a feeling the draft is gone for good, but agreed that it would be good to have every young person serve in the military.

"It would change a lot of outlooks," he said.

Dairy planning multiple expansions

From "DAIRY," Page 1

County. After the meeting, Steele said there is a verbal agreement in place with the state, who will fully reimburse Thomas County for contractor fees incurred.

Commissioners are requesting contracts be ready for approval at the meeting on Monday, Oct. 31.

In addition to the road improvements in front of the dairy, Ken McCarty said they are also building a new barn at the Rexford dairy and have begun other building projects in Scott City and Bird City. He said their goal is to start milking in Scott City by Nov. 15.

"We are expecting between 13 and 16 new jobs in Rexford, 23 in Scott City, and 3 to 5 new employees in Bird City," said McCarty.

Many of the new jobs will be for administrative, office and bookkeeping positions, he said.

During the meeting, the commissioners also discussed a proposal from Stockton Restoration Company for improvements and maintenance of the courthouse. Verification is needed to ensure that work done on the building will comply with requirements set by the Kansas Historical Society.

Thomas County Attorney Kevin Berens was present to give legal opinion on the proposal. He recommended that some changes be made with more detailed information included. Specifically, the company needs to confirm payment installment amounts and verify understanding of an encumbrance statement.

Renovations will include work on some of the outside stairways and limestone work on the exterior.

In other business:

Commissioners discussed with Berens and Clair Schrock, with the road and bridge department, about how to proceed

Drought taking toll on reservoirs

From "DROUGHT," Page 1

this could cause problems going into next summer and fall.

Other reservoirs in southern Kansas are also low due to the drought, including Cheney, El Dorado, Elk City, Fall River and Toronto.

Lewis said low water levels created conditions that allowed large and intense blue-green algae blooms at 55 state waterways in 2011. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment posted warnings and advisories restricting access to the lakes because of the potential health risk to humans and their pets.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table with columns for Thursday Evening (October 20, 2011) and Friday Evening (October 21, 2011). Rows list various TV channels and their programming schedules.

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