

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE
Last Thursday
1:21 a.m. – Loud party complaint. Spoke with subjects.
1:52 a.m. – Assisted sheriff’s office unit at Country Club and College with waiting for Wagons.
2:20 a.m. – Report of subjects being loud at Colby House. Spoke with subjects.
2:32 a.m. – Caller reported her vehicle taken by subject from the college. No report.
5:42 a.m. – Security check at Walmart.
7:26 a.m. – Stalled vehicle at Franklin and College Drive. All OK; provided ride to get fuel.
8:31 a.m. – Caller advised subject assaulted another. Report filed.
9:33 a.m. – Caller advised semi ran stop sign at Horton and Range; headed eastbound on I-70. Not found.
4:24 p.m. – Caller reported stolen items. Report filed.
11:38 p.m. – Caller reported being harassed by text.
Friday
3:15 a.m. – Walk-through at Walmart.
8:56 a.m. – Employee at 100 E. College Drive reported pickup with flat tire in parking lot for about two weeks. All OK; owner contacted to get it moved.
10:44 a.m. – Removed large piece of roofing material from roadway in the 1000 block of E. Fourth.
10:44 a.m. – Removed large box from roadway in the 1800 block S. Franklin.
12:22 p.m. – Probation officer needed an officer at his office at 300 N. Court. Report filed.
1:02 p.m. – Subject came to station with a fix-it warning ticket from Nebraska. Checked; all OK.
1:40 p.m. – All OK with two transients checked at Range and Horton.
11:26 p.m. – Check at Twisters.
Saturday
3:35 a.m. – Clerk called about suspicious subject outside. Not found.
4:05 a.m. – Clerk called about suspicious subject, possibly the one from earlier. Not the same subject; he checked OK.
10:17 a.m. – Assisted motorist who slid off roadway.
10:25 a.m. – Assisted motorist who slid off road way at 1100

block of Range southbound.
11:01 a.m. – Report filed for obstruction.
12:36 p.m. – Arrest made on warrant out of Indiana.
1:08 p.m. – Assisted motorist who slid off roadway on southbound Range.
1:08 p.m. – Assisted motorist who slid off roadway at Horton and Range.
1:44 p.m. – Accident in the college parking lot.
2:26 p.m. – Assisted motorist who slid off roadway on southbound K-25.
3:02 p.m. – Assisted motorist who slid off roadway at 1990 S Range.
3:07 p.m. – Assisted motorist who slid off roadway at Grant and Summit.
8:28 p.m. – Helped ambulance crew on call.
10:23 p.m. – Loud noise complaint at 770 Dylan Drive. Spoke to subjects; all OK; no loud noises heard.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF
Last Thursday
12:10 a.m. – Caller reported a semi all over the road at eastbound I-70 mile 57.
1:27 a.m. – Several types of alarms going off at 1945 County Rd. 21. Colby Police busy on another call. Everything OK.
1:44 a.m. – Motor vehicle-fixed object-noninjury accident: caller advised of poles, lines and debris on the roadway in the 2000 block of E. College. Report filed; Wagoner’s towed vehicle; Midwest notified.
4:18 a.m. – Booked Dalton K. Paul.
1:28 p.m. – Civil forfeiture: report filed for Highway Patrol’s drug traffic stop at eastbound I-70 mile 46.
2:02 p.m. – Took two inmates for housing to Rawlins County Sheriff’s Office.
5:06 p.m. – Caller reported a wood in roadway at westbound U.S. 24 mile 61. Unable to locate.
6:23 p.m. – Welfare check on an individual in Brewster.
Friday
10:03 a.m. – Callers reported malnourished horses in the area of 2200 block County Rd. F. Spoke to owner; everything OK; just rescued horses from Colorado.
11:24 a.m. – Caller reported his wife’s car was struck by some

rock roadway material that came out of the back of a service truck in the 900 block of U.S. 83. Spoke to reporting party, no report.
11:29 a.m. – Booked Ricky Lee Jennings.
12:51 p.m. – Released Jennings.
1:04 p.m. – Booked Timothy John Towey.
2:15 p.m. – Booked Ascencion Mota.
3 p.m. – Booked Leodegario Batalla.
6:39 p.m. – Released Dalton Kyle Paul.
8:01 p.m. – Vehicle hit animal on U.S. 83 west of the McCarty Dairy.
9:15 p.m. – Stacey Allen Deufriend arrested on warrant.
11:13 p.m. – Caller reported he hit dog U.S. 24 100 yards east of city limits. No report, tried to locate owner.

Saturday
8:45 a.m. – Assisted motorist who slid off at I-70 westbound mile 58.
9:20 a.m. – Assisted motorist who slid off at I-70 eastbound mile 56.
9:51 a.m. – Assisted semi that jackknifed on I-70 eastbound mile 52.
10:42 a.m. – Assisted motorist who slid off at I-70 westbound mile 53.5.
10:42 a.m. – Assisted motorist who slid off at I-70 westbound mile 53.
10:45 a.m. – Assisted motorist who slid off at I-70 westbound mile 52.5.
11:34 a.m. – Vehicle accident at K-25 mile 198.5.
12:22 p.m. – Assisted numerous motorists who slid off on I-70 west of Colby.
12:31 p.m. – Booked Joshua A. Huff.
5:44 p.m. – Booked Charles Edward Jones.
5:51 p.m. – Booked Michael Lynn Sessa.
5:54 p.m. – Booked Cedric Laddon Aldridge.
5:59 p.m. – Booked Andrea Marie Brown.
10:38 p.m. – Caller reported semi stuck across entire roadway in the 1500 block of County Rd. 2. McB’s pulled semi out.
11:03 p.m. – Highway Patrol dispatcher advised of a slide off at mile 66. Unable to locate.

Atwood entrepreneur takes action on weather

By Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development

“Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it,” said Mark Twain. Yes, we all feel the impact of the weather. Today we’ll meet an innovative private meteorologist who is providing weather-related services to rural Kansas.
Chris Sramek is owner and meteorologist at Decision Weather in Atwood. Sramek grew up on the family farm near Atwood. He was studying computer science at Fort Hays State when he visited Boulder, Colo. While there he visited the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and one might say he was “blown away” by what he saw there. The cutting edge technology and weather analysis was very impressive.
“I knew this was what I wanted to do,” Sramek said. On the same trip, he took a personality test which suggested that he was not cut out to be a computer programmer. So Sramek decided to make a change and transferred to the University of Nebraska where he graduated in meteorology.
He took a position with a private meteorology firm in Kansas City and worked there seven years, but he really wanted to get back closer to the farm and family in Rawlins County. In spring 2001, Sramek made the move back to Atwood where he established his own meteorology firm called Decision Weather and got involved with his hometown.
“The folks in Kansas City told me, ‘You’re the first radio-TV weather personality that we’ve had that’s gone the other way,’” Sramek said. “Most of them are coming from small towns and trying to move into larger markets.” After all, Atwood is a community of 1,258 people.
But Sramek could see how the technology was changing to enable electronic communication, and he wanted to use the technology to benefit agriculture. He set up Decision Weather to provide personalized weather forecasts and weather consulting to individuals and all types of businesses, such as agriculture, construction, radio, transportation, public works and roads, education, aviation, recreation, and public utilities.
For the first two years, Sramek operated from an

office in his home. Then he rented space downtown, and in 2006 Decision Weather purchased the building where they operate today. Decision Weather utilizes a fully staffed state-of-the-art weather lab equipped with a broadcast studio, high-speed Internet, and multiple weather stations. He’s done weather reports for communities from Salina to Fort Morgan, Colo., but now focuses on his core region.
Sramek does the weather forecast on the radio stations in Colby and Goodland and provides private weather consulting services for his various clients. At first, most of his clients were businesses like construction companies and golf courses, but the age side of his business has grown so much that farmers make up most of his clients today.
For example, his clients might receive a daily e-mail or text with the weather report. Then when they get into a busy farming or construction season, they might consult with Sramek about weather conditions – such as if they are preparing to pour concrete or spray a field.
The name “Decision Weather” is fitting, because his weather reports and analyses help his clients decide on how to plan their outdoor work. If a farmer needs to spray for weeds or pests, for example, Decision Weather provides key information on wind speed and direction so as to make sure that nearby fields are not affected.
“I’m not necessarily just delivering the weather anymore,” Sramek said. “My job is more consulting with people and helping them interpret what they see.”
For information, go to www.decisionweather.com.
“Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.” Yes, weather affects all of us, but this entrepreneurial Kansan has found a way to build a business of serving agriculture and consulting on the weather. We commend Sramek for making a difference by bringing his expertise back to rural Kansas.
And there’s more. Remember that Sramek got involved when he moved back to his hometown? He ended up leading an initiative which is transforming his community.
For information about the Huck Boyd Institute, visit www.huckboydinstitute.org.

Hoxie businessman to head Kansas Masonic Foundation

The Kansas Masonic Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Kansas Masons, has announced the election of Wes Bainter of Hoxie as president.
Bainter had been serving as executive vice president since April 2010 and was first elected as a Trustee on the Kansas Masonic Foundation’s Board on March 2004.
Since 1974 the foundation has been a part of cancer research at the University of Kansas Cancer Center. The research arm of the cancer center has been named the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research

Institute. The foundation also has been instrumental in assisting the center in achieving Nation Cancer Institute designation as a comprehensive cancer center, a status for which they applied in September.
“I am humbled at being given the opportunity to lead this Foundation,” said Bainter. “This foundation was built on the principals of Kansas Masons with a long history of ‘Service to All Mankind’. I am anxious to continue our work with the cancer center and our support of its programs such as patient navigation through the Midwest Cancer Alliance.”

Bainter owns businesses in Hoxie, Bainter Construction Services LLC, and Bainter Sunflower Oil LLC. He has served as Master of Hoxie Lodge and is currently the treasurer.
The Kansas Masonic Foundation was established in 1966 to expand philanthropy in the fields of charitable, educational and scientific programs. They chose the fight against cancer as their top priority because of the destructive toll that it takes on individuals, families and society as a whole.
For information visit kmfonline.org or call (785) 357-7646.

Texas man rescued from his own chimney

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) – Fire officials say a Texas man who had to be rescued from the chimney of his house wasn’t trying to be Santa Claus. He was just locked out of his house.
Fire officials say they had to hoist the 22-year-old man by rope from the chimney of his house in southwest Lubbock Nov. 28.
Deputy Fire Marshal Robert Loveless tells the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* (<http://bit.ly/sb4ZID>)

that the man and his family were locked out of their house. Loveless says the man, wanting to save the price of a locksmith, decided to enter the house through the chimney as his wife and child waited outside around 1 a.m. Monday.
Loveless says the man’s wife called 911 after he became stuck. Firefighters hauled him out about an hour later. He was not injured.

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