

Weather



National Weather Service High Wind Watch

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 30. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54. Windy, with a west wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 30 and 35 mph. Winds could gust as high as 50 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 20. Blustery, with a northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

New Year's Day: Sunny, with a high near 40. Breezy, with a northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 15.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 41.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 24.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 52.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 53.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 30.

Precip: Month: 0.67 inches
Year: 20.23 inches
Normal: 20.65 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset

Saturday 8:04 a.m. 5:30 p.m.
Moon: waxing, 45 percent

Sunday 8:04 a.m. 5:31 p.m.
First quarter Moon at 12:15 a.m.

Monday 8:04 a.m. 5:32 p.m.
Moon: waxing, 64 percent

Tuesday 8:04 a.m. 5:33 p.m.
Moon: waxing, 73 percent

Wednesday 8:05 a.m. 5:34 p.m.
Moon: waxing, 81 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Pool, fires are top stories of 2011

From "STORIES," Page 1

cility. Front office hours did not change.

The Postal Service wasn't through with its changes though. Just one day before processing was closed down in Colby, the service revealed it was looking at consolidating all processing in Kansas – including Salina – to Wichita. The service was also looking at sending Colby's mail to Denver.

Another public meeting was held, and the proposal met with even stiffer local resistance – and outrage in some cases – than before. Citizens expressed concerns about the proposed two- to three-day delivery standard, the economic impact on local people and businesses and whether or not the service was ignoring their concerns.

Colby received a break, though, when the service announced it would not make any more closure decisions until next year, allowing Congress time to try and find a solution.

Colby got a new mayor and several more new public officials this year.

Army veteran, author and all-around Colby cheerleader Gary Adrian was elected mayor in the April municipal elections. He won by 68 votes over City Councilman Dave Voss, who was later chosen as council president.

Joining the council were new members Mike Hake from Ward II and Stan Schmidt from Ward III. Hake edged out Josh Faber by just two votes. That election was the only one with a small enough margin to be affected by the 26 provisional ballots that were counted several days after the election. However, only two of those ballots were from Ward II, with Hake and Faber each picking up one, Hake was confirmed as a newly-elected councilman.

Patrick Mallory and Fred Taylor were also re-elected to the council.

Nick Wells, Colby Community College Endowment Foundation director, was elected to the college board of trustees. Arlen Leiker and Dale Herschberger



Documentary filmmaker Jay Kriss directed local citizens in downtown Colby while shooting scenes for his upcoming movie "Harvesting the High Plains."

were re-elected.

Angela Gaede and Brice Barton were elected to the Colby School Board replacing Kevan Taylor and Stan Molstad. Omaer Weber and Ed Geihlsler were re-elected.

With the help of grants, donors, challenges and good old-fashioned community involvement, the Colby Walking Trail made significant steps this year.

It began to pick up a lot of steam in April when farm operator Lon Frahm donated \$25,000 and issued a challenge to the city. If people donated or raised \$25,000, he would match it with another donation. Colby rose to the challenge, raising more than \$31,000 in just three weeks.

Since then the trail committee has been busy working up plans and securing more grants. The plan is to have Phase One be a loop north of the Colby Aquatic Center. Another loop will go around the pool. The new sidewalk on College Drive is also considered part of the trail, which will eventually circle around and through Colby Community College.

The drought that afflicted the southwest part of Kansas was seemingly hit or miss in Thomas County. The county had a dry spring, often experiencing less than half of the moisture it normally gets. Hot, dry weather in the summer also caused the wheat crop to mature more quickly in some places.

The wheat crop still looked promising and while it did not match last year's bumper crop, it was not as bad as it could have been.

The corn crop could have been the largest since 1933, however successive hail storms ruined many fields. Some were total losses while many were cut for silage. When harvest rolled around, yields and quality varied around the county.

At various times, the county has been under drought watches and disaster declarations.

However, the area ended the year just half an inch under the normal amount of precipitation: 20.65 inches.

The farming difficulties made for an interesting coincidence when a film crew came to town

in July. The crew was making a documentary on harvesting in Thomas County during the Dust Bowl in the 1930s and used local people and vehicles for some scenes. The documentary, "Harvesting the High Plains," will open next year.

Colby won \$100,000 toward an energy improvement project at the conclusion of the Take Charge Challenge.

Colby beat Goodland, Wa-Keeney, Oakley and Hoxie to claim the prize. Throughout the year, the Take Charge Leadership Committee held events to try and get people to conserve energy. The committee handed out compact fluorescent light bulbs at a kickoff breakfast in January, educated people on recycling and conservation at events in August and at a final pancake breakfast in September. They also had booths at events around town like the college welcome party and the Drive One 4UR School fund raiser.

The money will go toward replacing street lights with LEDs and getting new LED Christmas lights.

Briefly

Pets available at clinic for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has male black and white 5-month-old and 4-month-old kittens, a male gray tiger-striped de-clawed kitten, a female tabby/calico 5-month-old kitten and a neutered male white and tan corgi 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.

Landfill to close

The landfill will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The landfill will be closed Sunday and Monday and reopen at 9 a.m. Tuesday. For information, call 462-8139.

Sanitation schedule to change for holidays

The City of Colby Sanitation Department will not be working on Monday. Trucks will pick up Monday's residential trash route on Tuesday. Have your tipper can to the curb by 8 a.m. For information, call the Public Works Department at (785) 460-4420.

Booster club to have potato bar before game

The Colby High School Booster Club will have a baked potato bar from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Colby Community Building. The bar will coincide with the Colby High basketball games against Goodland.

Have lunch at library and hear a book review

Booked for Lunch will be at noon Thursday at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The book review will be by Carol Rahn discussing "God's Little Secrets." For information call 460-4470.

Hospital plans childbirth classes

Citizens Medical Center will offer a four weeks of childbirth classes from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursdays starting Jan. 5 in the hospital conference room. Women due to deliver before May should attend with their labor support partner. The next classes will begin in April. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown at the hospital Education Department, (785) 460-4850.

Knights of Columbus to hold shooting contest

The Colby Knights of Columbus will hold its annual free throw contest at 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, in the Colby Grade School gym. The contest is open to boys and girls aged 10 to 14 as of Jan. 1. Proof of age is required. Doors open at noon and the contest begins at 1 p.m. Winners advance to the district contest. For information, call Dewey Augustine at 443-1548 or 460-2924.

Hope and uncertainty over Medicaid proposal

From "MEDICAID," Page 1

government's biggest annual expenditures. They say they're nervous because they're uncertain about how the changes will play out, particularly because Medicaid would be managed through private contractors.

The talk of change also is likely to make some Kansans covered by Medicaid uneasy. Jennifer Masenthin, a 29-year-old mother of three in Quenemo, a town of 400 about 35 miles southeast of Topeka, is grateful for the coverage Medicaid provides for her family. Her husband is a part-time farm worker, and she cares for their three young children, taking her oldest, a 9-year-old girl, to the Kansas City area for treatment of a disorder that has her body producing too much insulin.

"I've got something that is working well," she said of their Medicaid coverage. "You shouldn't have to stress."

But state officials consider the current Medicaid program a source of financial stress as it covers health care for about 330,000 Kansans. Annual expenditures now approach \$2.8 billion, and Brownback's administration projects they'll exceed \$4 billion by 2017, without considering changes imposed by the federal overhaul of the health care system.

States are preparing for an expansion of Medicaid under the 2010 federal health care law championed by President Barack Obama, while worrying that because of its budget problems, the federal government will back off its traditional commitment to cover about 60 percent of Medicaid costs.

Kansas Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, a surgeon and former state senator who led the task force drafting the plan, said Brownback, who took office in January, wants to avoid such decisions in the future.

"Give me a better option," Colyer said. "I don't see how cutting rates or cutting people off the system gets us better results."

Brownback's administration plans to have three private companies administer Medicaid statewide, with recipients choosing among the firms' plans. The state already has two private contractors administering health coverage for poor and working-class families with children, but Brownback's overhaul would pull in coverage of the disabled and elderly.

Bids from prospective contractors are due Jan. 31. The administration said three-year contracts, which start in 2013, will include goals, such as moving mentally ill and disabled Kansans into jobs, providing comprehensive care for diabetes and integrating physical and mental health care. The plan also is designed to ensure that Medicaid clients have a medical "home" and coordination among different providers.

LOCAL TV Listings

Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

| Monday Evening | | | | | | | | | | January 2, 2012 | |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--|
| | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 | |
| KAKE/ABC | The Bachelor | | | | Celebrity Wife Swap | | Local | Nightline | Jimmy Kimmel Live | | |
| KBSL/CBS | How I Met | 2 Broke G | Two Men | Mike | Hawaii Five-0 | | Local | Late Show Letterman | | Late | |
| KSNK/NBC | Still Standing | | Fear Factor | | Rock Center | | Local | Tonight Show w/Leno | | Late | |
| KSAS/FOX | House | | | | Local | | | | | | |
| Cable Channels | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A & E | Hoarders | | Hoarders | | Intervention | | Intervention | | Hoarders | | |
| AMC | CSI: Miami | | CSI: Miami | | CSI: Miami | | The Killing | | CSI: Miami | | |
| ANIM | Finding Bigfoot | | Finding Bigfoot | | Gator Boys | | Finding Bigfoot | | Finding Bigfoot | | |
| BRAVO | Real Housewives | | Real Housewives | | Brad World | | Real Housewives | | Brad World | | |
| CMT | The Singing Bee | | The Singing Bee | | The Singing Bee | | The Singing Bee | | The Singing Bee | | |
| CNN | Anderson Cooper 360 | | Piers Morgan Tonight | | Anderson Cooper 360 | | E. B. OutFront | | Piers Morgan Tonight | | |
| COMEDY | Work. | South Pk | Sunny | Sunny | Sunny | Sunny | Sunny | Sunny | South Pk | South Pk | |
| DISC | Moonshiners | | Moonshiners | | Moonshiners | | Moonshiners | | Moonshiners | | |
| DISN | Wizards | Spy Kids | | | Austin | Jessie | Good Luck | Good Luck | Wizards | Wizards | |
| E! | Kourtney and Kim | | Celebrity Slimdowns | | Scouted | | Chelsea | Celebrity Slimdowns | Chelsea | | |
| ESPN | Rose Bowl | 2012 Fiesta Bowl | | | | | | | Postgame | SportsCtr | |
| ESPN2 | SportsCenter | | SportsCenter | | | | SportsCenter | | NFL PrimeTime | | |
| FAM | Pretty Little Liars | | The Lying Game | | Pretty Little Liars | | The 700 Club | | The Lying Game | | |
| FOOD | Diners | Diners | Diners | Diners | Diners | Diners | Diners | Diners | Diners | Diners | |
| FX | Wild Hogs | | | | | Wild Hogs | | | | | |
| HGTV | Love It or List It | | Love It or List It | | House | Hunters | HGTV Dream Home 20 | | Love It or List It | | |
| HIST | Pawn | | American Pickers | | Pawn | | American Pickers | | American Pickers | | |
| LIFE | The Perfect Teacher | | | | A Perfect Murder | | | | The Perfect Teacher | | |
| MTV | Ridic. | Ridic. | Ridic. | Ridic. | Jackass 3.5 | | | | Jackass 3.5 | | |
| NICK | My Wife | My Wife | 70s Show | 70s Show | George | George | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | |
| SCI | Serenity | | Outlander | | | | | | Mutant Chronicles | | |
| 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 One Hour Best | Office | Office | | |
| TCM | Portrait of Jennie | | | Farmers Dghtr. | | | | | The Steel Trap | | |
| TLC | Cake Boss:Next | | Cake Boss:Next | | Candy | Candy | Cake Boss:Next | | Cake Boss:Next | | |
| TNT | The Mentalist | | The Mentalist | | The Closer | | The Closer | | CSI: NY | | |
| TOON | Adventure | MAD | King-Hill | King-Hill | Amer. Dad | Amer. Dad | Fam. Guy | Fam. Guy | Chicken | Aqua Teen | |
| TRAV | The Layover | | The Layover | | No Reservation | | Hidden City | | The Layover | | |
| TV LAND | Home Imp. | Home Imp. | Raymond | Raymond | Raymond | Raymond | Raymond | King | King | King | |
| USA | NCIS | | WWE Monday Night RAW | | | | Underworld | | | | |
| VH1 | Love & Hip Hop | | T.I.-Tiny | Love & Hip Hop | | T.I.-Tiny | Love & Hip Hop | | T.I.-Tiny | Hip Hop | |
| WGN | Funniest Home Videos | | Funniest Home Videos | | WGN News at Nine | | 30 Rock | Scrubs | Scrubs | Sunny | |
| Premium Channels | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HBO | Unknown | | | | It's Complicated | | | | Hall Pass | | |
| MAX | RoboCop 2 | Lottery Ticket | | | Cape Fear | | | | Lady Chatterley | | |
| SHOW | Freakonomics | | Casino Jack | | | | | | The Company Men | | |

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All Christmas items on sale

- Santas
- Nativities
- Angels
- Cards
- Room Decor

PALACE DRUG STORE

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