

# Weather



**National Weather Service**  
**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 13. Blustery, with a west wind 15 to 25 mph decreasing to 5 to 15 mph after midnight.

**Friday:** A 20 percent chance of snow after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 37. West wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north in the afternoon.

**Friday Night:** A slight chance of flurries before 9 p.m. Mostly cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly clear, with a low around 16. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming west after midnight.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 53. West wind 5 to 15 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 23.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 60.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.

**Washington's Birthday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 42. Breezy.

**Monday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 20.

**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 42.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 23.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. Breezy.

Wednesday: High, 46; Low 19  
 Precip: Wednesday None  
 Month: 0.26 inches  
 Year: 0.42 inches  
 Normal: 0.51 inches  
 (K-State Experiment Station)  
**Sunrise and Sunset**  
 Friday 7:36 a.m. 6:21 p.m.  
 Moon: waxing, 30 percent  
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

# County discusses dispatch service

From "COUNTY," Page 1

prohibit local governments from providing services out of their area. He sent an e-mail to state representative Ward Cassidy about the bill.

Cassidy said he gave written and oral testimony against the bill on Tuesday.

"There are several proponents, but my guess is that it won't go forward," he said, "but I've been there long enough to know that it's never over 'til it's over."

In other business:

- The commissioners signed off on two one-year contracts for computer services. Manatron Inc., a Portage, Mich., software company, will rent AS400 software to the county treasurer's and appraiser's offices for \$1,745. County Clerk Shelly Harms asked if the money should come out of the general fund or the treasurer's and appraiser's budgets, and Commissioner Byron Sowers said it should come out of the budgets for those departments.

The other contract was for help with geographic information software from R&S

Digital Services of Great Bend. Harms said that Cathy Cunningham, who is working at the appraiser's office, agreed to work with the company as project administrator.

- The City of Colby was paid \$500 rent for the Law Enforcement Training Center, \$20,000 for the Emergency Management Hazmat Contract, \$135,684 for the 2013 communications contract, which is split between the city and county, and \$1,300 for the lease fee on a tower west of town.

- The accounts-payable warrant register, which came to a total of \$43,940, was approved.

- Shirley Weber, a program director for the Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group, sent an invitation to the county to continue to participate. Sowers, the county's representative to the group, agreed to keep participating. He said he knew of several counties that dropped out for budget reasons. The group handles water and related environmental issues.

- The commissioners heard budget reports for the sheriff and jail, with the sheriff getting a 2013 budget of \$555,272 and

the jail getting \$225,926 this year. Steele's notes show the sheriff getting \$602,273 and the jail getting \$276,076 last year. He said that those budgets do not carry over between years.

- Work reports for the noxious weed and road and bridge departments were reviewed. Work at the weed department included preparing an all-terrain vehicle for trade, helping the road department return a drill rig, sending a member to a meeting in Garden City and completing a management plan and road spraying contract for the state. The road department moved snow, cutting up trees and made signs, along with other work.

Steele added the department did a lot of work at the 4-H building, including adding insulation and sheetrock to save on heating and cooling bills.

"We've got a totally 'green' building now, commissioner," he told Sowers.

- The commissioners received a "Thank You" letter from the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature, for the county's donation of \$250.

# Music group wins two Grammy awards

From "GROUP," Page 1

mer. He joined too late to be part of the recording, which was done two years ago, but said the chorale is planning another one.

He described a chorale as a smaller singing group than a chorus, meant for a more intimate setting. He added that Charles Bruffy, artistic director for the group, constantly stops to correct the singers if they get too far off track.

"Our director holds us to a standard that no other choir holds, that not many other groups hold," he said. "He always stops us and says it matters if we get too far out of line."

He said there was no one mo-

ment when decided to pursue music, but instead, "it just kind of evolved that way."

"It's something that I have always loved and have always wanted to pursue, and now I'm able to do music at its highest level," he said.

He graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance with a Bachelor of Arts degree in music last spring, shortly before auditioning for the chorale. He graduated in 2008 from Butler Community College in El Dorado with an Associate Degree in physical education.

He said it took years of music classes, voice history lessons

and "fine tuning" to prepare for an audition, adding that he was exposed to music at an early age because of his mother's career as a music teacher.

"My mother has always been (involved in music)," he said, "so it's always been a big part of my life."

Stoppel's grandmother, Fran Smith, who lives in Colby, agreed that music has always been a part of the family's lives.

"He is just very engaging, likes people," Smith said of her grandson, "but sometime or other he would tell me, 'I just have to sing.'"

Smith said her daughter Sher- ee was born in here, moved to attend Kansas State University,

# Playwright, former manager gets probation

From "PLAYWRIGHT," Page 1

said Robert worked for him for five years. Bhakta said that he promoted him from night auditor to manager in early 2011, letting him take money from the Inn to the bank.

"A lot of the time he didn't to it," Bhakta said, "I have no clue what he did with it (the money)."

He added that he eventually found so many discrepancies that he fired Robert in November of that year.

Jodi Kobza, the only one at the Quality Inn who worked there at the same time as

Robert, said she did not want to comment.

May 19, 2010, which Robert said was his second day as manager, a fire started at the back of the hotel and was put out quickly, with no one injured.

Shortly before pleading guilty, he sent an announcement that his newest play, "The Absolutely True Story of Tom Sawyer as Told by Becky Thatcher," had been published by Heartland Plays Inc. He said the play was performed in Hill City in July 2011.

"He's fantastic," Bill Goodwin, an English teacher at Fowler High School, said after the plea agreement "He's a good friend

of mine and a very good playwright."

Goodwin said, that he did not ask for details at first after learning that Robert had been fired and did not know the full story until after his friend was arrested. His understanding was that Robert had wanted to pay Quality Inn restitution to make up for the thefts, and he said Robert was surprised when police showed up to arrest him.

Robert was a student at Colby Community College when they met about 18 years ago, Goodwin said. He added that they have been "writing buddies" ever since and that Robert has both performed in plays he wrote and written plays that he directed.

# Senate's top Democrat upset about Republican block

From "BLOCK," Page 1

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said he'll vote against ending debate on Hagel's nomination, and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and other Republicans may join

him, if the White House doesn't tell them whether Obama spoke to any Libyan government official about getting assistance during the assault on the American diplomatic mission in Benghazi. U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens

and three other Americans died in the raid last September.

McCain declined to say whether he would try to delay Hagel's confirmation if Obama did not provide an answer. "My position right now is I want an

answer to the question," he said.

The nomination of John Brennan as CIA director is also being delayed; the Senate Intelligence Committee is pushing off a vote amid demands that the White House turn over more details

about drone strikes against terror suspects and about the Benghazi attacks. Intelligence Committee Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein of California said a vote likely will be postponed till late February.



	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Harry Potter-Chamber									Local
KBSL/CBS	Person of Interest	Criminal Minds		48 Hours						Local
KSNK/NBC	Ninja Warrior	Chicago Fire		Saturday Night Live			Local		Saturday Night Live	
KSNK/FOX	NASCAR Racing						The Following		30S	Local

Sponsored by the

COLBY

# FREE PRESS

# LOCAL TV Listings

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Once Upon a Time		Revenge		Revenge for Real		Local			
KBSL/CBS	The Amazing Race		The Good Wife		The Mentalist		Local			
KSNK/NBC	Betty	Betty	SNL in the '90s				Local		Dateline NBC	
KSNK/FOX	Simpsons	Burgers	Fam. Guy	Amer. Dad	Local					

## American Profile

### We Celebrate Hometown Life

Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

HIST	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Road to Freedom			Pawn	Pawn
LIFE	Pastor Brown				Movie			Pastor Brown	
MTV	Catfish: The TV Show	Catfish: The TV Show	Catfish: The TV Show	Catfish: The TV Show	Catfish: The TV Show	Catfish: The TV Show			
NICK	Wendell	Marvin	Ninjas	Drake	The Nanny	The Nanny	Friends	Friends	Friends
SCI	Saw V		The Collector		The Hills Have Eyes				
SPIKE	Walking Tall				Walking Tall				Doom
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Cougar	Sullivan	
TCM	Ben-Hur								North by Northwest
TLC	Next Baker Ro	Cake Boss: Next Great Baker		Cake Boss	Next Baker Ro		Cake Boss:Next		
TNT	Tip-Off	NBA Basketball			Sir Charles at 50		Men in Black II		
TOON	Ice Age: Melt	Venture	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Cleveland	Dynamite	Boondocks	Bleach	Naruto
TRAV	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures
TV LAND	Cosby	Cosby	King	King	King	King	Curb	Curb	Curb
USA	NCIS				NCIS		Suits		NCIS
VH1	40 Greatest Pranks 3	Best Week	Jenny		Mob Wives		Jersey Shore		NCIS
WGN	Funniest Home Videos	Funniest Home Videos	Funniest Home Videos		WGN News at Nine		Bones		Bones

**Premium Channels**

HBO	The Lucky One	Beyoncé: Life Is but a Dream	Boxing		Sports
MAX	In Time	Banshee	Safe House		Girls Bed Banshee
SHOW	History, the Eagles	Twilight-Dawn		Lies	Californ. Shameless Californ.