

Weather



National Weather Service Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 17. North wind 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 43. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 19. West wind around 10 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 53. West wind 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 25.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 55.

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

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 53.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 25.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 54.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25.

Thursday: High 55; Low 9

Precip: Thursday None

Month: 0.02 inches

Year: 14.46 inches

Normal: 20.86 inches (K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset

Saturday 7:57 a.m. 5:22 p.m.

Moon: waxing, 94 percent

Sunday 7:57 a.m. 5:22 p.m.

Moon: waxing, 97 percent

Monday 7:58 a.m. 5:22 p.m.

Moon: waxing, 100 percent (U.S. Naval Observatory)

College financial reserves up

From "COLLEGE," Page 1

semester, about 60 percent, but only receives about 40 percent of its revenue then, causing a larger deficit at the start of the school year.

Overstreet said this is not uncommon for schools and other large institutions.

In November, the school's accounts payable totaled \$965,061, decreasing to \$712,125 in December.

As of its Nov. 6 report, the school was over 30 days behind in paying \$231,226 in bills, over 60 days behind in paying \$212,008 and over 90 days behind in paying \$322,674.

The Dec. 9 report showed a slight decrease in the overall accounts payable, with \$71,822 over 30 days behind, \$243,975 over 60 days behind and \$405,359 over 90 days behind.

The school paid out \$252,936 between Nov. 6 and Dec. 9, more than the \$196,000 expected to be paid in the school's cash flow forecast prepared by Waites.

According to that cash flow forecast, the school expects to receive \$1.45 million from county tax revenue, \$1.03 million from a state operating grant and \$365,000 from student tuition and fee payments in January.

Overstreet said the college's monthly operating expenses are budgeted at \$1.2 million plus she estimates an extra \$100,000 for unexpected expenses, or about 10 percent of the normal operating expenses.

Ideally, she said, the college would have a cash reserve fund of \$3.6 to 5 million, used to cover monthly operating expenses in months when income is lower than expenses. Schwanke said their accrediting agency encourages a cash reserve of at least two months' worth of expenses, or about \$2.42 million.

The school has long-term debt it must repay, too. Overstreet said the school owes about \$4.7 million for the Honeywell Energy Savings Project, about \$4.75 million for the northeast residence hall and about \$500,000 for the Bedker Memorial Complex.

Overall, Overstreet expects the school to receive enough money to cover its budgeted expenses for this fiscal year, which concludes on June 30. The school's budget is set at \$14,520,000 and will be readjusted for the next fiscal year.

"A budget is an estimate of expenses and in-

come during a specific time frame," said Overstreet. "It will not, however, capture, to the penny, unexpected or unintended expenses or activities."

The school technically will not know whether the current budget is unachievable until the fiscal year ends, she said.

Historically, cash flow is a problem in December, said Schwanke, emphasizing the issue is industry-wide, not just present in Colby.

Overstreet said she believes the school has made significant efforts to improve its cash flow, including monitoring operational priorities, moving to less expensive banking and insurance services, reevaluating the school's priorities before approving purchase orders, depositing cash receipts daily and initiating a more consistent billing process.

The school is also evaluating job vacancies to determine whether vacant positions should be filled, generating additional cost savings with unfilled positions.

Part of their focus, Overstreet said, includes external funding sources, such as drawing on money from grants and other external sources.

The school's state appropriations have decreased to \$2,040,000 in fiscal year 2014 from \$2,923,000 in 2008, with an additional 1.5 percent decrease expected for fiscal year 2015, said Schwanke.

The college's board and Vacik are in the midst of a fundraising campaign, called the Campaign for Change, said Overstreet, which may provide additional funds.

Schwanke said the school has also increased tuition and has asked for early payments of county tax revenues.

"The reason why we are working so diligently to improve our financial position is because we have confidence in the college and its mission," said Vacik. "There is still much work ahead, but if we actively pursue a sound financial strategy, there is no reason to believe that (the school) will not continue to serve the people of Thomas County and northwest Kansas well into the future."

Schwanke said the school has made significant progress since its low point in 2011.

"The community has been very supportive of our fund raising initiative," she said, "and the Endowment Foundation has agreed to match up to \$250,000 that we raise prior to Dec. 31."

Briefly

The deadline for Briefly is noon the day before. The deadline for Monday's paper is noon Friday.

Commodities to be given out here Monday

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Monday at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center at Fike Park. Distribution is first come, first served, but you may send a signed permission slip with another person. Bring a sack or box. For questions, call the office at 462-6744.

Help fill Christmas baskets for Genesis

Anyone interested in helping Genesis-Thomas County food bank fill Christmas baskets is welcome to come to the Thomas County 4-H Building on the fairgrounds at 7 p.m. tonight. Baskets will be distributed from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Saturday at the 4-H Building. For information, call Leisa Hansen at 443-0243.

Foundation needs grant applications

The Thomas County Community Foundation will accept applications for its fourth-quarter grant cycle until Tuesday, Dec. 31. Grant areas include children, education, literacy, cultural, senior citizen services, beautification and more. Go to www.thomascountycommunityfoundation.com for an application or call Executive Director Melinda Olson at 460-9152 if you have questions.

Tree of Hope supports area animal shelter

A Tree of Hope supporting the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter is at the Farmers and Merchants Bank. For a donation of \$10 toward providing homeless animals with food and shelter this winter, your pet or loved one's name can be on a keepsake magnet displayed on the tree. Call Angie Harris at 460-1078 for information.

Hear choir ring bells at Trinity on Saturday

"Ring Christmas" will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Fifth Street and Country Club. Come for an evening of Christmas music featuring Trinity's JuBellation handbell choir and friends from the Pride of the Prairie Orchestra. An offering will be taken for Genesis-Thomas County. For information, call Linda Pabst at 462-3497.

Once a Month Lunch coming up this week

Once a Month Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St. This free meal is served to all who come the second Saturday of each month. No reservations. Call the church office with questions at 462-6342.

Orchestra plans holiday concert Sunday

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will present "Many Merry Melodies," conducted by Andrew Salvador, at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College. The program includes a sing-a-long and gift drawing. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for students or patrons. For questions, call Mary Shoaff, 462-2159, or Janet Hopson, 462-5102.

Economic Development board to meet

The Thomas County Economic Development Alliance board will meet at 9 a.m. Thursday at the county office complex, 350 S. Range, Suite 12. For questions, contact Kayla Faus at 460-4511.

Food for Thought to feature Kansas writer

December's *Food for Thought* program will feature Kansas writer Joyce Thierer on "Our Land, Our Food" at noon next Thursday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin. Call the museum at 460-4590 for information.

Living Nativity scheduled for next weekend

A Living Nativity Scene in memory of Theron Johnson will be staged from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 20 and 21, at the Jane Johnson Ranch, 2626 K-25 (intersection with County Road Z). Hot cider and cookies will be provided and donations will be accepted for the Genesis-Thomas County food bank. For information, call Cade Carter at 462-7525.

Big Brothers needs clothing for 'littles'

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County's "Christmas for Kids" project runs through Saturday, Dec. 21. Get your name on a stocking at area businesses, including Dillons, F&M Bank, The Bank, Western State Bank, BankWest, Peoples State Bank and Farmer's Bank and Trust of Brewster. The angel tree at Orscheln's has the names of "littles" who need clothes. Bring gifts to the Colby United Methodist Church by Wednesday. For information, call Orvella Romine at 460-9125.

Christmas bird counts begin Saturday

It is that time of year - Christmas Bird Count season. From Saturday through the first week of January, families, scientists and bird enthusiasts will take part in bird counts across the U.S. in one of the best forms of citizen science.

During the count, volunteers in small groups count and record every bird they see on their assigned route. Results of these counts are used by scientists across the country for assessing conservation efforts and tracking overall health and population numbers of bird species. And Christmas bird counts are a great way for beginner bird watchers to learn from more experienced bird watchers.

About 40 Christmas counts are held annually across Kansas, including one Saturday at Cheyenne Bottoms. The area is a globally important stopover for thousands of migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. During the winter months, 148 species may winter in and around Cheyenne

Bottoms.

Raptors, such as northern harriers and rough-legged hawks hunt for rodents over the wetlands and grasslands, and many song birds, such as Harris's sparrows and white-crowned sparrows can be found in grasslands and adjacent wooded areas.

Cheyenne Bottoms is made up of the Nature Conservancy's Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve and Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism's Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area. Open to the public, it is an important area for conservation education, recreation and scientific research.

If you would like to participate in the Cheyenne Bottoms Christmas Bird Count, come out to the Kansas Wetlands Education Center, 10 miles northeast of Great Bend on K-156, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. All are welcome to attend, but participation for at least half of the day is recommended. A lunch will be provided to participants. Pre-registration is suggested. Call



DAVE BRYAN

The results of the Christmas bird counts are used by scientists across the country for tracking overall health and population numbers of bird species.

the Kansas Wetlands Education Center at (877) 243-9268 for information.

Anyone who wants to participate in the bird count on Saturday but doesn't want to drive quite so far can go to one in Hays instead. Greg Farly at Fort Hays State University is in

charge. Counters are to gather at 7:30 a.m. at the south entrance of Albertson Hall on the university campus. For information, contact Farly at gfarly@fhsu.edu. Other counts are listed at ksbirds.org.

RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Dr. Miller Cardiologist	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Dr. Sean Denney	11 Dr. Frankum Surgery	12	13	14
15	16	17 Dr. Miller Cardiologist	18 High Plains Cardiologist	19 Kirsten Angel Dietitian	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	27 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	28
29	30	31				

To schedule an appointment with a visiting physician,
PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211
Cheryl Banister, RN
Specialty Clinic Director

Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Monday Evening										December 16, 2013				
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30				
KAKE/ABC	Landing	Prep &	Light Fight				Local	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Nightline					
KBSL/CBS	How I Met	2 Broke G	Mike	Mom	Hostages		Local	Late Show Letterman	Ferguson					
KSNK/NBC	The Voice				The Sing-Off		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	J. Fallon					
KSAS/FOX	Almost Human		Ice Age	Dragons	Local									
Cable Channels														
A & E	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck Dynasty		Rodeo Girls		Duck D.	Duck D.				
AMC	Home Alone						Home Alone							
ANIM	Mermaids-Body				Mermaids: The New Evidence		Mermaids: The New Evidence							
BRAVO	Real Housewives	Vanderpump Rules	Real Housewives	Happens	Real Housewives	Vanderpump								
CMT	Grumpy Old Men			Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.								
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360	Piers Morgan Live	AC 360 Later	11th hour	ICYMI	Piers Morgan Live								
COMEDY	Futurama	Futurama	South Pk	South Pk	Daily	Colbert	South Pk	South Pk						
DISC	Fast N' Loud			Street Outlaws	Fast N' Loud									
DISN	Jessie	Good Luck	Phineas and Ferb	Jessie	ANT Farm	Good Luck	Jessie	Good Luck	Good Luck					
E!	E! News	Party On	Kardashian	Nene Leakes		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea						
ESPN	Countdown	NFL Football					SportsCenter							
ESPN2	30 for 30			Shorts	Shorts	SportCtr	Obermann	NBA						
FAM	The Santa Clause	The Santa Clause 2				Santa Clause 3								
FOOD	Guy's Grocery Games	Diners, Drive	Diners	Diners	Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive							
FX	Night at the Museum	Night-Smithsonian					The Mask							
HGTV	Love It or List It	Love It or List It	Hunters	Hunt Intl	Love It or List It	Love It or List It								
HIST	The Bible		Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	The Bible								
LIFE	Dear Secret Santa		Divas Cmas		Dear Secret Santa									
MTV	Generation Cryo	Generation Cryo	Generation Cryo	Generation Cryo	True Life									
NICK	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Friends	Friends	Friends						
SCI	The Bleeding	Black Christmas				Cirque Du Freak								
SPIKE	Man on Fire				GT Academy	The Guardian								
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan	Office	Conan					
TCM	O. Henry's			Meet John Doe										
TLC	Bigger & Batter	Bakery Boss	Best Fune	Best Fune	Bakery Boss	Best Fune	Best Fune	Best Fune	Best Fune					
TNT	Major Crimes	Major Crimes	Rizzoli & Isles		Major Crimes	Cold Justice								
TOON	Steven	Uncle Gra	Looney	Annoying	Fam. Guy	Rick	Fam. Guy	Cleveland	Chicken	Aqua Teen				
TRAV	Bizarre Foods	Bizarre Foods	Bizarre Foods	Gem Hunt	Bizarre Foods									
TV LAND	Andy Griffith Show	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	The King of Queens								
USA	WWF Monday Night RAW			White Collar		NCIS: Los Angeles								
VH1	T.I. and Tiny	Chrissy	Black Ink Crew	T.I. and Tiny	Chrissy	Black Ink Crew								
WGN	Funniest Home Videos	Funniest Home Videos	Funniest Home Videos	How I Met	Rules	Rules	Parks							
Premium Channels														
HBO	The Bourne Legacy	Beautiful Creatures		Getting On										
MAX	Kiss the	Rushmore		Safe House		Life-Top	Life-Top							
SHOW	Homeland	Masters of Sex	Homeland	Masters of Sex	Richard Pryor									