

Weather



National Weather Service
Tonight: A 20 percent chance of snow after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of snow before 11 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 44.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 22. North wind between 10 and 15 mph becoming calm.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 53. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain after midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 30.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 30.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 35.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 66.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 37.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 68.

Monday: High, 77; Low 28
Tuesday: High, 79; Low 33
Precip: Monday None
Tuesday None
Month: None
Year: 0.89 inches
Normal: 2.11 inches
Sunrise and Sunset
Thursday 7:06 a.m. 6:45 p.m.
Full Moon at 3:41 a.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

First phases of trails planned for summer

From "TRAILS," Page 1

the effort.

"He's an important business owner in the community," she said, "and he's a visionary."

Woofter and Jerry Arensdorf represented the Colby Tree Board at the meeting. Evans said the board plans to plant about 90 trees along the Frahm trail and had already planted more along the proposed route north and west of the water park.

Marilyn Unger represented the Colby Rotary Club, which plans to build an entrance for the Frahm trail. She said the club will spend about \$15,000 on the project.

Brenda Mazanec, owner of the Movement Connection downtown, said she hopes to mark a set of downtown walking trails which she calls "Anklin' Down Franklin" after a column by former newspaper publisher Bill James.

Wayne Horlacher asked why the trails would be concrete, which he said would be harder on legs, knees and ankles than gravel. Evans said concrete would be easier to maintain, and a lot of people like to walk on a solid surface.

"We heard a lot about mothers with strollers," she said. "They want to walk side by side."

She said future trails probably would include other materials, with some designed specifically for bikes or runners.

"We want trails throughout the community," she said.

Evans said that in addition to \$100,000 for construction, the coalition will need at least \$50,000 more for lighting, benches, trees, signs and other finishing touches for the 2.2-mile trail system.

She added that the group'd like to see a grand opening for the trails before the end of June.

Anyone who wants to donate, she said, can do so through the Community Foundation at 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 14, Colby, Kan., 67701. The phone number is (785) 460-9152. Donations through the foundation may be tax deductible.

Emergency director steps in to keep county's state license

From "DIRECTOR," Page 1

"The dedicated efforts by all reflect Thomas County's commitment to providing the highest standards in prehospital patient care to the citizens of Thomas County."

During a commissioner meeting Feb. 6, Hickert explained that although the threat of having the service closed down is past, they "are not out of the woods yet."

He said the department still has a lot of expectations to uphold. He added that the many changes to the organization were made for a reason, and there is still a process required to keep those changes going.

He said that the protocols manual is just one aspect that needs to be upheld. The service has over 180 pages of rules and guidelines, many of which are new, that need to be learned and followed by each volunteer and staff member who responds to a call.

A big transition is that they are going from Basic Life Support to Advanced Life Support services - and are now able to provide a higher level of patient

care. Training meetings have been increased from once a month to once a week.

"We have developed training programs to address our volunteers' confidence in applying their skills," he said, "and address our technician's involvement in patient care."

"The volunteers love it. We have some very dedicated people working for EMS. They are qualified and they have a passion for taking care of their neighbors. The increased training is allowing them the opportunity to practice and become more comfortable."

Not only have training meetings been increased, but so has the personnel roster. Before he was hired, Hickert said, there was only one paramedic in the county. Hickert makes two, and training coordinator Candy Bryant is now taking classes to become a paramedic.

"We are also now able to transport patients from Brewster to Colby," added Hickert. "Before, we didn't have a legal crew, but now we have two EMT's over there and will possibly get a third soon."

He said Rexford also has had a boost of volunteerism, and the town's fourth technician should be ready to go on calls by the end of June.

"Our volunteers have a deep, connected passion for helping people," he said. "We don't get rich from doing this. And I hope that we can continue to train more and more volunteers, because they are needed."

Hickert's shift schedule for February shows six-hour shifts in Colby that must be covered by two or more qualified people at all times. He explained that he, Bryant and a third full-time employee, Don Morton, take a majority of the shifts, amounting to 161 hours a month of on-call duty.

Volunteers help alleviate the workload, but take calls in addition to their full-time jobs. They help whenever they can, he said, some being on call more than 40 hours a month and others taking on about 12 hours a month.

Although it is called volunteering, Hickert said, they do get a little pay.

"(However,) it won't make them rich," he said.

Citizens help assess county health care needs

From "HEALTH," Page 1

be addressed were added to the list.

Once all the needs were listed, each participant was given four green dots to place on the items on the wall. After everyone had

placed their dots on the items they saw as most important, it was evident that the four biggest items seemed to be mental health care, specialty services, uninsured residents and lack of dentists.

The final results of the survey and town

hall meeting will be published and available on the Citizens Medical Center and Thomas County Health Department websites, www.nvkshealthcare.com and www.kalhd.org/thomas in late May for everyone to read.

Briefly

Republican caucus set for 10 a.m. Saturday

Thomas County Republicans will caucus Saturday to vote on presidential candidates. The session will begin at 10 a.m. at the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community College campus. Party workers will start checking photo IDs at 9. Only registered Republicans may vote. The caucus must close at 1 p.m., but anyone who's inside by that time will be allowed to vote. For questions, call Josh Faber, county chairman, at 460-6548.

Worship, praise night planned by church

A night of worship is planned at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Colby High School Auditorium, sponsored by the Celebration Community Church of Hays and featuring a nondenominational, encouraging message and music by the band Ignite. For information, call Debbie McNinch at 460-4205.

Colby first graders plan musical next week

The Colby Grade School first graders will present a musical show, "Carnival of the Animals," at 2 and 7 p.m. Tuesday in the school auditorium. The free event is open to the public. For information, call music teacher Jennifer Koel at 460-5100.

Salina lawyer to talk about estate planning

The Thomas County Community Foundation and K-State Research and Extension have asked a Salina lawyer to talk on estate planning from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15, at the 4-H Building, off Olive Street west of Range Ave. \$10 pays for supper. Register to attend no later than Friday by calling (785) 460-4582 or e-mailing jengels@ksu.edu.

College plans meetings on aid guidelines

The admissions office at Colby Community College will hold four informal information sessions on revised scholarship guidelines and the Thomas County Tuition Scholarship at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tuesday and next Wednesday in the Student Union, room 106. Refreshments will be provided. For information, contact Brittney Squire at 460-4690.

Seniors plan potluck at Presbyterian Church

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share; table service and beverages will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

Citizens offering classes on diabetes

Citizens Medical Center will begin a monthly series of free classes on diabetes from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in the hospital conference room. The series, "Journey for Control," will provide information support from others dealing with diabetes. The first topic is "On the Road to Better Managing Your Diabetes." Participants are asked to register with Jeanene Brown if the education department at (785) 460-4850.

Kids can learn to cook at free classes

Kids-a-Cookin', a free, fun, hands-on cooking and nutrition class for third through fifth graders will be Thursdays, March 15 and April 19. Sign up by calling the Colby City Recreation Department at 460-4440 so organizers will know how much food and materials to have. Sessions will be cancelled if the enrollment is less than 10.

College offers class on drawing figure

A class in drawing a clothed figure will be offered from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday and Thursday, March 20 and 22, in room 502 of Ferguson Hall at Colby Community College. Cost is \$5 per session. Students must bring their own materials and be on time. For information, call instructor David Ketchum at (785) 687-2575.

Free help with taxes offered by senior group

Free tax preparation will be available from experts trained by the American Association of Retired Persons Tax-Aide program, by appointment only, on Wednesdays through April 11 at the Colby Community College library. For an appointment, call Earle Rice at 462-2990.

College pool sets hours for winter season

Colby Community College pool lap swimming hours are 5 to 7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Open swim hours are 4 to 7 p.m. Monday and Thursday, 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For information, call manager Kipp Nelson at 460-5476.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table with columns for Thursday Evening (March 8, 2012) and Friday Evening (March 9, 2012). Rows list channels (KAKE/ABC, AMC, ANIM, BRAVO, CNN, COMEDY, DISC, DISN, EI, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FOOD, FX, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, MTV, NICK, SCI, SPIKE, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TOON, TRAV, TV LAND, USA, VH1, WGN) and their respective programs.

American Profile: We Celebrate Hometown Life. Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper. Includes a grid of program listings for Friday Evening, March 9, 2012, with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and program titles.