

Weather



National Weather Service
Tonight: A 50 percent chance of snow, mainly after 10 p.m.
Christmas Day: A 50 percent chance of snow before 5 p.m.
Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 1.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 21.
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 10.
Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 30.
Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow.
Sunrise and Sunset
Tuesday 8:03 a.m. 5:27 p.m.
Moon: waxing, 94 percent
Wednesday 8:03 a.m. 5:27 p.m.
Moon: waxing, 97 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Board to back health program

From "SCHOOL," Page 1

starting in July. She said the district is looking at evaluations required for a waiver from the No Child Left Behind Act. The district must tell the state how it will evaluate teachers and administrators by the start of March and start the evaluations by August. It has already looked at three types of evaluations which are considered acceptable by the state and will look at a fourth in January to see if it OK. Activities Director Larry Gabel said that the debate team took second at a regional competition, with Garden City taking first and Hays third. The wrestling team has been

doing well, he said, taking first place in meets at St. Francis Dec. 1 and the Holiday Classic Tournament Saturday in Goodland. The team took second at the Eagle Invitational dual tournament here Dec. 7 and 8. "It's fun to watch them," said Gabel, a former wrestling coach. "They work hard." The girls' basketball team won a game against Hugoton on Dec. 14, and is now 3-2. The boys' team, however is 0-5, including a loss to Hugoton the same day. "At one time they were up by 14 points," Gabel said, "and I don't know, my heart breaks for them." Grade School Principal Lance Krannawitter said that the fifth-

grade band would have a concert Tuesday in the grade school auditorium. Children's author Julia Cook had been scheduled to read at the grade school Dec. 3, but will have to come March 4 instead because of a scheduling conflict. Cook is known for writing books that address character issues, especially bullying. Rob Ross, middle school principal, said the schools sponsored a food drive which will be able to feed 30 families over the holidays. The drive would work as a competition between grades, he said. He middle school students and fifth graders from the elementary school would have a concert Tuesday in the auditorium.

The wrestling and girl's basketball seasons have just finished, he said, and boy's basketball will start after the winter break. High School Principal Jeff Wallingford called the board's attention to a small table in the room. He said he had asked Gordon Rasmussen, who teaches math, science and wood shop, to fix a table trophies are placed on, and instead he made a new table. He said several high school students participated in a Kansas Music Educators Association district honor band and honor choir concert in Hays and had a band and vocal concert Dec. 11 at the high school.

State rep to chair school budget panel

From "STATE," Page 1

Legislature decides. With a two-year plan, they'll know ahead of time what budget they can work with." Being chairman of the committee automatically gave Cassidy a seat on the House Appropriations Committee, one of the most powerful, he said. Appropriations controls the state's budget and meets with every other committee. Cassidy was on appropriations last session and said he has a good feel for it now.

As vice chairman of the Education Committee, he said, he'll be trying to teach a lot of new people about education issues, including the new chair, Kasha Kelley of Arkansas City, who does not have an education background. "I'm hoping it slows the process down," he said. "Hopefully, we've learned from last year." Cassidy emphasized that budget decisions are not just up to him. His committee will work hand-in-hand with the Senate Education Committee, the House and Senate lead-

ership and the governor. "I'll speak up for us and what we care about, but it's not just up to me," he said. Other than the chairmen, remaining committee assignments haven't been handed out. Cassidy said last year there were 22 people on the Education Committee and 14 on the budget committee. Cassidy said he has two more trips to Topeka scheduled before the session begins on Monday, Jan. 14.

City will apply for state money for trails

From "CITY," Page 1

a predetermined amount of money. Instead, it will provide whatever is needed to complete the project. She said there is no maximum cost, but was not sure

how much money they will ask for. Since the department is offering federal money, the project will also have to follow federal guidelines, she said. "It is competitive?" Council-

man Mark Beringer asked. "Yes," Evans answered, "but they like us." She mentioned the \$250,000 Safe Routes to School grant that was awarded to Colby as evidence that the department is

willing to give money to towns in northwestern Kansas. She and Carmichael helped the city get one of four federal grants earlier this year out of a field of 16 applicants statewide.

Health regulators say modified salmon OK

From "FISH," Page 1

are not clones, which the FDA has already said are safe to eat. Clones are copies of an animal. In GE animals, the DNA has been altered to produce a desirable trait. The AquaAdvantage salmon has an added growth hormone from the Pacific Chinook salmon that allows the fish to produce growth hormone all year long. The engineers were able to keep the hormone active by using another gene from an eel-like fish called an ocean pout that acts like an "on" switch for the hormone. Typical Atlantic salmon produce the growth hormone for only part of the year. It is still unclear whether the public will have an appetite for the fish if it is approved. Genetic engineering is already widely used for crops, but the government until now has not considered allowing the consumption of modified animals. Although the potential benefits - and profits - are huge, many people have qualms about manipulating the genetic code of other living creatures. If the salmon are eventually approved for sale, consumers may not even know they are eating them. According to federal

guidelines, the fish would not be labeled as genetically modified if the agency decides it has the same material makeup as conventional salmon. AquaBounty says that genetically modified salmon have the same flavor, texture, color and odor as the conventional fish, and the FDA so far has not shown any signs of disagreeing. Wenonah Hauter, director of the advocacy group Food and Water Watch, said forgoing labeling not only ignores consumers' rights to know what they are eating, but "is simply bad for business, as many will avoid purchasing any salmon for fear it is genetically engineered." Hauter urged members of Congress to block the impending approval of the fish. Congressional opposition to the engineered fish has so far been led by members of the Alaska delegation, who see the modified salmon as a threat to the state's wild salmon industry. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, said Friday she is working to convince fellow senators that approval for the fish should be stopped.

Genetically engineered - or GE - animals

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS



Table 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 rows for various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSAS/FOX, Cable Channels, A & E, ANIM, BRAVO, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISC, DISN, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FOOD, FX, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, MTV, NICK, SCI, SPIKE, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TOON, TRAV, TV LAND, USA, VH1, WGN, Premium Channels, HBO, MAX, SHOW).

Table titled 'Wednesday Evening December 26, 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 rows for various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSAS/FOX, Cable Channels, A & E, ANIM, BRAVO, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISC, DISN, EI, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FOOD, FX, HGTV).

American Profile advertisement with the slogan 'We Celebrate Hometown Life' and 'Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.' Below the text is a grid of small thumbnail images representing different hometowns.

Briefly

Santa City will open for two hours today

Santa City, in the Scout Hut at Fike Park, will be open one last time for the season from 1 to 3 p.m. Christmas Eve. Admission to the winter wonderland is free, but donations are welcome.

Sanitation Department won't pick up on holiday

The Colby Sanitation Department will not pick up trash today or Tuesday for the Christmas holidays. People who normally have their trash picked up Tuesday should plan to have tipper cans by the curb by 8 a.m. Wednesday. The department will not pick up trash on Tuesday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day. For questions, call Public Works Director Omar Weber at 460-4420.

Landfill to close both Monday and Tuesday

The Thomas County Landfill will be closed today and Tuesday for Christmas Eve and Christmas. For questions, call supervisor Larry Jumper at 462-8139.

District court will close Monday for accounting

The Thomas County District Court will be closing at noon next Monday, New Year's Eve, to finish end-of-the-year accounting. For information, contact Clerk Kim Schwarz at 460-4540.

Church women are selling holiday nuts

The Colby Episcopal Churchwomen are selling fresh-crop pecans, walnuts and cashews for the holiday season. Almonds, pralines, chocolate-covered pecans and mixed nuts are also available. Call Martha Hullett at 462-2505 for delivery or you can make a purchase at Colby Canvas, 285 E. Third St.

Free adult classes to begin in January

The Adult Education Department at Colby Community College is offering free General Educational Development classes for anyone who needs to finish a high-school degree beginning Monday, Jan. 7. The department also will provide an "academic bridge" to prepare those who want to enroll in health-care programs. For information or to enroll, call Director Nance Munderloh at 460-4663.

Volunteers needed to deliver meals to seniors

The Colby Nutrition Site at the Senior Progress Center needs volunteers to deliver meals to homes from 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays or Thursdays. Call Kaila DeBoer at 460-2901 for information.

Group needs 'big's' to work with kids

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County is looking for people able to volunteer one to two hours a week as mentors for kids who need a "big." You could make a difference in a child's life, working with the largest mentoring organization in Kansas. For questions, call Orvella Romine at 460-9125.