



Weather
Corner

National Weather Service

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 13. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 30. East wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: A 40 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 14. East wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 36. Northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 17.

Presidents' Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 46.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 44.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 19.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 46.

Thursday: High, 46; Low 20
Precip: Thursday 0.12 inches
Month: 0.45 inches
Year: 0.60 inches
Normal: 0.97 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Digital conversion will go as planned

From "DIGITAL," Page 1

least of which is we believe our viewers are ready."

"Smoky Hills has been broadcasting full-power digital signals in central and western Kansas since 2003. We were one of the first stations to do this, and many homeowners, all the cable systems that carry Smoky Hills' signal, as well as DirecTV and the Dish Network, have already changed over to digital service.

"It would cost Smoky Hills thousands of dollars every month to continue the analog transmission, and we would rather put that money into Kansas programming for our viewers."

While many Smoky Hills viewers already are enjoying the benefits of digital television, others — those with older sets — risk losing all television reception if they have not already steps to receive a digital signal, Holden said.

"If you subscribe to a cable or satellite service, your access to broadcast channels should not change," he said. "Our cable partners do all the work.

"However, if you currently rely on an over-the-air television signal through an antenna on older television sets equipped only with analog tuners, you will need to take action to continue to receive ... any television service.

"You must do one of the following:

- Buy a digital television set.
- Obtain a low-cost digital converter box to use with your existing analog television.
- Subscribe to cable, satellite or telephone-company provided television service.

Coupons good for \$40 each towards the purchase of a set-top converter box are available at www.dtv2009.gov, he added, though wire service reports say there is a waiting list.

Tuesday, Holden said, Smoky Hills will turn off low-power signal repeaters it has operated in the Phillipsburg and Concordia areas since 1983.

"We cannot locate even one off-air viewer who is still using these translators, and we've tried," he said. "Viewers who receive their signal via cable or satellite service will not be affected."

Smoky Hills started converting to digital in 2001 with money provided by the Kansas Legislature through the Kansas Public Broadcasting Council and grants.

Out in the cold...



EVAN BARNUM / Colby Free Press

Both animals and people were affected when Mother Nature started throwing the snowflakes around today. A cat on North School Street was looking for a warmer spot, preferably inside.

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Crash explodes fuel

From "CRASH," Page 1

trol's radio messages captured by the Web site LiveATC.net. Neither the controller nor the pilot showed concern that anything was out of the ordinary as the airplane was asked to fly at 2,300 feet.

At the time of the last radio contact, the controller said the plane was three miles from a radio beacon that stands about four miles northeast of the airport. The controller told the crew to turn the plane left to intercept a radio signal that would guide it to Runway 23. A female pilot aboard the plane calmly repeated the instructions back correctly.

A minute later, the controller tried to contact the plane but heard no response. After a pause, he tried to contact the plane again.

Eventually he told an unidentified listener to contact authorities on the ground in the area.

After the crash, at least two pilots were heard on air traffic control messages saying they had been picking up ice on their wings.

"We've been getting ice since 20 miles south of the airport," one said.

The National Transportation Safety Board sent a team of investigators to Buffalo. The Depart-

ment of Homeland Security said there was no indication of terrorism.

While residents of the neighborhood were used to planes rumbling overhead, witnesses said it sounded louder than usual, sputtered and made odd noises.

David Luce said he and his wife were working on their computers when they heard the plane come in low.

"It didn't sound normal," he said. "We heard it for a few seconds, then it stopped, then a couple of seconds later was this tremendous explosion."

Dworak drove to the site, and "all we were seeing was 50 to 100 foot flames and a pile of rubble on the ground. It looked like the house just got destroyed the instant it got hit."

One person in the home was killed, and two others inside, Karen Wielinski, 57, and her 22-year-old daughter, Jill, were able to escape with minor injuries. Twelve homes were evacuated.

The plane was carrying 5,000 pounds of fuel and apparently exploded on impact, Erie County Executive Chris Collins said.

It was the first fatal crash of a commercial airliner in the United States since Aug. 27, 2006.

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