



Weather
Corner

National Weather Service

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. Southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 100. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. South wind around 10 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 104. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 69.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 100.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 63.

Monday:	High, 101; Low 58
Tuesday:	High, 89; Low 63
Precip: Monday	0.00 inches
Tuesday	0.00 inches
Month:	0.00 inches
Year:	16.84 inches
Normal:	16.41 inches

(K-State Experiment Station)

Colby Water Use

Monday	2,932,000 gal.
Tuesday	2,793,000 gal.

(Colby Public Works)

Colby school administration discusses cuts with the public

From "SCHOOL," Page 1

money, Harrison said, but all of that is now gone from the state budget and schools, including Colby, are having to cope.

The school board, on the recommendation of Harrison and the staff, has been cutting the budget all year to make up for the shortfall. The district has cut back by seven teachers and other licensed staff and 11 other employees, out of a total payroll of 194.

Student fees have been increased, several electives have been reduced to half-time classes and there will be no salary increases for the district staff. The district will no longer pay for overnight sports or activity trips except for state competitions.

"We worked hard to not cut things that would hurt students academically," Harrison said.

Parents asked about teams traveling overnight to out-of-town events. Harrison said the district will still provide a bus and driver to and from the event, but the teams will have to raise the money to pay for hotels and meals. Many teams are already holding fund raisers, she said, while some are cutting back on travel.

One of the difficulties in taking these state budget cuts, Harrison said, is that the district does not operate a capital outlay fund, which most districts finance with a separate tax levy. Capital projects have been paid for out of the school's general operating budget.

With less money coming in, she said, the district

may be hard-pressed to pay for things like scheduled building maintenance or replacing busses. The board has discussed instituting a capital outlay levy, but has not taken any action.

The district will have one less mill on this year's taxes. However, property valuations increased this year, DeYoung said, so even though there will be one mill less, homeowners may pay about the same amount to the district as last year.

More cuts are expected, Harrison said. For one thing, the state used federal stimulus money — \$194.4 million statewide — to prop up the budget this year, but that program will expire in 2012. According to projections, she said, the state will still have to cut \$568 million from the budget or raise more revenue to break even in the coming years.

"The outlook is not good," Harrison said.

The district may have to look at further cuts if the state hands down more reductions. When asked if the district had considered moving to a four-day school week, Harrison said it had been talked about, but in the end would not save much money. It could become a hardship for the staff, who would have their hours cut.

"We still have other areas we could cut," Harrison said. "I'm confident that we can make additional cuts and still operate the way want to operate."

Board Vice President Tracy Rogers said the district also has a larger contingency fund than many, and that money can be used if there are more state cuts.

Kansas, Colorado drop river dispute

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas and Colorado said Tuesday that they've ended a long-running lawsuit over the Arkansas River, putting aside nearly a quarter century of litigation.

The two states filed an agreement with the U.S. Supreme Court to resolve the final technical issues about monitoring Colorado's use of water from the river. The agreement is designed to prevent the river's depletion as it flows into southwest Kansas.

Disputes over the river date back more than a century, and Kansas sued in 1985, claiming Colorado was improperly diverting millions of gallons of water. The Supreme Court ruled a decade later that groundwater pumping took water rightfully belonging to Kansas, and Colorado paid its neighbor more than \$34 million in damages.

The lawsuit continued because of other issues, including the monitoring of water use, and in March, the court issued a decree spelling out how future disputes would be resolved. The agreement filed Tuesday was the last step toward closing the case.

"We're pleased to put this long-standing water dispute behind us," said Colorado Attorney General John Suthers.

Kansas Attorney General Steve Six said the agreement should help the states avoid future lawsuits and save both states money. David Barfield, Kansas' chief water engineer, said the two are working better together than in the past but acknowledged continued monitoring of Colorado's water use — and development in that state — make future conflict possible.

"It is the end of the litigation that was initiated in 1985," he said. "It doesn't mean that we'll never have to go back to court again."

The states' first lawsuit before the Supreme Court was in 1902. Another, in 1943, led to a compact in the late 1940s to govern water use from the Arkansas.

In the 1985 suit, Kansas alleged Colorado had violated the compact by allowing 2,000 high-capacity wells near the river. In parts of western Kansas, the riverbed filled only during heavy rains. Residents were used to seeing it dry.

Arthur Littleworth, a special master appointed by the high court to review the evidence, noted that under the compact, development in Colorado isn't supposed to deplete the river's flow. He said a computer model will determine how much water Kansas is due.

The last outstanding issues between the states involved rules imposed by Colorado for its residents to make up for depletion from groundwater pumping. Barfield said negotiations led to "tweaks," making the rules acceptable to Kansas.

He pointed out that the Supreme Court's decree in March specified that when the states have a dispute and can't resolve it with negotiations, arbitration is required before they can head back to the high court. Lawsuits between the states are among the few that can originate with the Supreme Court.

Whooping cough cases on the rise

A spike in pertussis cases has been reported in Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee counties, according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Since June, 20 cases of the disease — which is also known as whooping cough — have been reported in the two counties, including one case in a child that resulted in hospitalization.

The age range of the cases was from 1 month to 49 years.

Pertussis, a bacterial disease, is easily transmitted from person to person through talking, sneezing or coughing. It can be serious, especially for infants.

During the first one to two weeks, people with whooping cough may only experience a runny nose and nonproductive cough, similar to a cold. Children may have more serious coughing fits, often followed by a whooping sound as they try to catch their breath. Coughing spells may continue for weeks or months.

Although often thought of as a childhood disease, whooping cough can occur at any age.

"Anyone with an unexplained acute cough illness or who has had close contact to a person with whooping cough should contact their health care provider," said Dr. Jason Eberhart-Phillips, state health officer.

The single most effective control measure for pertussis is immunization, which is recommended at two, four, six and 12 months of age with a booster dose at kindergarten entry. A booster is recommended for everyone 11 years through 64 with the tetanus shot.

Of the 20 cases reported in the two counties, at least eight had not completed the full vaccine series.

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