



Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Isolated thunderstorms after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. North wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.
Tuesday: Scattered thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 85. North wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.
Tuesday Night: Scattered thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. North wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.
Wednesday: Scattered thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 80. North wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.
Wednesday Night: Scattered thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.
Thursday: Isolated thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.
Thursday Night: Isolated thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 56. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.
Friday: High, 79; Low 49
Saturday: High, 85; Low 55
Sunday: High, 91; Low 52
Precip: Friday 0.00 inches
Saturday 0.00 inches
Sunday 0.00 inches
Month: 2.50 inches
Year: 19.34 inches
Normal: 16.41 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Tuesday 7:06 a.m. 8:25 p.m.
Wednesday 7:07 a.m. 8:24 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)
Colby Water Use
Friday - Sunday 1,878,000 gal.
(Colby Public Works)

Jobless rate high but slowing, labor department says

From “UNEMPLOYMENT,” Page 1
But for June, overall non-farm job losses were 54,800, or 3.9 percent. Such over-the-year losses began with a small dip in January and accelerated through the spring.
Kansas officials have been looking for signs that the economy might improve and bolster revenues enough to help state government deal with financial problems arising from the recession. The state has seen four rounds of budget cuts in eight months.
Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson’s ad-

ministration has remained hopeful that the state’s finances will stabilize, but some Republicans in the Republican-controlled Legislature believe the state may have to make massive spending cuts next year.
Tenbrink said the July data didn’t provide a clear picture of where the state’s economy stands.
“We did see a jump in the unemployment rate. That didn’t agree with the signal that we got from the employment numbers,” he said. “Right now, they’re kind of at odds with each other.”

He said seasonal factors, such as schools temporarily laying off janitors, bus drivers and other support staff for the summer, accounted for some of the rise in unemployment from June to July, but not all of it.
Felix said there were positive signs, such as a gain of 1,800 construction jobs from June to July. Financial services employment also picked up 1,500 jobs over the month.
At an annual Federal Reserve conference in Jackson Hole, Wyo., Chairman Ben Bernanke said Friday that the U.S. economy is

on the verge of a recovery. Economic activity in the U.S. and around the world appears to be “leveling out,” and “the prospects for a return to growth in the near term appear good,” he said.
But state officials and economists have long said Kansas typically lags behind other states in coming out of recessions.
Derreberry said aviation companies and other manufacturers will be prepared to ramp up employment when the economy improves but, “They like, all of us, are waiting to see clearer indicators.”

Budget fight all about schools

By John Hanna
The Associated Press

TOPEKA (AP) — A disagreement between Republican legislative leaders and Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson’s administration over how big next year’s budget shortfall will get is really about aid to public schools.
With a huge deficit already projected for the next fiscal year, legislators who lost a debate in 2005 and 2006 over big boosts in education funding have a chance to roll back the spending they resented then. Legislators who prevailed then are trying to protect as much of their victory as possible.
“If we have a significant shortfall, this will ultimately come down to tax increases or school cuts,” said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Kevin Yoder, an Overland Park Republican. “Stuck in the middle is our obligation to have a balanced budget.”
The latest disagreement emerged last week, after leaders of the House’s Republican majority announced special meetings of its Appropriations Committee. The meetings are a reaction to projections from legislators’ staff that the state could face a \$530 million budget shortfall in its 2011 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2010.
The projections show what might happen if the state tried to carry forward this year’s budget into next year. State officials and university economists will make the first official revenue forecast for 2011 in November.

The Appropriations Committee meetings are designed to provide an alternative to raising taxes, making government operate more efficient so that spending can be reduced without sacrificing services. Undoubtedly, they’ll identify at least a few possibilities.
But it’s hard for some legislators to envision efficiencies filling a \$530 million hole, and Democrats fear the panel’s discussions could open up the door to talks about cuts in aid to public schools.
The state has seen four rounds of budget adjustments in eight months. Each time, the governor’s office has resisted making deeper cuts that would anticipate continued financial problems.
They’re still resisting. Duane Goossen, the governor’s budget director, noted that \$530 million figure is speculative, based on some pessimistic assumptions about revenues, even though some of the legislative researchers will help come up with the state’s official forecast.
“Because there are serious consequences involved in cutting things more deeply, we should only do that when we know that it’s absolutely necessary,” Goossen said. “We should assess it month by month by month.”
An argument in any year about spending cuts can’t help but touch on aid to public schools because it consumes about 52 percent of the state’s general tax revenues.
But there are other reasons education funding is central to the debate unfolding now.

Recent cuts in school funding represent backtracking on large increases approved by legislators in 2005 and 2006.
In the past eight months, schools have seen their state aid drop \$163 million. That’s significant, but they still received \$770 million, or 33 percent, more than in fiscal 2005.
The past increases were mandated by Kansas Supreme Court rulings in a lawsuit brought by unhappy parents and educators. The court even told the Legislature exactly how much more money it had to spend.
Some Republicans who now see the need for big budget cuts also opposed the big increases in education funding and believed the court overstepped its authority.
“They’ve been looking for a way to unravel that ever since,” said House Minority Leader Paul Davis, a Lawrence Democrat.
But Republicans were split on school finance issues in 2005 and 2006, with some, particularly in the Senate, helping the big increases pass. Yoder notes he voted for them.
“I feel sincere in saying that, now that we can’t afford it, we’re going to have to roll some of it back,” he said.
A contentious summer special legislative session in 2005 is a bad memory for most legislators, particularly Republicans, and Yoder said he doesn’t want to relive past debates.
But that appears to be exactly where the Legislature is headed.

Most folklore signs can’t predict the weather

MANHATTAN — It may be human nature to look for signs of what the weather will be like in the upcoming season. But looking to folklore is not usually an accurate way to predict the weather, according to State of Kansas Climatologist Mary Knapp.
“Somehow winter has ended up with the most related folklore such as ‘When the wooly bears’ coats are black, we’re going to have a hard winter’ or ‘if the squirrels are burying lots of nuts, we’ll have a hard winter,’” said Knapp, who oversees the Kansas Weather Data Library based in Kansas State University Research and Extension. “Then there’s ‘You can judge how soon winter will arrive by when cows get their winter

coat,’ or, my personal favorite, ‘When the surprise lilies start to fade, the first frost is in 60 days.’”
Such predictions are sometimes right, Knapp said, but science has found that they’re just as likely to be wrong, because all they reflect is what’s happening right now.
“If the squirrels are burying a lot of nuts this year, that’s because we’ve having a really good nut crop,” she said.
Information about Kansas weather is available on the Weather Data Library Web site: www.ksre.ksu.edu/wdl/. “Weather Wonders” audio reports are available on the K-State Research and Extension/ Kansas Radio Network site at www.ksre.ksu.edu/radio/.

Hospital gets large gift from farmers’ memorial

From “HOSPITAL,” Page 1
ment and community relations at the hospital.
The Harrisons married in 1923 and lived and farmed in the Gem area of Thomas County for many years.
“He came here from Illinois, and was very hard working and

frugal,” said Higerd. “She was a daughter of P.S. Houston of Gem. “They lived in a rented farm house until they moved into Colby many years later, and I guess they invested and saved all their lives. They were people who were not often in the public eye, but had a vision for the good of the community.



Are you looking for a good job?

The Colby Free Press is looking Must have good communication for a full-time advertising skills, and excellent customer executive to sell advertising for service skills with attention to Nor’West Newspapers. The work detail. Send a letter and resume week would be 40 hours with to Steve Haynes, publisher, at occasional evening and weekend 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kansas., duties. Computer skills with 67701 or s.haynes@nwkansas. Excel, Photoshop, inDesign, and com. This could be the job you’ve Acrobat helpful but not necessary. been looking for. EOE M/F/H



COLBY
FREE PRESS
155 W. 5th • Colby, KS 67701 • 785-462-3963



Local Church Accepting Contributions for Family



Otto Schutte Jr. AKA Butch became seriously ill approximately 8 weeks ago. His wife, Roberta Schutte, took him to the ER at The Colby Medical Center where they ran extensive tests and immediately admitted him into the hospital. He was diagnosed with Arterial Peripheral Disease in both legs and his condition worsened when he had a stroke. He was immediately transported to Hays Medical Center. He endured several painful surgeries to unblock arteries in an attempt to avoid amputation. Roberta stayed the entire three weeks in Hays to keep his spirits up. Butch still has 32 staples, which have now become infected, ongoing physical therapy stemming from his stroke and another surgery to endure in the near future. Unfortunately, he is now unable to work and Butch and Roberta are struggling financially. They would appreciate any donations you are willing to contribute. They have worked with The Colby Free Press for eleven years and are beloved by their customers. They have been blessed by their church, The Assembly of God, who are accepting donations on their behalf.

Please send all donations to The College Drive Assembly of God Church and make them payable to “Benevolence.” Please let the church know it is for Butch and Roberta Schutte. We Wish Butch a speedy recovery and our prayers are with him and his family everyday.

Thank you for your support during this time of hardship.



COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
245 W. College Dr., Colby • 785-462-8234

