

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 45. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 82. Northwest wind around 5 mph.
Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 51. West wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 88. West wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 57.
Monday: Sunny, with a high near 88.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 80.
Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55.
Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 80.
Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 54.
Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 81.
Thursday: High, 78; Low 57
Precip: Thursday Trace
Month: 0.00 inches
Year: 17.05 inches
Normal: 17.71 inches (K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Saturday 7:22 a.m. 7:59 p.m.
Sunday 7:23 a.m. 7:57 p.m.
Monday 7:24 a.m. 7:56 p.m. (U.S. Naval Observatory)
Colby Water Use
Thursday 2,356,000 gal. (Colby Public Works)

Texas storm reaches Colby

From "STORM," Page 1

soon as it hit land, but maintained damaging winds near its center and heavy rains radiated outwards. The weather service declassified it as a tropical storm late Tuesday night.

High rains and flooding reached as far north as Missouri, Arkansas and Illinois.

The higher humidity from the storm may be beneficial to Thomas County. Earlier this week and last week, dry conditions and high winds created higher-than-usual fire danger. A grass fire near Atwood on Sunday consumed about 400 acres and required eight surrounding fire departments to extinguish. Parts of

eastern Colorado, outside the radius of Hermine, were under red flag – or critical fire danger – warnings Thursday. Some Colorado counties including Logan, Sedgwick and Phillips in the northeast are still under the warning today. A wildfire 6,365-acre wildfire near Boulder, Colo., had been diminishing Thursday but is expected to intensify today due to high winds. The fire has forced evacuations of several subdivisions.

The weather service is predicting a return to higher temperatures this weekend. Sunny days with highs in the 80s are expected throughout the weekend and early next week. The area may see some showers and thunderstorms by Wednesday,

Colorado wildfire may flare up again

By Dan Elliott P. Solomon Banda

Associated Press Writers

BOULDER, Colo. – Weary firefighters hoped the worst was over from a wildfire that destroyed nearly 170 homes in the Rocky Mountains foothills, but crews were monitoring hot spots early Friday amid concerns that erratic winds could fan the flames and send them into Boulder.

Fearing further devastation, city officials had urged roughly 9,000 residents Thursday afternoon to prepare to evacuate at a moment's notice because of conditions that were ripe for fire – low humidity and strong winds. But as night fell, federal officials downplayed the risk to the university city of 100,000, even as gusts surpassed 40 mph.

"I'm not aware of any real threat to the city of Boulder right now," said Jim Thomas, head of the national team managing the fire effort.

Crews contained 45 percent of the 10-square-mile fire, though the line wasn't continuous. Thomas declined to speculate when it would be fully contained.

The blaze, dubbed the Fourmile Canyon fire, erupted Monday and quickly left smoking rubble where mountain neighborhoods, filled with million-dollar homes and scenic mountain cabins, once stood. Slopes of charred trees created landscapes resembling a barren winter with gray ash instead of snow.

Still, no more homes were lost to the fire Thursday. Thomas said there were no major signs of crowning, when hungry flames race along the crowns of trees or

shrubbery. Westerly winds of 25 mph with higher gusts forecast for Friday could complicate the efforts of 700 firefighters plus support personnel and air tanker crews. Heavy air tankers have trouble accurately dropping their loads of dull red retardant when winds surpass 35 mph, Thomas said.

Parts of central and northern Colorado and southern Wyoming remained under a red flag warning Friday, meaning conditions were ripe for fire. And in an abundance of caution, Thomas refused to rule out further trouble west of Boulder.

"There's always that risk with a major fire," he said. "We've seen a fire move eight miles in a day."

The cause of the fire that destroyed more homes than any other blaze in Colorado history remained under investigation. Authorities were looking at whether a vehicle crashed into a propane tank and set it off.

About 3,500 people have been out of their homes since Monday, many frustrated by a lack of information about what was happening behind fire lines. Some got around roadblocks by hiking and biking in. A limited number stayed.

Lee McCormack made it to his house Thursday but was stopped at a roadblock on a second attempt.

"It's shut down. It doesn't matter how much you plead," McCormack said. "I gave the cop a Power Bar and he still wouldn't let me up there."

The city of Boulder told west-side residents to prepare to leave if the fire moved into town, setting off a scramble by some. From tony mansions to the north to a college

Grade school artists create installation

From "ARTISTS," Page 1

crete path from the grade school to the intermediate building, where it could be seen by classes going back and forth between buildings.

Starbuck said the students each decorated a section of fence with permanent markers and small foam attachments. Volunteers from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program hot-glued the pieces together. Starbuck said if she had remembered it was homecoming week, she would have had her students

decorate the fence in orange and black.

Like the full-sized Running Fence, the Colby student's project was only temporary. They installed it Tuesday and removed it after class Wednesday. Christo's Running Fence was up only 14 days.

Christo has made a lifelong career of installation art. He wrapped walkways around the Nelson Museum of Art in Kansas City and is working on a project to hang fabric panels over part of the Arkansas River in Colorado.

K-State offers newsletter for grandparent caregivers

With an increasing number of grandchildren living in grandparent-headed households, Kansas State University Research and Extension nutrition specialists are offering a new food, nutrition and health newsletter: "Nourishing the Next Generation: Practical Advice for Caring for Your Young Ones with Food, Fun and Love."

While 2010 Census data are still being gathered, in Kansas in 2008, approximately 19,995 grandparents lived with and were primarily responsible for caring for one or more grandchildren, said Mary Meck Higgins, K-State Research and Extension nutrition specialist. More than one in 10 grandparents are expected to experience giving care for at least six months to a grandchild.

Development of the new newsletter was prompted by research conducted by Higgins and Bethany Murray, a graduate student in Human Nutrition, who worked

with Extension offices in the state to identify grandparents and other relatives raising children again.

When asked: "How can we help?" as part of the personal interviews, respondents requested a newsletter with tips about cooking and eating together, nutrition, physical activity and encouraging a healthy lifestyle for families that span the generations and include children and adults of all ages, Higgins said.

The bimonthly newsletter, which is being produced with funding from the United States Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and is distributed with the help of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and K-State Research and Extension county and district agents. It also is available online: www.ksre.ksu.edu/humannutrition/nourishing.htm.

Libertarians hoping for 'major party' label

TOPEKA (AP) – Libertarians are hoping that voters' unhappiness with the political establishment will help their party achieve "major party" status in Kansas.

Andrew Gray, the Libertarian's candidate for governor, says he thinks he can win 5 percent of the Nov. 2 vote. That's the amount required to be officially recognized as a major party in state elections.

Major-party status would enable the Libertarian Party to hold public August primaries. Currently, the

Libertarians nominate their candidates at conventions. And being in a major party would allow Libertarian candidates to file for office directly with the Kansas secretary of state, instead of collecting petitions to be placed on the general election ballot.

The Kansas City Star reports that 5 percent of the vote would be a big improvement for the Libertarians. In 2006, only 1 percent of voters cast a ballot for the Libertarian candidate for governor.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS. Includes a graphic of a family and a building.

Monday Evening September 13, 2010. 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 various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, etc.) listing programs like Bachelor Pad, How I Met [Rules], Two Men [Big Bang], etc.

HOT ASPHALT PAVING! With our crew and equipment close by, we are offering prompt service and reasonable rates to all area residents for a short time. WE ARE NOW IN YOUR AREA! Receive 20% OFF with this ad. ASPHALT PAVING. Maybe you have a big area you would love to have blacktopped but you can't afford to pave whole thing right now. JIM'S ASPHALT PAVING Cell: 308-258-3765 402-317-5635. 877-546-8153. Don't need it? Sell it in the classifieds! To place your ad, call 462-3963.