Area/State

Colby Free Press Friday, April 8, 2011 Page 3





National Weather Service Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 45. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. Breezy, with a southwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 47. Breezy, with a southwest wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Sunday: A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59. Breezy, with a west wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers before 1am. Mostly cloudy and breezy, with a low around 38.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 66.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 38. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with

a high near 69. Tuesday Night: Mostly

cloudy, with a low around 36. Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Partly sunny,

with a high near 57. Wednesday Night: Mostly

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cloudy, with a low around 35. Thursday: Mostly sunny, with

Month: None Year: Normal:

Browback declares drought watch here

From "DROUGHT," Page 1

Wether Service expected a warm front to move through the area today, dropping relative humidity in an already-dry environment. Gusty winds will add to the fire danger. The county has had its reports enable us to stay on top share of grass fires this week, with of evolving situations and coorditwo on Wednesday near Levant nate any state response, as needed, and Brewster and one on Tuesday along I-70.

"We are advising counties to tance Compact."

us that have become out of control because of a controlled burn or otherwise," said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. "These as well as assistance through the Emergency Management Assis-

continue to report grass fires to

College groups plan art walk Friday, April 22

From "ART WALK," Page 1

available at all the walk locations. The day won't be just for visual art, however. Jay said Garret Jones will be playing his saxophone downtown and Brock Wagoner will be playing the keyboard at Smoffee's. College education students will have activities for kids in first through eighth grades in the library basement while their made out to the College Art Club parents are walking around, looking at the artwork. Jay said the Kan., 67701, in care of Rebel Jay.

activities are only for children of parents participating in the walk.

Two workshops scheduled for Saturday, April 23. Demetria Stephens will teach mask making from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the library basement. Ron Hart will teach stained-glass making from 1 to 4 p.m. in the college art room. The cost of each workshop is \$10 per person. Jay said checks can be and sent to 1255 S. Range, Colby,

SHELBY PULKRABEK/Colby Free Press Despite less-than-optimal growing conditions, workers planted these fake palm trees this week to spruce up the new Colby Aquatic Center.

tion suggest that urban areas like

Johnson County will add one state

Senate seat and about three state

House districts. The ideal district

sizes will be about 71,320 resi-

dents per Senate seat and 22,825

Democrats hold just eight seats

in the state Senate and 33 in the

state House, and the party has

mostly been reduced to represent-

ing areas of Kansas City, Wichita,

Topeka and Lawrence, where its

core constituencies reside. The

fight is likely to be within the GOP

between a growing conservative

majority and remaining moderates

who have aligned with Democrats

residents per House district.

Legislators begin battle over redrawing political boundaries

Census, going from five districts to the present four. There was some concern following the 2000 Census that the state could lose of Douglas, Johnson and Wyananother, but after the middle part of the last decade it became clear that the state would not lose representation.

To draw each district, legislators will be trying to assemble Lawrence, they would rather be in boundaries containing about 713,280 residents. Federal law requires that the deviation between districts be zero.

From "LEGISLATORS," Page 1 March, the 3rd District grew the las would go in to the 2nd district state Senate and 125 state House most over the past 10 years and has 54,289 residents more than the ideal. It will have to get smaller geographically, losing parts or all dotte counties. Only part of Douglas is in the district, about half of the city of Lawrence and the University of Kansas.

"If people had their druthers in the 3rd, but I don't see how that's possible," said House Minority Leader Paul Davis, a Lawrence Democrat. "I've always operated According to figures released in under the assumption that Doug-

Officials say radiation not enough to harm

ficials say environmental testing has detected minimal levels of earthquake and tsunami.

as we went through this process." Legislators consider several factors when drawing the districts, such district demographics and communities of interest.

Oasis on the Plains

For example, the 2nd District covers much of eastern Kansas, touching the borders with Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma. It has three state universities and the state's two Army installations, Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth.

The 2nd also is above the ideal size, mostly due to growth attributed to the Pentagon's decision to base the Army's 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, increasing the military population by almost 50 percent.

In addition to the congressional on education, tax and social isdistricts, legislators will redraw 40 sues.



Emler said the shift from rural districts. The changes in populato urban representation is evident as legislators debate such issues as education funding and forcing school districts to consolidate.

Rural legislators have been able to prevent bills that would cut spending to smaller schools or force them to close buildings. But Emler said there is a point where there would be only one school in a county and it would require students to be on buses for long periods of the day.

"The folks who live in the urban areas who don't have many counties that have to travel around and don't understand that consolidation could be huge issue in rural areas," he said. "They simply aren't as aware of the time and distance."

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