

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Red Flag Warning
Fire Weather Watch
Today: Sunny, with a high near 94. Breezy, with a south-west wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 47. Breezy, with a south wind 10 to 20 mph becoming west. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 85. Breezy, with a west wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming east.

Wednesday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 71. East wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy and breezy, with a low around 48. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Thursday: A 40 percent chance of rain and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy and breezy, with a high near 60.

Thursday Night: A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy and breezy, with a low around 41. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 43.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 69.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 42.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70.

Friday: High, 86; Low 44
Saturday: High, 85; Low 49
Sunday: High, 97; Low 51
Precip: Friday None
Saturday None
Sunday None
Month: None
Year: 2.88 inches
Normal: 7.21 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Tuesday 6:36 a.m. 8:46 p.m.
First quarter moon
Wednesday 6:35 a.m. 8:47 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Fifth graders show off music skills



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Colby Grade School music teacher Stacey Williams led the fifth grade band in the grade school auditorium. The band went on after the fourth grade, who played recorders.

Legislators say drought may impact Kansas budget

From “BUDGET,” Page 1

said. Gov. Sam Brownback toured the region on Wednesday, surveying the damage and talking to residents about the impact. He has asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture to declare 21 counties a disaster zone, which could trigger some assistance.

“Growing up on a farm and serving as the state’s agriculture secretary, this is worse than previous droughts I’ve seen in a lifetime of agriculture,” Brownback said. “It will take a great deal of time and rain to reverse the impact of this drought.”

Neufeld said it would take several years for the soils to recover from the drought to return to plentiful harvests. A more immediate impact is the loss of bridges on a short line railroad that is causing problems in delivering grain and other goods to the region.

While the wheat crop is shot, some farmers may not even try another crop this spring, he said, extending the impact.

“It has a longer tail than most people realize because not only is it affecting the wheat crop, people are already turning in their spring seed,” Neufeld said. “People aren’t going to plant them because there’s not enough subsoil moisture.”

Legislative leaders say the drought’s full effects won’t be known for some time, but it is likely to be felt in state revenue collections.

“It’s hard to really evaluate that. Obviously, you have a large part of western Kansas with a wheat crop that is either very poor or nonexistent,” said Senate President Steve Morris, a Republican from the southwest city of Hugoton.

The drought is a factor as House and Senate negotiators try to finish the 2012 budget. There are signs

the state economy is emerging from the recession, but a slump in the agriculture economy could blunt the recovery and force further cuts in state services.

A report for the week ending May 1 rated 45 percent of the Kansas wheat crop at poor or very poor condition. Only 2 percent of all wheat planted was rated excellent.

Many fear the drought will have an impact even after the rains finally return.

“We need to be mindful of the revenue stream, and the expense stream. There may be additional costs the state has to pay as a result of the downturn,” said House Minority Leader Paul Davis, a Lawrence Democrat. “I think it’s something we need to be thinking about.”

Legislators are working with a thin margin in drafting the 2012 budget. The final product will total close to \$14 billion and cut between 5 percent and 6 percent in overall spending compared to the 2011 budget. Those reductions include trimming state aid to public schools and other state programs.

The House is seeking a budget that has an ending balance of between \$50 million and \$100 million through June 30, 2012, based on the April 15 revenue forecast for the coming year. Senators haven’t set a floor for an ending balance, saying they want to protect essential state services from being harmed.

Brownback proposed an ending balance of \$7.5 million, but his plan, if adopted, would have left the state with a deficit in 2012 and forced additional cuts absent increased revenue collections. He’s recently said that he was “embarrassed” he aimed so low with that target and now would like to see more of a cushion going forward given conditions.

“It’s already affecting how

farmers and ranchers are doing business and that in turn will quickly begin to impact local businesses and communities,” Brownback said. “We have to keep this in mind when looking forward in our effort to grow the economy

and keep state spending within its means.”

Senate Ways and Means Chairwoman Carolyn McGinn, a Sedgewick Republican, said even if the wheat crop is poor, farmers elsewhere in the state still have

soybeans, corn and milo harvests ahead of them, with prices running higher than a year ago.

In addition, she said industries outside of agriculture, including aviation, are showing improvement.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS

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Tuesday Evening											May 10, 2011	
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30		
KAKE/ABC	Dancing With Stars		Dancing With Stars		Body of Proof		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live			
KBSL/CBS	NCIS		NCIS: Los Angeles		The Good Wife		Local	Late Show	Letterman	Late		
KSNK/NBC	The Biggest Loser				The Voice		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno		Late		
KSAS/FOX	Glee		Raising	Traffic	Local							
Cable Channels												
A & E	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48			
AMC	Rio Bravo						The Cowboys					
ANIM	Planet Earth		Madagascar				Planet Earth		Madagascar			
BRAVO	Housewives/OC		Bethenny Ever After		Pregnant in Heels		Pregnant in Heels		Housewives/NYC			
CMT	Extreme Makeover		The Singing Bee		The Singing Bee		The Singing Bee		Smarter	Smarter		
CNN	In the Arena		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360				Piers Morgan Tonight			
COMEDY	Jeff Dunham: Arguing		Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Macdonald	Daily	Colbert	Tosh.0	Macdonald		
DISC	Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch		Brothers		Brothers		Deadliest Catch			
DISN	Deck	Deck	Good Luck	Deck	Phineas	Phineas	Good Luck	Good Luck	Hannah	Hannah		
E!	Sex and t	Sex and t	Khloe	Khloe	Khloe	Khloe	Chelsea	E! News		Chelsea		
ESPN	30 for 30		Fields of Play		Baseball Tonight		SportsCenter		Baseball	NFL Live		
ESPN2	Year/Quarterback		30 for 30				E:60		SportsNation			
FAM	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		The 700 Club		Whose?	Whose?		
FOOD	Cupcake Wars		Chopped		Chopped		Challenge		Chopped			
FX	The Wrestler				The Wrestler							
HGTV	First	First	Property	Property	House	Hunters	Property	Property	Property	Property		
HIST	Larry the Cable Guy		Larry the Cable Guy		How the States		Ax Men		Larry the Cable Guy			
LIFE	American Pickers		American Pickers		Coming Home		How I Met		How I Met	Chris	Chris	
MTV	16 and Pregnant		16 and Pregnant		Worst. Prom. Ever				16 and Pregnant			
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	Chris	Chris	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny		
SCI	Prince Caspian						Beauty & Beast					
SPIKE	Repo	Repo	Auction	Auction	Auction	Auction	Repo	Auction	Ways Die	Ways Die		
TBS	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Conan		Lopez Tonight			
TCM	My Brother-Horses				The Rocking Horse Winner			She Went to the Races				
TLC	Child Frozen in Time		Tiniest Girl		Extreme C		Extreme C		Child Frozen in Time		Tiniest Girl	
TNT	NBA Basketball				NBA Basketball							
TOON	Looney	Gumball	King-Hill	King-Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen		
TRAV	Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods			
TV LAND	AllFamily	AllFamily	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Roseanne	Roseanne		Roseanne		
USA	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law Order: CI		CSI: Crime Scene			
VH1	Mob Wives		Mob Wives		Audrina		Saddle	Saddle	Saddle	Saddle	Maxim Hot	
WGN	MLB Baseball						News/Nine		Scrubs	South Pk	South Pk	
Premium Channels												
HBO	He's Just Not		Scott Pilgrim				Game of Thrones		Precious Life			
MAX	S.W.A.T.				Catch Me if You Can						Lady Chat	
SHOW	The Joneses		Nurse	Tara	Nurse	Tara	Call Girl	The War Boys				

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Wednesday Evening											May 11, 2011	
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30		
KAKE/ABC	Middle	Better	Family	Cougar	Happy	Happy	Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live			
KBSL/CBS	Survivor: Redemption		Criminal Minds		C.M.: Suspect		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late			
KSNK/NBC	Minute to Win It		Minute to Win It		Law & Order: SVU		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late			
KSAS/FOX	American Idol		Breaking		Local							
Cable Channels												
A & E	Beyond Scared Straight		Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Dog Bounty Hunter		Beyond Scared Straight			
AMC	Rambo Part II				The Recruit			Break-Bad				
ANIM	River Monsters		River Monsters		Hogs Gone Wild		River Monsters		Hogs Gone Wild			
BRAVO	Bethenny Ever After		Top Chef Masters		Top Chef Masters		Top Chef Masters		Top Chef Masters			
CMT	Extreme Makeover		8 Seconds					Cribs	Smarter	Smarter		
CNN	In the Arena		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360			Piers Morgan Tonight				
COMEDY	Chappelle	Chappelle	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	Work.	Daily	Colbert	South Pk	Work.		
DISC	MythBusters		MythBusters		MythBusters		MythBusters		MythBusters			
DISN	Lemonade Mouth				Phineas	Phineas	Good Luck	Good Luck	Hannah	Hannah		
E!	Sex and t	Sex and t	True Hollywood Story		TBA		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Chelsea		
ESPN	MLB Baseball						SportsCenter		Baseball	NFL Live		
ESPN2	Year/Quarterback		SportsCenter Special		Year/Quarterback		Year/Quarterback		SportsNation			
FAM	Bruce Almighty		Evan Almighty				The 700 Club		Whose?	Whose?		
FOOD	Last Cake Standing		Best in Smoke		Dinner: Impossible		Diners	Diners	Best in Smoke			
FX	Wanted				Wanted							
HGTV	Property	Property	Income	Property	House	Hunters	Hunters	Income	Income	Property		
<div></div> <div><h2>We Celebrate Hometown Life</h2><p>Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.</p></div>												
HIST	Ancient Aliens		Bigfoot: The				MonsterQuest		Ancient Aliens			
LIFE	The First 48		The First 48		Vanished, Beth		How I Met	How I Met	Chris	Chris		
MTV	16 and Pregnant		The Real World		The Real World		Barbar.	The Real World	RJ Berger			
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	Chris	Chris	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny		
SCI	Fact or Faked		Fact or Faked		Fact or Faked		Ghost Hunters		Hollywood	Hollywood		
SPIKE	UFC Unleashed		The Ultimate Fighter		Repo	Repo	The Ultimate Fighter		Ways Die	Ways Die		
TBS	Are We Th	Are We Th	Browns	Browns	Payne	Payne	Conan		Lopez Tonight			
TCM	Scarlet Street				Trade Winds				Housekeeper's			
TLC	Lottery Changed		Extreme C	Extreme C	Spouse vs. House		Extreme C	Extreme C	Spouse vs. House			
TNT	NBA Basketball				NBA Basketball				Inside the NBA			
TOON	Dude	Destroy	King-Hill	King-Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen		
TRAV	Man, Food	Man, Food	Man, Food	Man, Food	Conqueror	Conqueror	Man, Food	Man, Food	Man, Food	Man, Food		
TV LAND	AllFamily	AllFamily	Raymond	Raymond	Cleveland	Cleveland	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Home Imp.		
USA	NCIS		NCIS		NCIS		NCIS		CSI: Crime Scene			
VH1	Hip Hop	Hip Hop	Hip Hop	Fabulous	The Temptations							
WGN	Chris	Chris	How I Met	How I Met	MLB Baseball							
Premium Channels												
HBO	Lady Gaga Presents				Game of Thrones		Real Time/Bill Maher		Treme			
MAX	Animal House				The Losers				Sin City Diaries 4: Luck			
SHOW	Tara	Nurse	NASCAR	Teller	The Borgias		NASCAR	Gigolos	The Borgias			

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KEEPS
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