



Weather  
Corner



**Tonight...**Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. West winds around 10 mph.

**Thursday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 40s. West winds around 10 mph shifting to the south in the afternoon. Thursday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. South-west winds around 10 mph.

**Friday...**Partly sunny in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Colder. Highs in the upper 30s. North winds 10 to 20 mph. Friday night...Windy. Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of light snow. Lows around 18.

**Saturday...**Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly sunny. Windy. Scattered flurries in the morning. Highs in the upper 20s. Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 10.

**Sunday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 30s. Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 14.

**Monday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 30s. Monday night...Mostly clear. Lows around 16.

**Christmas Day...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 40s.

Cancer research fighting infertility  
among women cancer patients

LAWRENCE (AP) — A doctor at the University of Kansas Hospital is looking for a method to stave off the effects of cancer treatment on women.

Infertility or symptoms of menopause are common among women 30 or 40 years old. But Dr. Samuel Kim is working on an experimental procedure that has stopped early onset menopause and may soon prove that it can maintain fertility even after aggressive chemotherapy.

“This is emerging technology,” Kim said. “We have a long way to go. I’m one of just two people who started to develop this technology.”

The procedure involves removing a woman’s ovary, saving it, then re-implanting it after she’s been declared cancer free. It begins with removing the organ, slicing it into pieces and freezing it.

No technology exists for preserving whole organs.

When the woman is cleared, the tissue is replaced, including its limited supply of eggs and hormones.

The ovary must be placed where it can be easily accessed in the

body in an untraditional location. Kim has developed a procedure that implants the piece of ovary in the area between fatty and muscle tissues in the abdomen.

Almost immediately, according to clinical trials Kim has done, the ovary starts to produce hormones that stop the menopause-like symptoms.

The ovary also, eventually, will produce a follicle that can be fertilized and implanted in a woman’s uterus.

Kim hasn’t implanted an egg yet because women weren’t ready or the uterus was damaged. Three women have produced eggs and had them preserved. One is looking for a surrogate, the other two aren’t ready for children.

Marchelle Arnett, one of Kim’s patients, is interested in having a baby. Her ovary produced an egg, but didn’t make it in time from her Idaho home to Kansas City for Kim to collect the egg. Kim said she would be back in a few months to try again.

One of the benefits from the treatment, Kim said, was it can preserve fertility of patients who don’t respond to traditional methods, such as drugs. Some patients

can’t afford to wait treatment.

“This is also an option for young cancer patients,” Kim said.

“We cannot do embryo freezing in prepubescent girls” because they are not yet able to ovulate.

Insurance won’t always cover the treatment because it’s experimental, but Kim tries to keep the cost down, now between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

“I want to make it affordable,” Kim said. “I don’t charge a doctor’s fee.”

Dr. Carl Weiner, chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology, said that reproductive health has been overlooked nationally.

“What we’ve done is put together a program that’s not focused on women, clinically,” Weiner said.

Weiner said Kim’s effort was part of a larger effort of the reproductive health group to work with the cancer center at KU Hospital.

But in the future, Weiner said, the procedure may be useful not just to women with cancer but also to women who want to preserve their fertility to an older age.

But the technology is not there yet.

Lake Wilson  
controlling white perch

LAKE WILSON (AP) — White perch are known to reproduce fast and compete for food with more popular species, overpopulating a lake. When overpopulated, white perch create another problem: They grow slowly and don’t get big enough to catch the desire of anglers.

They thrived in their native Chesapeake Bay area, and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks officials just as soon would have had them stay there. At Cheney Reservoir, white perch have caused the havoc described above — while only growing to 6 or 7 inches long themselves — since they accidentally were introduced there in 1994. They show no signs of stopping. And wildlife officials are afraid the white perch will spread by migrating up and down rivers, or by careless anglers inadvertently netting the young and using them as bait in other lakes.

At Lake Wilson, however, a combination of natural lake conditions and aggressive management efforts have kept the perch under control and even created a fish that anglers actively will pursue.

“They’re fun to catch; they really are,” said fisherman Gary Eichman, Russell. “They’re a lot better eatin’ fish than a white bass.”

White perch came to Wilson the same year they arrived at Cheney. But the water is clearer and there are more predators at Wilson, so fewer white perch survive and those that do grow bigger. At Wilson, the average size is 9 to 10 inches, said Tommy Berger, district fisheries biologist for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

“There’s not very many reservoirs in the state, if any, where they can do that,” he said.

In fact, there aren’t many reservoirs in the country where you can do that. Berger said he hasn’t found another white perch population with a bigger

average size.

“Here we have extremely clear water, we have lots of predators,” Berger said. “Those two things allowed our white perch to stay under control.”

Management efforts include, more or less, killing all of the white perch you catch, see or smell. State law labels white perch as a prohibited species, so any in possession must be killed immediately. That means no limits, which attracts some fishermen, especially those looking to eat what they catch, Berger said.

“There’s no limit on ’em,” he said. “They can catch all they want, and they can eat all they want. If they can find the white perch, they can catch ’em all day long.”

Berger also has stocked as many striped bass in the lake as he could get his hands on, hoping the stripers will eat more young white perch.

Management has been so successful that Berger has noticed just one failing in the fishery: The white bass population at Wilson dwindled to almost nothing, and it did so suspiciously close to the time the perch arrived. But the white bass decline also might be linked to droughts in recent years because white bass like to swim up a flowing stream to spawn, and lack of rain has meant a lack of flowing water, Berger said.

The white perch population has declined in recent years, and Berger is glad of it. In 2006, the state wildlife department estimated about 7,000 white perch were harvested from Wilson Lake, compared with about 10,000 in 2001. About 9,500 walleye, the favorite species of Wilson anglers, are harvested per year.

“I’ve tried to be positive toward the white perch,” Berger said. “I’ve tried to encourage people to catch them, and I’ve tried to encourage people to eat them.”

Colby man dies from gunshot wound

A Colby man died early this morning from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest, said Police Chief Randy Jones.

“Colby police received a (911) call at 12:45 a.m. with regard to a

resident on East Ash Street,” he said. When police officers arrived, they found a white male in the garage.

The man, who was pronounced dead at the scene by the coroner, was identified as Jeremiah (Jay)

John Nichol, 28.

In addition to the coroner, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and police are investigating.

No further details were available.

School board hears update on website

From “SEARCH,” Page 1

In other board news:

- A technology update was given by district technology director Phil DeYoung and advisor Shawn Reinert.
- DeYoung and Reinert reported a flaw in the filtering system that was slowing down internet access earlier in the year has been corrected.
- Reinert is still updating the web site, and says students can submit articles at any time, but the must go through three different channels for approval.
- Nielsen said he has asked building principals to have a new article ready by the seventh of each month.
- An Adequate Yearly Progress report was given curriculum director Diana Wieland. The following grade levels met the standard of excellence: fifth

grade (reading), fourth grade (math), seventh grade (math and reading) and eighth grade (reading). Colby Middle School, as a whole, met the standard of excellence in reading and math. Thomas County Academy did as well at the seventh and eighth grade levels.

- Harrison reported the elementary school is working on assessment charts that track test scores over a five year period.
- Christmas activities are going on all throughout this week. In addition, the school is preparing those who failed the Measurement of Academic progress testing in the fall for a re-try in January and they are getting ready for the Kansas Assessments in the spring.
- Ross announced the seventh grade basketball team won the league championship, while the eighth graders finished fifth. In the next round of middle school sports,

there is 18 girls out for seventh grade basketball, 12 girls out for eighth grade basketball and 27 boys out for wrestling.

- Wieland said she would present a formal bullying policy to the board in January, and that they’ve been adapting the policy since July.
- Thomas County Foundation Director Melinda Olson answered questions from the board about setting up a fund in which people could donate to the school for scholarships or athletic purposes. The board agreed to appoint a committee to look into the situation led by Taylor and Fulwider.
- Gabel was questioned as to the cost of the new uniforms for the basketball teams. He said 40 boys uniforms cost \$9,449.40 and 30 girls uniforms were \$6,500. He also said they should last at least six years.
- The new girls uniforms are illegal, according to Kansas High

School Activities Association rules, because of an orange seam across the tops. But Gabel says not worry, they have been given an exemption by the state and other schools are going through the same thing.

- The Colby High wrestling team got new warmups as well. Any wrestler who would like to purchase their old warmups need to contact Gabel, who will negotiate a price
- The board approved the recommendations of Sharon Havel, a paraprofessional at the high school, Jessica Johnson, a library/media clerk at the grade school and high school and Jeanette Newjoye, an English as a Second Language paraprofessional.
- Michael Karnes was approved as a replacement for Matt Brown as a Colby Middle School assistant wrestling coach.
- The next board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Jan. 21.

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