

Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, low around 51. Breezy, with a west wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Thursday: Partly sunny, high near 59. Windy, with a north wind between 25 and 35 mph, with gusts as high as 45 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. Windy, with a northwest wind around 30 mph, with gusts as high as 45 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, high near 62. Windy, with a northwest wind between 25 and 30 mph, gusts as high as 40 mph.

Friday Night: Patchy frost after 1 a.m. Otherwise, mostly clear and breezy, with a low around 35.

Saturday: Patchy frost before 10 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 64.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 39.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68.

Sunday Night: A 30 percent chance of rain. Partly cloudy, with a low around 47.

Monday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Partly cloudy, with a high near 67.

Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain. Partly cloudy, with a low around 42.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 63.

Monday: High, 70; Low 38

Tuesday: High, 77; Low 42

Precip: Monday 0.00 inches

Tuesday 0.00 inches

Month: 1.55 inches

Year: 22.08 inches

Normal: 17.71 inches

(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset

Thursday 7:41 a.m. 7:26 p.m.

(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Colby students stay ahead in state standardized tests

From "TESTS," Page 1

math, sometimes they know it, but they can't demonstrate it."

Teachers also have been working to individualize the assessments to help each student deal with their particular disability, she said.

To meet adequate yearly progress as defined by the law, a state, school district or building has to meet or exceed the proficiency targets in all of the subjects tested. Math and reading are always tested. For the past several years, the state has also tested students in science, Wieland said, and writing and social studies eventually will be alternated each year. Tests are taken online, with an option to have paper versions if a student needs one. Wieland said the students' scores improved significantly when the district switched to the online test.

"I think that they're more in tune with dealing with computers," she said.

The state sets progress targets, the desired

percentage of kids who score well, for each year and each subject. The targets started low and have been increased each year. This year, said Wieland, the target in reading will be 79.7 percent of students proficient for kindergarten through eighth grade and 76.7 percent in grades nine through 12. The targets in math are 77.8 percent proficient for kindergarten through eighth grade and 70.5 percent for grades nine through 12. The targets will reach 100 percent proficiency in 2014.

The schools have to have at least a 95 percent attendance at the test, based on how many kids are enrolled on the first day of testing. Wieland said the participation rate for the Colby schools was 99.6 percent for reading and math and 100 percent for science.

To meet adequate yearly progress requirement for graduation rates, a high school has to have a rate at or above that set by the state Department of Education, in this case 75 percent, or show improve-

ment from previous years. Graduation rate is measured by cohort, or how many students from each freshmen class graduate after four years. Students in a cohort who drop out, earn general education development certificates or have to take extra years to graduate are all considered not to have graduated with their cohort.

Last year, the district's graduation rate was 91.5 percent compared to the state average of 89.5 percent, Wieland said. In 2008, the rate was 96 percent. The district's dropout rate in 2007 was 1.6 percent, compared to the state's 1.8 percent average.

Scores are also broken down by subgroups, such as students with disabilities or students eligible for free and reduced lunch. A subgroup has to have more than 30 students in it at a particular school to be measured, she said.

District- and state-level adequate yearly progress scores were released on Sept. 10. The department said 172 schools in Kansas did not meet progress goals last year.

Although these only represent 12 percent of the total 1,389 schools in the state, the number has increased from 2007-2008. The majority of these schools did not make the progress goals in math or reading, while some failed the attendance and graduation rate goals. Thirty-four districts did not make their yearly progress goals.

The state as a whole did not make adequate yearly progress in several subgroups. In math, Kansas did not meet progress goals for students with disabilities and African Americans. In reading, the state did not meet progress goals for students with disabilities, African Americans, hispanics and English-as-a-second-language students.

Progress "Report Cards" for each school will be released in late October or November. Wieland said this year's tests could begin in the fall at the high school, but are usually given district-wide from mid-February to mid-April.

Segwick Sheriff's deputy killed by former inmate

From "DEPUTY," Page 1

suspect was shot "multiple times," but Hinshaw said he did not know how many shots hit him.

Lyons had served 27 months after a 2005 conviction for felony aggravated assault in Segwick County, said Bill Miskell, spokesman for the Kansas Department of Corrections. He was released from prison on March 2, 2007, and completed his post-release supervision on April 11, 2008.

Sedgwick County court records indicate Lyons also had a 2003 misdemeanor conviction for battery against a law enforcement official.

The slain deputy was remem-

bered by his colleagues as "very passionate" about wanting to be a law enforcement officer. He leaves behind a wife and a 2-year-old daughter.

A funeral for Etheridge will be held Friday, with a rosary and vigil planned for Thursday.

"It is scary. None of us in law enforcement, or in the military, get into this job thinking that it could happen to us. We don't even really think it could happen to someone we know," Hinshaw said. "But the cold reality is law enforcement officers are killed in the performance of their duty. It is scary when it actually happens to you or someone that you know."

Topeka council approves ban

TOPEKA (AP) — The Topeka City Council has approved a smoking ban in the city with limited exceptions.

The council voted 6-3 Tuesday night to approve a clean air ordinance, which bans public smoking indoors and at places of employment. The exceptions include retail tobacco stores and outdoor places of employment.

Also exempted are private build-

ings and homes, except when they are used as a child care, adult day care or health care facility. It also allows smoking in no more than 20 percent of hotel or motel rooms that are available for guests.

Assistant city attorney Braxton Copley said the ban will take effect 60 days after notice of its passage has been published in the official city newspaper.

States' drug deaths outnumber fatal accidents

ATLANTA (AP) — Drug-related deaths outnumber those from motor vehicle accidents in a growing number of states, according to new government data that highlight a shift in the top cause of deaths after disease and illness.

Crashes still cost more lives nationwide, but state-by-state calculations show the rate of drug-induced deaths outpaced vehicle accidents in 16 states in 2006, up from about a dozen states the year before and eight in 2003.

Drug overdoses make up the vast majority of the drug-related deaths, and there was a sharp increase in fatalities tied to cocaine and to drugs known as opioid analgesics — including methadone, fentanyl, sedatives and prescription painkillers like Vicodin and OxyContin.

From 1999 to 2006, death rates for opioid analgesics increased for every age group. Deaths from methadone alone increased sevenfold, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a report released Wednesday.

Based on death certificate data, Centers for Disease Control researchers counted more than 45,000 U.S. deaths from motor-vehicle crashes in 2006, and about 39,000 from drug-induced causes. The centers do not have finalized data for 2007 or subsequent years.

About 90 percent of those drug fatalities are sud-

den deaths from overdoses, but the count includes people who died from organ damage from long-term drug use or abuse.

The 2006 death counts and death rates were higher for drugs than for vehicle accidents in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

It's not clear why certain states have seen such a shift. There are probably a variety of reasons, and the explanation may vary a bit from state to state, said Bob Anderson, chief of the mortality statistics branch at the centers' National Center for Health Statistics.

Part of the story is that traffic death rates are going down. The death rate for people killed in motor vehicle crashes decreased by about 6.5 percent from 1999 through 2006 — from 15.3 per 100,000 to 14.3 per 100,000, according to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data.

Declines in motor vehicle fatalities "are considered one of the great public health triumphs" of the last few decades, said Margaret Warner, an epidemiologist who co-authored the new report.

"But (drug) poisonings are definitely going up," she added.

Some crops almost ready for harvest

From "CROPS," Page 1

wouldn't make it before the first hard freeze. If it doesn't mature in time, he said, a freeze can stop the process. That was also a worry this year, but he says it now looks like the crop will mature and dry down in time to beat the freeze.

"All fields are different, of course," he said, "but they should start harvesting within about three weeks."

Milliman said most farmers who grow corn and sorghum would get the corn out of the way before switching heads to harvest the milo. Right now, farmers are still harvesting wet corn that will go directly for cattle feed since most of the corn is not yet dry enough to be taken to elevators. The Department of Agriculture reports about 15 percent of the corn in northwest Kansas has been harvested and 66 percent is mature, both of which are behind previous years at this time.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS

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Table with columns: Thursday Evening, October 1, 2009. Rows include KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSAS/FOX, Cable Channels, and Premium Channels.

Table with columns: Friday Evening, October 2, 2009. Rows include KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSAS/FOX, Cable Channels, and Premium Channels.

Advertisement for City Limits Bar & Grill. Text: "Coming Soon To City Limits Bar & Grill. New Pasta and Desserts! Chef Bud Anderson From Ben E Keith's Food Distribution from Amarelo, Texas will be teaching the staff 3 or 4 new pasta dishes on Thursday, October 1st that will soon be available! City Limits is also offering flau and homemade apple pie with ice cream! New drinks include New Belgium and O'dells micro brewed out of Fort Collins, Colorado! Pitcher's of Margarita's are available daily but pitcher specials on Tuesday only!!" Includes logo and image of food.