

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northwest.
Friday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 51. Breezy, north wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Friday Night: A slight chance of rain before midnight, then a slight chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. North wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.
Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 43. Northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Saturday Night: A chance of rain and snow. Cloudy, with a low around 30. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.
Sunday: A 40 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 36.
Sunday Night: A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25.
Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27.
Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 54.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 59.
 Tuesday: High, 53; Low 40
 Wednesday: High, 53; Low 41
 Precip: Tuesday 0.01 inches
 Wednesday Trace
 Month: 0.01 inches
 Year: 25.20 inches
 Normal: 19.95 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
 Friday 7:26 a.m. 5:31 p.m.
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

Colby family struggles, triumphs against disease

From "CUSHING'S," Page 1

symptoms. Everything I Googled, came up as Cushing's Disease.

"I practically lived at the computer every night and way into the night, and the first sign of help finally came when I discovered a website with a message board. It was made up of people who had suffered the same symptoms, and some had gotten a diagnosis and treatment."

She said she learned that Cushing's Disease affects the pituitary gland and sometimes the adrenal glands. Referred to as the master gland in the body, the pituitary controls the other endocrine glands, she said. It influences growth, metabolism, maturation, blood sugar and more.

When for some unknown reason, a tumor grows on the pituitary, then the tumor takes control, she said.

Once that happens, Kennedy said, the pituitary gives in to commands from the tumor. When it tells the adrenal glands to produce more of the growth hormone cortisol, it obeys even though the body doesn't need any more. That, she said, is when bad things begin to happen.

The National Health Institute lists symptoms as weight gain, extra hair growth on the extremities, acne on the face and chest, redness of complexion, a "buffalo hump" on the back of the neck and short-term memory loss, among others. Often the victim withdraws from those around them because they can't handle the way they feel.

While fighting for answers, Kennedy said, she began to look closer at her daughter Jessica, because she had an eerie feeling she was detecting some of the same symptoms her son was experiencing.

After taking some family pictures, she said, she looked at the screen, closely studying the pictures of her daughter, and could see what she had feared — the visible signs of the disease and the definite beginning of a hump.

"I couldn't tell her yet," she said, "and I spent the entire night crying. For the next two weeks, I succeeded in pushing it to the back of mind. I was struggling with how I was going to deal with it in another child."

"Then in desperation, I tackled it full force again, and began searching for a doctor anywhere, even on the West Coast, who might have knowledge of the symptoms and the disease."

I discovered a Dr. (Theodore) Friedman in Los Angeles who devoted one night a week to appointments for people with the symptoms, so I made necessary

arrangements for us to have a face-to-face visit with him."

Kennedy said that visit led to many more tests, including a series of blood tests at midnight. Dr. Friedman told the Kennedys to find a hospital that would do late-night blood draws, because the body's level of cortisol should be nearest to zero three to five hours after the onset of sleep. Dr. Friedman asked that the draw be close to midnight.

"The Colby hospital was awesome," Kennedy said, "and Bob Hanzlick, the lab manager, told us to just let them know when we needed it, and that the person on call would be there whenever we needed them."

"They did many midnight draws, and we are forever grateful to them."

Kennedy said that when the late-night cortisol level in the blood reaches 7.5, at that point that the disease is considered "diagnostic." The children's reading ran between 13 and 15, she said, sufficient proof that the monster they were dealing with was Cushing's disease.

"When we got the diagnosis, it came by phone," she said, "and although my son was at work, I told my daughter we had to go tell him. So when we got there, and I told him we had gotten the answer to what was making him sick. He got a funny little grin on his face, and said, 'You mean I'm not really just crazy?'"

Next, there were tests to find the tumor on the pituitary, then locate a surgeon with experience in removing tumors from the pea-sized gland, located at the base of the brain, near the middle of the head back of the cheek bone. The delicate surgery is performed through the nose, Kennedy said.

The family located a surgeon at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, a renowned cancer treatment center. Appointments were made so that the brother and sister would have the surgery soon, and in the same trip.

After the surgery, she said, it looked like life was beginning to take a better turn. Then one day, some of the symptoms began to return.

"There was one other thing left that we could do," Kennedy said, "and that was to have their adrenal glands removed."

Having no adrenal gland has its drawbacks, she said. It means the victim must never be without the drug hydrocortisone. They must take it every day for the rest of their lives.

The second surgery, 11 months later, wasn't one the teens wanted to go through if it could be avoided, Kennedy said, but after several

Brunch and auction Sunday for Colby family

A brunch and silent auction Sunday will raise money to help pay medical and other expenses of the Bill and Judy Kennedy family.

Friends and family have organized the event, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Little Theater, in the basement of the Colby Community Building. The fam-

ily came through a four-year battle with Cushing's disease, and the proceeds will go to help with the costs of years of travel, treatment and surgery.

For information, or to make a donation, call Sue Draper at 460-6332 or Elsie Rietcheck at (785) 855-2285.

months of living with yet more symptoms, one day, they came to their mother and said, "We're ready."

Finding a surgeon with experience in removal of adrenal glands took them in the opposite direction, to Milwaukee.

The surgery was performed last spring, in March, and now the kids are adjusting to a life without symptoms.

"My son has big shoulders and good muscle strength," Kennedy said, "but before the surgery, his shoulders were beginning to sag. Now after the surgeries, his shoulders have straightened up, and his strength has returned."

Kennedy said that during the diagnosis and testing time with Dr. Friedman in Los Angeles, she would periodically receive e-mails with test results and information. Whenever the e-mail tone would sound on her computer, she said, her heart would begin to pound, because of the fear of what the news might be. That is one thing she doesn't miss, she said.

The family still had to face up to one more discovery. Kennedy's husband Bill apparently had the disease for several years, but managed to function.

After the same battery of tests the children had gone through, the family found themselves on their

way back to Houston for a third surgery.

"I guess he was one of those who had resigned himself to the thought that it was normal to feel lousy," Kennedy said. "He doesn't have a cure yet, and is also facing having his adrenals removed."

Experts have told the family the disease is not genetic, but Kennedy is not giving up on that either. Dr. Friedman has stuck with them, and has found a physician in England who is doing genetics blood testing. And now the family is preparing to send blood to him.

"The kids are about where they should be," she said. "Their once-straight hair that turned really curly is beginning to go straight again, and the puffiness and redness is out of their faces the weight is coming off and they are more like what they used to be."

But the story doesn't end there. Although Kennedy doesn't like to talk about it, the last four years have wrecked the family's finances.

Kennedy said she wants to share the website that helped save her family and her sanity with anyone who might need it, or who even knows of anyone who might need help. It's Cushings_help.com.

"Now I'm wondering what I'm going to do with all my time," she said with a smile.

Pheasant hunting season looks pleasant

From "PHEASANT," Page 1

a special permit. Walking beside, along, in front of or behind, standing at the end of the field, etc., and attempting to hunt birds that are flushed by a vehicle can earn you a ticket, he said.

Young reminds hunters taking advantage of the state's Walk in Hunting Program to stay on the leased land and not to trespass on neighboring land. Boundaries are marked by signs and hunters should not cross over into other land.

The daily bag limit for pheasants is four roosters, and the limit for quail is eight of either sex. No hen pheasants may be taken except on controlled shooting areas. The season for both ends Jan. 31.

Vegas holds meatball contest

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Joey Chestnut maintained his dominance in the sport of competitive eating — and expanded his palate — by winning the first-ever Maritorano's Masters Meatball Eating Championship in Las Vegas.

Chestnut on Sunday gobbled 50 meatballs in 10 minutes at the Rio All Suite Hotel & Casino.

The 6.25 pounds was a new world record and earned him the

first-place prize of \$1,500.

Pat "Deep Dish" Bertolotti finished in second place, just one meatball behind Chestnut.

Sonya Thomas, weighing in at 105 pounds, ate 42 meatballs to finish third.

The event was a Major League Eating-sanctioned competition.

Chestnut's resume also includes hot dog, pizza and chicken wing contests.

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LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Saturday Evening											November 14, 2009	
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30		
KAKE/ABC	College Football										Local	
KBSL/CBS	NCIS		CSI: NY		48 Hours Mystery		Local					
KSNK/NBC	Mercy		Law & Order		Law & Order: SVU		Local		Saturday Night Live			
KSAS/FOX	Cops	Cops	Most Wanted		Local			The Wanda Sykes Show	Sit Down	Local		
Cable Channels												
A & E	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		CSI: Miami			Criminal Minds		
AMC	The Matrix							The Matrix Reloaded				
ANIM	SuperFetc	SuperFetc	Cats 101		America's Cutest Dog		Cats 101		SuperFetc	SuperFetc		
BRAVO	Real Housewives OC		GoodFellas						GoodFellas			
CMT	Strict Parents		Cheer	Dateline: Swift	Strict Parents		Strict Parents		Parents			
CNN	Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live			
COMEDY	American Pie				Wedding Daze				Dane Cook Iso.			
DISC	Nostradamus Decoded				2012 Apocalypse		Nostradamus Decoded					
DISN	Finn on the Fly		Underdog		Montana		Wizards	So Raven	The Suite	Cory		
E!	Swingers				Lamas		Girls	The Soup	Chelsea	Swingers		
ESPN	College Football							SportsCenter		Football Final		
ESPN2	College Football						NHRA Drag Racing			Fastbreak		
FAM	Charlie & Chocolate						The Wedding Singer			Fresh Pr.		
FOOD	Good Eats	Good Eats	Secret Life of		Thanksg'ing		Iron Chef America		Secret Life of			
FX	Dodgeball: Underdog		Fantastic Four				Sunny	League	Damages			
HGTV	Divine	Genevieve	Color		House		House	House	Color	Color		
We Celebrate Hometown Life Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.												
HIST	Armageddon				Strange Rituals		Siberian Apocalypse		Armageddon			
LIFE	Georgia Rule		The Break-Up				Project Runway		The Break-Up			
MTV	S. Park	S. Park	Real World-Rd		MTV Special		MTV Special		Nitro Cir	Nitro Cir		
NICK	iCarly	Jackson	Lopez	Lopez	Chris	G. Martin	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny		
SCI	Megafault		Ice Twisters				2012: Startling					
SPIKE	Ultimate Fig						Super	Super	Ultimate Fig			
TBS	The Wizard of Oz						Yours, Mine & Ours			Shaggy		
TCM	Saboteur				Heaven Only Knows				Beach Party			
TLC	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Flowers	Flowers	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss		
TNT	Con Air						Tokyo Drift			Biker Boy		
TOON	Wheels	Batman	Saturdays	Justice	King-Hill	King-Hill	The PJs	Boondocks	Boondocks	Bleach		
TRAV	Best Pig Out		Uniq McDonald		Forbes Luxe 11		Extreme Miami		Best Pig Out			
TV LAND	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne		
USA	National	The Game Plan					Law Order: CI		2 Fast 2 Furious			
VH1	Cocktail					Sex-Dr. Drew	Tool Academy		Diddy			
WGN	Casanova				Funniest Home Videos		Scrubs	Scrubs	It Runs-Family			
Premium Channels												
HBO	Bride Wars				RocknRolla				Curb	Bride Wars		
MAX	Uninvited	Hitman			Yes Man							
SHOW	Dexter		The Amateurs			Promo			Good Luck Chuck			

Sunday Evening											November 15, 2009	
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30		
KAKE/ABC	Extreme-Home		Desperate Housewives		Brothers & Sisters		Local					
KBSL/CBS	The Amazing Race 15		Three Rivers		Cold Case		Local					
KSNK/NBC	Football	NFL Football									Local	Dateline NBC
KSAS/FOX	Simpsons	Cleveland	Fam. Guy	Amer Dad	Local							
Cable Channels												
A & E	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		CSI: Miami			Criminal Minds		
AMC	The Prisoner				The Prisoner				First Blood			
ANIM	Untamed and Uncut		Untamed and Uncut		Untamed and Uncut		Untamed and Uncut		Untamed and Uncut			
BRAVO	Law Order: CI		Law Order: CI		Law Order: CI		Law Order: CI		Law Order: CI			
CMT	Where the Heart Is						Dallas Cheerleaders		Cheer	Cheer		
CNN	Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live			
COMEDY	Napoleon Dynamite		Dunham	Dunham	Dunham	Dunham	S. Park	Tosh.0	Secret Gi	Futurama		
DISC	Cleopatra-Killer		Jack the Ripper		Storm Chasers		Cleopatra-Killer		Jack the Ripper			
DISN	Sonny	Jonas	Princess Diaries 2				Wizards	Montana	The Suite	Cory		
E!	Plastic Surgery		Soup	Girls	Girls	Lamas	The Soup	Chelsea	Girls	Lamas		
ESPN	SportsCtr	College Football							SportsCenter			
ESPN2	NHRA Drag Racing				NASCAR Now		SportsCtr	Poker	World Series			
FAM	Meet the Robinsons				Meet the Robinsons				J. Osteen	Feed		
FOOD	Challenge		The Next Iron Chef		Iron Chef America				Flay	The Next Iron Chef		
FX	Fantastic Four		Day-Tomorrow						Sons of Anarchy			
HGTV	Staging Secrets		House	House	Estate	Income	For Rent	Property	House	House		
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	WWII in HD				Ancients-Badly		Pawn	Pawn		
LIFE	You Belong to Me		Dead at 17				Dead at 17					
MTV	The City	The Hills	Styl'd		Styl'd		Styl'd		Pranked	Pranked		
NICK	Malcolm	Malcolm	Chris	Chris	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny		
SCI	Serenity		Interview-Vamp						Dead Like Me: Life After Death			
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scn		CSI: Crime Scn		CSI: Crime Scn		CSI: Crime Scn		CSI: Crime Scn			
TBS	The Wizard of Oz						The Wizard of Oz			Freaky		
TCM	Always Leave				Tall-Handsome				Piccadilly			
TLC	Conjoined Twin		Conjoined Twins		Joined for Life		Conjoined Twin		Conjoined Twins			
TNT	The Rock						The Rock					