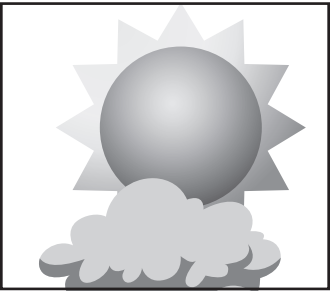


Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 47. West wind around 5 to 10 mph becoming west.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 45. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy and blustery, with a low around 14.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 26.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 12.

Presidents' Day: Sunny, with a high near 43.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 22.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 48.

Wednesday: High, 28; Low 18
Precip: Wed. 0.00 inches
Month: 0.07 inches
Year: 0.56 inches
Normal: 0.52 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
Friday 7:40 a.m. 6:18 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Audit says consolidation might save \$138 million

From "AUDIT," Page 1

already split grade levels, such as one that has the elementary school and the other the high school.

The second scenario would close 304 schools and reduce the number of teachers and administrators by roughly 1,500, saving \$138 million. The audit said this would be accomplished by eliminating all districts with fewer than 1,600 students.

Sen. Terry Bruce, chairman of the Legislative Post Audit Committee, said the information was helpful but noted the political

difficulty of forcing districts to merge.

"We're just not going to see a huge consolidation effort that we saw in the 1960s," said Bruce, a Hutchinson Republican.

The auditors noted that the savings wouldn't be immediate and would not help the state resolve a projected budget gap of \$416 million. In addition, the state and districts would face additional costs for transportation and to expand or build high schools. The audit didn't examine the impact on elementary or middle-school buildings.

Bruce said costs for construction were

likely to temper any enthusiasm for consolidation, given the state's budget crunch.

State education officials say Kansas has averaged one to three consolidations a year over the past decade. Most happened because a district was unable to survive financially or provide enough education opportunities.

Interim Education Commissioner Diane DeBacker said any document that lists districts that should consider consolidating isn't helpful for schools worried about their futures.

"This will make districts more nervous

than they already are now," DeBacker said.

The last major study on consolidation was conducted in 2001.

Bruce said he would be meeting with the leaders of other legislative committees to discuss the recommendations, adding that more incentives for voluntary consolidation might be worth pursuing.

To encourage districts to consolidate, the Legislature agrees not to reducing their money until the merger is complete. Mergers often result in a loss of state aid based on enrollment and overall district property valuation.

Dodge City reporter found in contempt, fined \$1,000 a day

WICHITA (AP) — A Kansas judge found a subpoenaed newspaper reporter in contempt and fined her \$1,000 a day after she failed to show up to testify Wednesday about a jailhouse interview and her confidential sources in a murder investigation.

District Judge Daniel Love ordered Dodge City Daily Globe reporter Claire O'Brien to appear Friday at a rescheduled inquisition \ the Kansas equivalent of a grand jury.

A distraught O'Brien told the Associated Press the newspaper's owners made it "absolutely clear" that the publication would not pay for her legal help unless she testifies.

She said the corporate lawyers also blocked her attempts to get free legal assistance through the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

"I feel profoundly betrayed," she said. "I have been prepared to take one of the most difficult steps a citizen can take and I haven't been given the dignity of representation ... to facilitate my choice."

"I have been told that I have to betray my sources in order to get legal help."

An executive with GateHouse Media Kansas Holdings, which

owns the newspaper, denied O'Brien's claims late Wednesday, insisting the company did not try to force her to testify in exchange for legal help, and that the company actually encouraged the Reporter's Committee to help O'Brien.

Earlier, the company issued a statement saying it had vigorously defended O'Brien's legal interests from the start of inquisition proceedings through the Kansas Supreme Court's "regrettable decision" not to toss out the subpoenas.

Stephen Wade, group publisher for GateHouse Media Kansas, also said the company had paid for a lawyer who worked for O'Brien before the reporter fired the lawyer Wednesday.

"Ms. O'Brien decided to pursue a different course of action this morning, so GateHouse's involvement in the legal proceedings has — by her choice — ended," the company said in the statement.

The inquisition already has been delayed many times while O'Brien and GateHouse appealed the subpoena on the grounds that forcing O'Brien to testify would violate her First Amendment rights and hurt her ability to gather news.

Last week, the Kansas Supreme

Court denied her request to stop the subpoena.

Prosecutors want her notes from a jailhouse interview with a suspect in a shooting that left one man dead and another wounded. They also want the identity of sources who claimed that the suspect might be in danger.

Ford County Attorney Terry Malone said Wednesday he was frustrated that the reporter did not come to court. He said the judge fined O'Brien, not the newspaper, \$1,000 for every day she is in contempt.

"We just need to get this over with and move on," Malone said. "I am disappointed we weren't able to do that. If she wants to refuse to answer that is her pre-

rogative. She would probably be found in contempt of court, but that is the process that should be followed. Not showing up is not the way."

The unexpected turn in the case dismayed officials at the Kansas Press Association, who have said O'Brien's case illustrates the need for Kansas to join 35 other states in passing a "shield law" to protect reporters.

"We certainly believe the reporter has the right to protect her sources," said KPA executive director Doug Anstaett, "but she could have done that by appearing in court and refusing to testify. Her decision not to appear is one that we can't agree with."

"If we in the press appear to be

totally defiant, we run the risk of getting nowhere with the shield law."

The judge did not return a call from the AP seeking comment.

At the heart of the subpoena is an Oct. 13 Daily Globe story based on O'Brien's jailhouse interview with Sam Bonilla, who has been charged with second-degree murder and attempted murder in a Labor Day shooting.

Bonilla, who is Hispanic, reportedly told O'Brien that he acted in self-defense after the two victims, both white, tried to run him down while he was jogging with two children along the Arkansas River. The story suggested that the incident had stirred up anti-Hispanic sentiment.

Crop losses won't show until spring

From "DAMAGE," Page 1

for a long time, state weather data shows the average temperature from October to Feb 9 at 33.8 degrees, precipitation at 8.7 inches and snowfall at 18.8 inches.

Last year, the temperature average was 38.2 de-

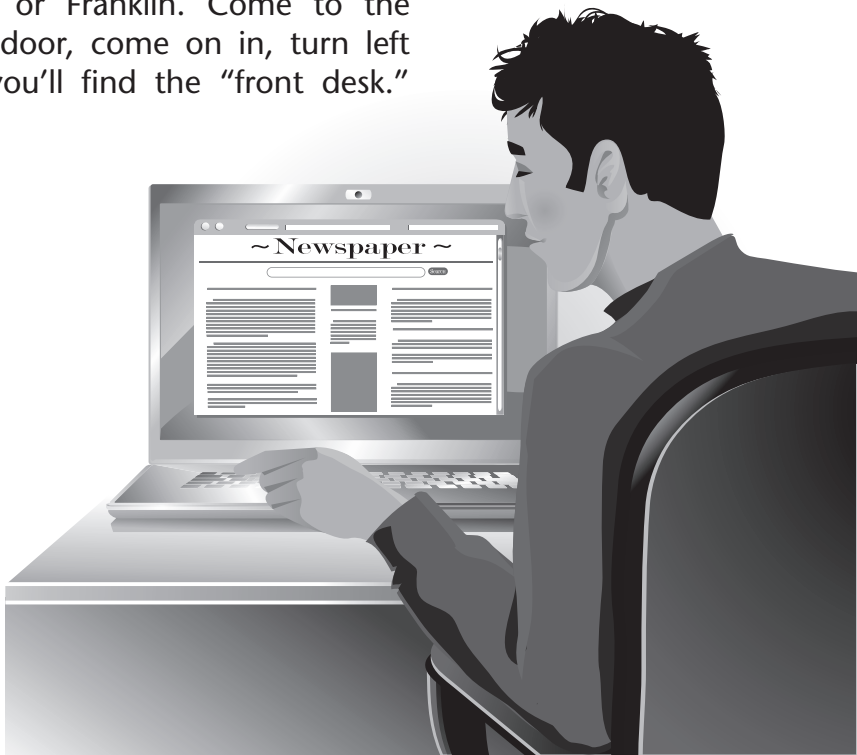
grees, precipitation was 5.57 inches, and snowfall 12.2 inches.

Heaviest snowfall over the past 50 years was in 2000-2001 at 35.2 inches, and the lowest average temperature covering that span stands at 29.2 in 1992-93. The highest average temperature was 57.6 degrees in 1999-2000.

We're Open!

• Because of the flooding, we are working in the back room. The front door is open, but Fifth Street is closed. Parking is available on Chick or Franklin. Come to the front door, come on in, turn left and you'll find the "front desk."

• As always, customers are our priority at the Colby Free Press. We're here to serve you. Please pardon our mess.



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LOCAL TV LISTINGS

sponsored by the

Saturday Evening										February 13, 2010		
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30		
KAKE/ABC	Harry Potter-Chamber										Local	
KBSL/CBS	Wedding Crashers										48 Hours Mystery	Local
KSNK/NBC	XXI Winter Olympics										Local	XXI Winter Olympics
KSAS/FOX	Cops	Cops	Amer. Most Wanted	Local			The Wanda Sykes Show	Sit Down	Local			
Cable Channels												
A & E	CSI: Miami	CSI: Miami	CSI: Miami	CSI: Miami	CSI: Miami	CSI: Miami	CSI: Miami	CSI: Miami	CSI: Miami	CSI: Miami		
AMC	GoodFellas										GoodFellas	
ANIM	It's Me or the Dog	Underdog-Wonderdog	Pit Boss	House	House	House	House	House	House	Pit Boss		
BRAVO	House	House	House	House	House	House	House	House	House	House		
CMT	True Lies										The Singing Bee	Singing
CNN	Black in America										Newsroom	Black in America
COMEDY	Employee-Mnth	Wedding Crashers	Wedding Crashers	Wedding Crashers	Wedding Crashers	Wedding Crashers	Wedding Crashers	Wedding Crashers	Wedding Crashers	Wedding Daze		
DISC	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs		
DISN	Wizards-Waver	Princess Protection Program	Montana	Wizards	Deck	Suite	So Raven	So Raven	So Raven	So Raven		
E!	Knocked Up	Knocked Up	Knocked Up	Knocked Up	Knocked Up	Knocked Up	Knocked Up	Knocked Up	Knocked Up	Knocked Up		
ESPN	College GameDay	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball		
ESPN2	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball		
FAM	Cars										The Mask	
FOOD	Challenge	Unwrapped	The Secre	Diners	Diners	Diners	Iron Chef America	Unwrapped	The Secre	The Secre		
FX	Death Sen	Next	Next	Next	Next	Next	Hooters Dreamgirl	Ex-Girlfriend	Ex-Girlfriend	Ex-Girlfriend		
HGTV	D. Design	Sarah	Outdoor	Block	House	House	House	House	House	Outdoor	Block	
American Profile												
We Celebrate Hometown Life												
Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.												
HIST	St. Valentine's										The Real Wolfman	St. Valentine's
LIFE	Because I Said So										Pretty Woman	Because I Said So
MTV	Jersey Shore										House of Wax	House
NICK	iCarly	Jackson	The Troop	iCarly	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny		
SCI	Total Recall										Transmorphers	
SPIKE	Die Hard										Entourage	Entourage
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Meet the Parents	Meet the Parents	Meet the Parents	Meet the Parents	Mr. Deeds	Mr. Deeds	Mr. Deeds	Mr. Deeds		
TCM	The Guns of Navarone										Gladiator	
TLC	LA Ink										LA Ink	LA Ink
TNT	Tip-Off	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	NFL Full Contact	King Kong	King Kong	King Kong		
TOON	Dude	Dude	Destroy	Destroy	King-Hill	King-Hill	Stroker	Boondocks	Alchemist	Bleach		
TRAV	Brown-Vancouver	Brown: Suitcase	Brown Fanathon	Brown Fanathon	Brown Fanathon	Brown Fanathon	Sam's Cruise	Brown-Vancouver	Brown-Vancouver	Brown-Vancouver		
TV LAND	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne		
USA	License to Wed	Enchanted	Enchanted	Enchanted	Enchanted	Enchanted	Law & Order: SVU	Burn Notice	Burn Notice	Burn Notice		
VH1	Scream 3										Celebrity Fit Club	Scream 3
WGN	Thomas Crown										Funniest Home Videos	Scrubs
Premium Channels												
HBO	17 Again										Bill Maher: But	24/7
MAX	Mirrors										Miss March	Zane
SHOW	Call Girl	Tracey UI	Family That Preys	Family That Preys	Family That Preys	Family That Preys	Why We Laugh: Black Comedians	Original	Original	Original		

Sunday Evening										February 14, 2010		
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30		
KAKE/ABC	Funniest Home Videos										Extreme Makeover	Local
KBSL/CBS	The Amazing Race 16										Undercover Boss	Cold Case
KSNK/NBC	XXI Winter Olympics										Local	Olympics
KSAS/FOX	Simpsons	Cleveland	Fam. Guy	Amer. Dad	Local							
Cable Channels												
A & E	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds		
AMC	Godfather Pt 2										Godfathr2	
ANIM	Planet Earth	Planet Earth	Planet Earth	Planet Earth	Planet Earth	Planet Earth	Planet Earth	Planet Earth	Planet Earth	Planet Earth		
BRAVO	Law Order: CI	Law Order: CI	Law Order: CI	Law Order: CI	Law Order: CI	Law Order: CI	Law Order: CI	Law Order: CI	Law Order: CI	Law Order: CI		
CMT	Days of Thunder										Days of Thunder	
CNN	Black in America										Newsroom	Black in America
COMEDY	Waiting...	Wedding Crashers	Wedding Crashers	Wedding Crashers	Wedding Crashers	Wedding Crashers	Martin	Tosh.0	Sarah	Sarah		
DISC	Nasty by Nature	Killer Whales	Tyrannosaurus Sex	Tyrannosaurus Sex	Tyrannosaurus Sex	Tyrannosaurus Sex	Nasty by Nature	Killer Whales	Killer Whales	Killer Whales		
DISN	Starstruck	Starstruck	Montana	Phineas	Montana	Montana	Wizards	Montana	Suite	So Raven		
E!	Kardashian	Kardashian	Kardashian	Kardashian	Kardashian	Kardashian	The Soup	Chelsea	Kardashian	Giuliana		
ESPN	SportsCenter Special	Baseball Tonight	Baseball Tonight	Baseball Tonight	Baseball Tonight	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	Fastbreak		
ESPN2	Drag Racing	Drag Racing	Drag Racing	Drag Racing	Drag Racing	Drag Racing	Poker - Europe	Poker - Europe	Poker - Europe	Poker - Europe		
FAM	Cars										Funniest Home Videos	J. Osteen
FOOD	Challenge	Iron Chef America	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	B. Play	Play	Iron Chef America	Iron Chef America		
FX	Mr. & Mrs. Smith	Mr. & Mrs. Smith	Mr. & Mrs. Smith	Mr. & Mrs. Smith	Mr. & Mrs. Smith	Mr. & Mrs. Smith	Archer	Nip/Tuck	Damages	Damages		
HGTV	Outdoor	Block	House	House	Holmes on Homes	Holmes on Homes	For Rent	Income	House	House		
HIST	Ax Men	Ax Men	Ax Men	Ax Men	American Pickers	American Pickers	Madhouse	Ax Men	Ax Men	Ax Men		
LIFE	Where the Heart Is										Jane Austen	
MTV	True Life										Sexting	Hwd Hook
NICK	Angus, Thongs	Angus, Thongs	Angus, Thongs	Angus, Thongs	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny		
SCI	Boogeyman										Cold Creek Manor	Lost Voyage
SPIKE	DEA										DEA	Sin City
TBS	The Holiday										The Holiday	
TCM	Casablanca										The African Queen	Summertime
TLC	Tiger Woods	Sextistics-Love	Strange Sex	Strange Sex	Strange Sex	Strange Sex	Tiger Woods	Sextistics-Love	Sextistics-Love	Sextistics-Love		
TNT	Tip-Off	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	NBA	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball		
TOON	Air Bud	Chowder	Flapjack	King-Hill	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Venture	Aqua Teen	Awesome		
TRAV	Colorado: River	Natrl Wonders	Natrl Wonders	Natrl Wonders	Natrl Wonders	Natrl Wonders	Wonders West	Colorado: River	Colorado: River	Colorado: River		
TV LAND	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne		
USA	Enchanted	How to Lose	How to Lose	How to Lose	How to Lose	How to Lose	House	How to Lose	How to Lose	How to Lose		
VH1	Frank Enter.	Tool Academy	Frank Enter.	Frank Enter.	Frank Enter.	Frank Enter.	Peak	Tool Academy	Tool Academy	Tool Academy		
WGN	Newhart	Newhart	BarneyM	BarneyM	WGN News	Replay	Cheers	Cheers	Becker	Becker		
Premium Channels												
HBO	Band of Brothers										Big Love	How
MAX	I Love										Miss March	Fatal Attraction
SHOW	The Tudors	The Tudors	The Tudors	The Tudors	Call Girl	Tracey UI	Call Girl	La La	Tracey UI	La La		