

## Weather Corner



National Weather Service

**Tonight:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Cloudy; low 53. Breezy; east wind of 15 to 20 mph, with gusts to 30 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

**Thursday:** A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy; high 75. Breezy; east wind 15 to 25 becoming south; gusts to 35 mph.

**Thursday Night:** A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy; low 47. Breezy; south wind of 15 to 20 mph, gusts to 30 mph.

**Friday:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny; high 75. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

**Friday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy; low 49.

**Saturday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny; high 73.

Monday: High, 72; Low 40  
Tuesday: High, 73; Low 47

Precip: Monday None  
Tuesday None

Month: 0.21 inches  
Year: 3.09 inches

Normal: 7.21 inches  
(K-State Experiment Station)

**Sunrise and Sunset**  
Thursday 6:27 a.m. 8:55 p.m.  
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

# Discussion group talks population decline

From "GROUP," Page 1

available.

"If we want to stop the exit process, my question becomes: 'Who replaces us?'" Clark-Leiker said.

Clark-Leiker went on to ask what the community should do to expose students to local jobs that need to be taken over. A rising problem in rural areas is that current plumbers, contractors, electricians, etc., don't have anyone to replace them when they are gone because the younger generation has moved out. The group agreed that small towns don't expose youth to available jobs well, and this causes serious problems in the future.

"My generation, we didn't get involved, we failed at it, you didn't find very many seekers in my generation," said college board member Arlen Leiker.

To fix the problem, members of the group suggested that the community help build better parenting skills.

In addition to large numbers of graduates leaving rural towns behind, the group suggested that the community is investing too much in the "achievers," students who excel in school,

as well as the students that struggle greatly with school. The community doesn't invest enough in the middle, the group that is not at the top or bottom of the class.

"The middle kids have learned to struggle, they have learned to work things out," said Sue Evans. "We give all of our attention to the achievers and the kids that struggle, that we are left to just hope the middle kids get it."

Attendees said that division of classrooms could help with this problem. Being in a class with peers at the same level gives an equal distribution of attention and reduces intimidation.

"We have to let the achievers go, we only need so many lawyers and doctors. It's time we turn attention to the middle," Evans said.

The group also discussed quality of life in rural areas, and whether that could be the cause for so much of the youth leaving small towns and going to larger cities. The group agreed that Thomas County, like most rural areas, is safe and secure and does a great job with health and fitness, as well as getting the community involved in different things.

However, the county is still at its tipping point.

"We haven't had conversations on our critical condition," Clark-Leiker said.

With the younger generation leaving Thomas County, the discussion group wondered what will be left if they didn't fix the problem soon.

"We don't want to be a town of 15,000," Evans said. "We just want to maintain our population and further our economic development."

Being proactive versus reactive is a solution the group said would help Colby, as well as Thomas County. Currently, most rural areas fix the problem when it reaches the surface, instead of stopping it before it happens. Creating scenarios, putting out surveys and setting county-wide plans were all suggestions that were discussed. Thomas County's next step should be to inform and educate on the urgency of where the community is at, they said.

Foster suggested getting enough people informed to develop a realistic plan to help Thomas County and getting involved with other counties will help significantly. Getting people together will be the biggest challenge in fixing rural areas' "hollowing out" process.

## Brewster, Heartland graduate eight students

From "GRADUATE," Page 1

Stearns said the graduates are each going to choose different paths, and the school has helped prepare them for those choices. Rall, the salutatorian, also spoke about the different paths they have already taken while in school.

"I was a football player," she said. "You can't get any different than that."

Shultz, the valedictorian, reflected on her years at Brewster. She calculated that the graduates had spent 5,801 hours in school, not including homework and extra-curricular activities.

Shultz also spoke about her surgery to remove a brain tumor, after which she decided to focus on academics, rather than athletics.

"I wanted to prove that you can have a life-threatening illness and still be the best," she said.

Brewster teacher Rae Stewart put together a slide presentation, with pictures of each graduate from childhood through high school.

# Recovering representative watches husband's flight

By Seth Borenstein

AP Science Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Sitting in a wheelchair atop NASA's launch control center with other astronaut families, wounded congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords watched her husband launch into space Monday aboard space shuttle Endeavour. And she smiled.

The Arizona congresswoman — whose mother is from Colby — was wounded in an assassination attempt in her hometown of Tucson on Jan. 8. Six people were

killed and 12 others were wounded. Kept out of the public eye since then, Giffords has weakness on her right side, and difficulty speaking.

Inside Endeavour somewhere is a handwritten personal note she wrote the shuttle commander, her husband Mark Kelly.

The handful of shuttle watchers, including Giffords' nurse, were mostly quiet as Endeavour took flight. It's hard to hear amid the roar of the spacecraft.

Then Giffords said, "Good stuff, good stuff," according to the congresswoman's aide.

Kelly took her wedding ring into space, which he has done on past flights. But this time she wanted something back: his ring to stay on Earth. She had it around her neck on a silver chain from a funky Arizona jewelry store that included a heart and an Arizona map.

"Relief was her biggest feeling," chief of staff Pia Carusone

said in a post-launch press conference. "She was very proud. She's always proud of Mark.

This is the next to last shuttle flight as NASA winds down the 30-year shuttle program. During the 16-day mission, Giffords will provide two wake-up songs dedicated to Kelly and she will talk to him in a video conference from Houston.

## LOCAL TV LISTINGS

sponsored by the

Thursday Evening		May 19, 2011									
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	Wipeout		Grey's Anatomy		Private Practice		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live		
KBSL/CBS	Big Bang	Rules	The Mentalist				Local	Late Show	Letterman	Late	
KSNK/NBC	Office	Office	The Office		Parks	Parks	Local	Tonight Show w/Leno		Late	
KSAS/FOX	American Idol		Bones		Local						
<b>Cable Channels</b>											
A & E	The First 48		The First 48		Manhunter	Manhunter	Manhunter	Manhunter	The First 48		
AMC	The Matrix						The Matrix				
ANIM	Fatal Attractions		Confessions		Confessions		Fatal Attractions		Confessions		
BRAVO	Housewives/NYC		Housewives/NYC		Housewives/NYC		Happens		Housewives/NYC	Happens	
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	Futurama	Futurama	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	Tosh.0	Daily	Colbert	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	
DISC	Deadliest Catch		River Monsters		Swords: Life		Deadliest Catch		River Monsters		
DISN	HS Musical 3				Good Luck	Good Luck	Wizards	Wizards	Hannah	Hannah	
E!	Speed					Khloe	Chelsea	E! News		Chelsea	
ESPN	NBA Countdown		NBA Basketball					SportsCenter			
ESPN2	SportsNation		Football	Baseball Tonight			SportsClub	Football	Baseball Tonight		
FAM	Harry Potter						The 700 Club		Whose?	Whose?	
FOOD	Iron Chef America		Challenge		24 Hour Rest. Battle		Chopped		Challenge		
FX	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men			The Waterboy		The Waterboy		
HGTV	First	First	Selling	Selling	House	Hunters	House	Hunters	Selling	Selling	
HIST	Swamp People		Swamp People		Mounted	Mounted	MonsterQuest		Swamp People		
LIFE	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	How I Met	How I Met	Chris	Chris	
MTV	The Real World		America's Best Dance		America's Best Dance		Son, Gun	America's Best Dance	Nicki	Nicki	
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	Chris	Chris	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	
SCI	Connor Chronicles		Connor Chronicles		Connor Chronicles		Connor Chronicles		Connor Chronicles		
SPIKE	Jail	Jail	TNA Wrestling				UFC Unleashed		MANswers	MANswers	
TBS	Con Air				Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Conan		Lopez Tonight		
TCM	Million Dollar				Skirts Ahoy!				Dangerous When Wet		
TLC	Police Women		Police Women		Pawn	Pawn	Police Women		Pawn	Pawn	
TNT	Bones		Signs				CSI: NY		CSI: NY		
TOON	Regular	MAD	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Eaglehear	Aqua Teen	
TRAV	Man, Food	Man, Food	Man, Food	Man, Food	Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		Man, Food	Man, Food	
TV LAND	AllFamily	AllFamily	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Everybody-Raymond				
USA	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		
VH1	SNL in the 2000s				Mob Wives		Mob Wives		Mob Wives		
WGN	Chris	Chris	How I Met	How I Met			WGN News at Nine		Scrubs	South Pk	
<b>Premium Channels</b>											
HBO	Nightmare-Elm				Treme		Taxicab Confessions		REAL Sports Gumbel		
MAX	Informant	Stargate & Hutch			She's Out						
SHOW	Adventureland				Nurse	Call Girl	Gigolos	Call Girl	Gigolos	Hugh Hef	

©2009 Hometown Content, listings by Zap2it

Friday Evening		May 20, 2011									
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	Shark Tank		Primetime: What		20/20		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live		
KBSL/CBS	Flashpoint		CSI: NY		48 Hours Mystery		Local	Late Show	Letterman	Late	
KSNK/NBC	Friday Night Lights		Dateline NBC				Local	Tonight Show w/Leno		Late	
KSAS/FOX	Kitchen Nightmares		Kitchen Nightmares		Local						
<b>Cable Channels</b>											
A & E	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Breakout Kings		Criminal Minds		
AMC	The Matrix Reloaded						The Matrix Reloaded				
ANIM	Killer Outbreaks		Killer Outbreaks		Bed Bug Apocalypse		Killer Outbreaks		Bed Bug Apocalypse		
BRAVO	Housewives/NYC		How to Lose						How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days		
CMT	The Singing Bee		CMT's Next Superstar		The Singing Bee		CMT's Next Superstar		The Singing Bee		
CNN	In the Arena		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360				Piers Morgan Tonight		
COMEDY	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Comedy	Comedy	Lewis Black		Comedy	Comedy	South Pk	South Pk	
DISC	Dual Survival		Dual Survival		Brothers	Brothers	Dual Survival		Dual Survival		
DISN	Lemonade Mouth				Deck	Deck	Deck	Deck	Good Luck	Good Luck	
E!	Sex and t	Sex and t	Sex and the City		The Soup	E Special	Chelsea	E! News		Chelsea	
ESPN	College Softball				Baseball Tonight			SportsCenter		NBA	
ESPN2	SportsCenter		Boxing				MMA Live	NASCAR	Baseball Tonight		
FAM	Harry Potter-Chamber						The 700 Club		Whose?	Whose?	
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Food	The Best	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Diners	Diners	
FX	Double Jeopardy				Double Jeopardy				Alien vs. Predator		
HGTV	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	
<b>Premium Channels</b>											
HBO	Lady Gaga Presents				Real Time/Bill Maher		Real Time/Bill Maher		Max	Green	
MAX	The Musketeer		Splice				Femme	The Devil Wears Nada			
SHOW	The Messenger			Next Day Air			The Hurt Locker				

©2009 Hometown Content, listings by Zap2it

## OPEN HOUSE



DARRELL PABST

40 years

servicing Thomas County customers

PLEASE JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING DARRELL

May 24 | 10AM-3PM

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



Sunflower Bank | Colby 500 N. Franklin | 785.462.3313

## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

S&T Telephone Cooperative Association is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture which provide that:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs. Persons with disabilities who required alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiocassette, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 ) voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer (Last Modified: 07-28-05)



320 KANSAS AVENUE  
PO BOX 99  
BREWSTER, KS 67732  
1-800-432-8294