

# Weather



### National Weather Service

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 96. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. South wind around 10 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 98. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 69.

**Monday:** Sunny and hot and breezy, with a high near 101.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy and breezy, with a low around 69.

**Tuesday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 96.

**Tuesday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65.

**Wednesday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 95.

**Wednesday Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66.

**Thursday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 94.

Thursday: High, 90; Low 66  
Precip: Thursday 0.46 inches  
Month: 5.76 inches  
Year: 14.80 inches  
Normal: 13.16 inches  
(K-State Experiment Station)

**Sunrise and Sunset**  
Saturday 6:42 a.m. 8:59 p.m.  
New Moon at 1:39 p.m.  
Sunday 6:43 a.m. 8:58 p.m.  
Monday 6:44 a.m. 8:57 p.m.  
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

**Colby Water Use**  
Thursday 1,877,000 gal.  
(Colby Public Works)

# Alliance recommends dropping tax

From "TAX," Page 1

Economic development also has operating money contributed by the city and loan funds from grants.

"We're fortunate that we have other funds that we can use for smaller business loans," Patrick said.

Patrick said he thinks there are several other projects that could be done with that money: a new ambulance building and improvements to the Law Enforcement Center.

The city and county have been considering relocating the ambulance service to a new building, he said, and the Law Enforcement Center is aging and overcrowded, especially in the county jail.

The fund has guidelines that say it can be used to make the city more attractive to business owners by paying for things like workforce training, infrastructure or securing land and buildings. Improving those two services would not only make Colby safer, Patrick said, but also improve the city's im-

age to potential business owners and residents.

"It puts a good face on the town," he said. "It shows the city is moving forward."

Patrick said the board directed him to draft a letter to the city council making the recommendation. City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said Friday the recommendation hadn't reached her yet, and so it will not be in time to put the matter on the city council agenda for its next meeting Tuesday.

## Enrollment Dates

**Triplains School District:** 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday in the district office at the school, 503 Wilson Ave in Winona. Triplains will operate on a four-day school week this year with Monday being the usual off day. The first day of school is Friday, Aug. 19. Kindergarten will attend three full days a week. For information, call the district office at (785) 846-7869.

**Brewster School District:** 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday at the school. The Thomas County health nurse will be at the school from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday to update immunizations. Call the school at (785) 694-2236 to schedule an alternative appointment.

**Sacred Heart Catholic School:** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 8, at the school. New students will need to bring a physical forms, social security card, birth certificate and immunization records. For information, call Principal Dave Evert at 460-2813.

**Heartland Christian School:** Open enrollment, kindergarten through 12th grade. Preschool will be 8:10 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday for 3-year-olds and 8:10 a.m. to noon Monday, Wednesday Friday for 4-year-olds. For information, call 460-6419 or visit www.hcscolby.org.

**Colby Public Schools:** New student enrollment from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday in each building; returning student enrollment from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 8, in the High School commons area. For information, call 460-5000.

# Governor announces new economic council

By Roxana Hegeman

The Associated Press

WICHITA — A group of economic advisers assembled by Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback will operate as a board of directors for economic development in the state, the Republican said during a news conference Wednesday.

Brownback signed an executive order in Wichita establishing the council that he will chair. "The economic future of Kansas depends on the growth of existing businesses and the development of new industries," Brownback said.

The governor said the group will work closely with him to assure strategy integration, coordination and accountability across all of the state's economic development entities and agencies. Those would include the ones for commerce, agriculture, transportation, revenue, labor and the Bioscience Authority.

The council will be asked to coordinate strategic planning and economic development. It

also is expected to evaluate state policies and agency performance as well as conduct research on topics such as tax competitiveness and regulations.

Brownback announced the first 16 members at a news conference: Patti Bossert, Key Staffing, Topeka; Ivan Crossland, Crossland Construction, Columbus; Jody Horner, Cargill Meat Solutions, Wichita; Cliff Illig, Cerner, Kansas City, Mo.; Garry O'Shaughnessy, Lario Enterprises, Wichita; Larry Jones, JO Cattle Co., Holcomb; Patty Koehler, JR Custom Metals, Wichita; and Jim Lewis, Lewis Automotive Group, Hays; Jan Lyons, National Cattleman's Beef Association, Manhattan.

Also named to the council were David Murfin, Murfin Drilling, Wichita; Steve Ortiz, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Mayetta; Bob Page, University of Kansas Medical Center; Larry Sevier, Nex-Tech Wireless, Lenora; Dan Tasset, Nuetera, Leawood; Bob Wheeler, Hills Pet Nutrition; and Jeff Turner, Spirit AeroSystems, Wichita.

# Rural decline not just in Kansas

From "POPULATION," Page 1

16 or 17 and get a \$15-an-hour job."

Demographers put it a bit more formally.

"Some of the most isolated rural areas face a major uphill battle, with a broad area of the country emptying out," said Mark Mather, associate vice president of the Population Reference Bureau, a research group in Washington, D.C. "Many rural areas can't attract workers because there aren't any jobs, and businesses won't relocate there because there aren't enough qualified workers. So they are caught in a downward spiral."

Rural towns are scrambling to attract new residents and stave off heavy funding cuts from financially strapped federal and state governments.

Delta Air Lines recently announced it would end flight service to 24 small airports, several of them in the Great Plains, and the U.S. Postal Service is mulling plans to close thousands of branches in mostly rural areas of the country. The University of Kansas this month opened a new medical school with a class of eight in Salina, a regional hub of nearly 50,000 people, in hopes of supporting nearby rural communities that have no doctors at all.

In North Dakota, colleges are seeking to draw in young adults by charging low tuition and fees. It's part of a broader trend in which many slow-growing rural states are touting recreational scenic landscapes or extending tuition breaks to out-of-state residents who typically are charged more.

Many rural areas, the Great Plains in particular, have been steadily losing population since the 1930s with few signs of the trend slowing in coming decades, according to census figures.

The share of people in rural areas over the past decade fell to 16 percent, passing the previous low of 20 percent in 2000. The rural share is expected to drop further as the U.S. popula-

tion balloons from 309 million to 400 million by midcentury, leading people to crowd cities and suburbs and fill in the open spaces around them.

In 1910, the population share of rural America was 72 percent. Such areas remained home to a majority of Americans until 1950, amid post-World War II economic expansion and the baby boom.

Among the struggling rural areas are vast stretches of West Virginia in Appalachia. Several of the state's counties over the past decade have lost large chunks of their population following the collapse of logging and coal-mining industries during the 1960s.

In Moundsville, Frees describes his town, which sits in the northern panhandle along the edge of Pennsylvania near Pittsburgh, as appealing in some regards because of its low cost of living and friendly atmosphere in which "people talk to each other." But opportunities are few for the area's young adults other than perhaps the \$7 or \$8-an-hour jobs at the nearby Walmart store.

"The young kids today are fleeing the area," Frees said. "They get the education and then they leave because there's nothing here for them."

Other rural U.S. counties suffering big declines include Issaquena, Jefferson and Sharkey in Mississippi; Sheridan and Towner in North Dakota; Kiowa in Kansas; Cimarron in Oklahoma; Tensas Parish in Louisiana; Monroe in Arkansas and Cottle, King and Culberson in Texas. All had percentage losses of 20 percent or more over the past decade.

The numbers are based partly on an analysis by the Population Reference Bureau. The data were supplemented with calculations by Robert Lang, a sociology professor at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, and William H. Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution. "Rural" is generally defined as non-metropolitan areas with fewer than 50,000 people.

# Briefly

## Pets available at clinic for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a six-week old black and white female kitten available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

## City crews to fog mosquitoes

The Colby city crews are fogging for mosquitoes during the summer. Mondays and Tuesdays, the crew will fog south of Webster Street and Thursdays and Fridays they will fog the north side. To help keep the mosquito population to a minimum, check your yards and empty anything holding stagnant water, including cans, swimming pools, tires, etc. For information, call Anita Powell at (785) 460-4420.

## Learn about better care at August meetings

Kansas Advocates for Better Care will hold informational meetings about long-term care and tools for advocacy on Thursday. Meetings will be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Prairie Senior Living Complex, 11:15 to 11:50 a.m. at the Senior Progress Center and 3 to 4 p.m. at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The meetings are open to the public. For information, call (785) 842-3088.

## Order fresh fruit from youth group

The annual Catholic Youth Organization fruit sale is under way. Reserve an order of freestone peaches, Bartlett pears and Gala apples through Wednesday, Aug. 17, by calling Megan Augustine at the Sacred Heart Parish rectory at 462-2179. Pickup day will be at 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31, at the 4-H Building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

## Congressman to send representatives

A representative from Rep. Tim Huelskamp's office will have office hours in Colby from 3 to 4 p.m. Thursday in the county commissioners' room in the courthouse. The constituent services representative will be available to hear opinions, ideas, and concerns about issues being debated in Washington. They will also be available to help people who need assistance with federal agencies and programs like Social Security, Medicare, Veterans' Affairs, and visas. For information, call Huelskamp's Dodge City office at (620) 225-0172 or visit huelskamp.house.gov.

## Walk the river at the aquatic center

The Colby Aquatic Center is offering a River Walk Class, which uses water resistance to help sore joints and muscles, from 9 to 9:45 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning this week. No registration is required, just the entry fee of \$5 for the pool. For information, call the Colby Recreation Department at 460-4440.

# Large pot farm busted by cops in Elk County

HOWARD (AP) — At least one crop seems to be thriving during this hot, dry Kansas summer.

Authorities in Elk County say several law enforcement agencies confiscated more than 4,000 marijuana plants at a rural growing operation Wednesday. The plants were being grown in a heavily wooded area near the southeastern Kansas town of Howard.

KSNW-TV reports authorities had been watching the area since receiving a tip last year. Along with the plants they found camping equipment, drying tables and an irrigation system.

It's at least the third big marijuana operation broken up recently in southeastern Kansas.

Earlier this month about 3,000 plants were confiscated from an operation spread over several fields in neighboring Greenwood County. And in June, authorities destroyed an estimated \$100,000 worth of marijuana plants being grown in Linn County.

**Abby & Allie's Sweetcorn is ready!**

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Monday Evening										August 1, 2011	
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	The Bachelorette				The Bachelorette		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live		
KBSL/CBS	How I Met Mike	Two Men	Mike		Hawaii Five-0		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late		
KSNK/NBC	America's Got Talent	Law Order: CI			Harry's Law		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late		
KSAS/FOX	Hell's Kitchen	MasterChef			Local						
<b>Cable Channels</b>											
A & E	Hoarders		Hoarders		Intervention		Intervention				
AMC	The Godfather								The Godfather		
ANIM	I Shouldn't Be Alive	I Shouldn't Be Alive			Hostage in Paradise		I Shouldn't Be Alive		I Shouldn't Be Alive		
BRAVO	Jersey	Housewives/NYC			Housewives/NYC			Housewives/NYC			
CMT	My Cousin Vinny										
CNN	In the Arena	Piers Morgan Tonight			Anderson Cooper 360		To Be Announced		Piers Morgan Tonight		
COMEDY	Tommy Boy	Sunny	Sunny		Sunny		Daily	Colbert	Harold & Kumar		
DISC	Jaws of the Pacific	Rogue Sharks			Summer of the Shark		Rogue Sharks		Summer of the Shark		
DISN	Good Luck	Shake It	Bolt		Good Luck		Vampire	Wizards	Hannah	Hannah	
E!	Sex-City	Sex-City	E! Special		Fashion		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Chelsea	
ESPN	MLB Baseball				Baseball Tonight		SportsCenter		Baseball	NFL Live	
ESPN2	SportsNation	Soccer					World, Poker		World, Poker		
FAM	Secret-Teen	Switched at Birth			Secret-Teen		The 700 Club		My Wife	My Wife	
FOOD	Unwrapped	Candy	Diners	Diners	Tough Coo	Tough Coo	Challenge		Diners	Diners	
FX	Earth Stood						Earth Stood				
HGTV	House	Hunters	Design Star		High Low	Hunters	House	House	Design Star		
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	American Pickers		Pawn	Pawn	Top Gear		Pawn	Pawn	
LIFE	Craiglist Killer				The Protector		The Protector		Chris	How I Met	
MTV	True Life		MTV Special		Teen Wolf		Teen Wolf		Awkward.	Awkward.	
NICK	Family	My Wife	Lopez	Lopez	70s Show	70s Show	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez	
SCI	Eureka		Warehouse 13		Alphas		Eureka		Warehouse 13		
SPIKE	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	UFC 133 Countdown		Ways Die	Ways Die	
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Conan		Lopez Tonight		
TCM	The Wild One		Streetcar-Desr.						Slightly French		
TLC	Undercover Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss		Surprise Homecoming		Undercover Boss		Cake Boss	Cake Boss	
TNT	The Closer		The Closer		Rizzoli & Isles		The Closer		Rizzoli & Isles		
TOON	Adventure	MAD	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Agua Teen	
TRAV	No Reservation		No Reservation		No Reservation		No Reservation		No Reservation		
TV LAND	AllFamily	AllFamily	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Everybody	Raymond	The Nanny			
USA	NCIS		WWE Monday Night RAW				Suits		Law & Order: SVU		
VH1	Basketball Wives		Single Ladies		Basketball Wives		Single Ladies		Basketball Wives		
WGN	Chris	Chris	Funniest Home Videos		WGN News at Nine		Scrubs	Scrubs	South Pk	South Pk	
<b>Premium Channels</b>											
HBO	Real Time/Bill Maher		Koran by Heart		Inception						
MAX	Get Him		Ruthless People		It's Kind of a Funny Story		Life on Top		Avatar		
SHOW	Basterds		High Heels and Low Lives		Weeds	The Big C	Weeds	The Big C	The Real L Word		

## Farmers & Merchants Bank of Colby

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