

Weather



National Weather Service Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. Southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 94. East wind around 5 mph becoming south.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. South wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. South wind 5 to 15 mph becoming northeast.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 88.

Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 93.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 95.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 66.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 93.

Thursday: High, 96; Low 53. Precip: Thursday none.

Month: 2.88 inches. Year: 20.38 inches. Normal: 16.36 inches.

(K-State Experiment Station) Sunrise and Sunset

Saturday 7:08 a.m. 8:23 p.m. Sunday 7:09 a.m. 8:21 p.m. Monday 7:10 a.m. 8:20 p.m.

(U.S. Naval Observatory) Colby Water Use

Thursday 2,571,000 gal. (Colby Public Works)

Colby senior picked for Girls Nation

From "NATION," Page 1

Nation national chairman.

"After attending their local Girl State program and Girls Nation, they come back to their communities filled with more patriotism and pride," said Koutz.

Ostmeyer is currently a senior at Colby High School. She is active in debate and forensics, dances at Ashly's Dance Center, is on the cross country team and is a cheerleader. She has been a Girl Scout for twelve years and is working on her Gold Award with her troop. Ostmeyer is also learning about politics first hand as the president of her 2012 class.

"I'm still not exactly sure what I want to do after school,

but the opportunity at Girls Nation really made me passionate about politics," Ostmeyer said. "Whatever I do, I know that I'll stay informed about current events and will work hard to keep others informed as well."

Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest patriotic women's service organization. With a membership of nearly 850,000, local legion units have a strong presence in more than 9,500 communities nationwide.

Their mission to serve veterans, their families and their communities is carried out through its hundreds of outreach programs delivered by its members, volunteers and National Headquarters.

Army blows up mortar left as gift

By Holbrook Mohr Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) - It was the gift that came with a bang.

The wife of Mississippi Judge Charlie Vess found a mortar shell on the couple's patio in Natchez last week. They called the sheriff.

The sheriff called Fort Polk, an Army base in neighboring Louisiana. It sent a bomb team to blow up the mortar at the Natchez-Adams County Airport on Wednesday.

Turns out, the judge collects military memorabilia and a friend had left the mortar as a gift. There was no note

and military explosive experts said it could have been a live phosphorus round because it didn't appear to have been taken apart. The sheriff's department, however, said Thursday in a news release that information it obtained since then indicates it was not a live round.

The judge said he suspected that the round was a gift, but judges make decisions that make some people angry, and there have been cases in the United States where judges were targeted for revenge.

"I do preliminary hearing in murders, rapes and robberies and lots of other stuff," Vess said.

Boy to plead guilty in Burlington murders

By P. Solomon Banda The Associated Press

FORT MORGAN, Colo. - A 13-year-old Colorado boy accused of killing his parents and wounding two siblings will plead guilty to murder charges as a juvenile to avoid being tried as an adult, a prosecutor said Friday.

District Attorney Bob Watson said the boy, who was 12 at the time of the slayings, faces seven years in juvenile prison. If tried and convicted as an adult, the boy could have faced decades in prison.

The boy, whose name has

been withheld because he is a juvenile, is charged in the March shooting deaths of his parents, Marilyn and Charles Long, in the farm town of Burlington near the Kansas border.

He also is charged with shooting and wounding a younger brother and assaulting a younger sister with a knife.

The boy faces two counts of first-degree murder, two counts of attempted murder and three counts of first-degree assault. Watson said the boy was expected to enter the pleas at a Sept. 28 hearing.

Police said they found the bodies of Charles and Marilyn Long

on March 1 inside their Burlington home, about 140 miles east of Denver. The killings shocked the farm community of 3,700, including members of the Evangelical Free Church that the Long family attended.

Marilyn Long, 50, homeschooled her kids and ran a children's ministry. Charles Long, 51, served as a church elder and was a snack delivery driver. The boy was a greeter at the church and helped children memorize Bible verses.

Court documents allege the boy stabbed and shot his 9-year-old brother and hurt his 5-year-old sister with a knife. Both re-

covered from their wounds.

Watson said the boy used a .357 Magnum revolver in the shootings.

In Fort Morgan, Watson and public defender Tom Ward said they considered whether the boy had any mental health problems, the wishes of the Long family, and community safety in reaching the plea deal. Prosecutors and Ward also shared the findings of mental health evaluations of the boy conducted by each side.

Watson acknowledged that many relatives of the Longs wanted the boy to be tried as an adult.

Kansas Democrats want tax break extension

From "TAX," Page 1

District covers the western half of Kansas, said Democrats should not look for "quick fixes" but real solutions to creating jobs. He said the House had passed 11 bills aimed at stimulating the economy that are awaiting Senate action.

"These temporary maneuverings and ma-

nipulations of tax rates are not what will get our economy moving again," Huelskamp said in a statement.

Rep. Kevin Yoder, whose 3rd District covers Johnson, Wyandotte and a portion of Douglas counties, said he would oppose efforts to raise any taxes, adding that increases would not stimulate economic growth.

Rep. Mike Pompeo, whose 4th District

covers the Wichita area, was out of the country and unavailable for comment.

Congress is currently on break and is likely to take up the tax issue when it returns in September.

Wagon said she realized that the payroll break was a temporary solution and that Congress will eventually have to develop a long-term solution to fund Social Security.

Witnesses: crop insurance critical in Farm Bill negotiations

From "FARM BILL," Page 1

wants to know his crop insurance level.

The ag committee's chairwoman, Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, said the panel has until Oct. 14 to give the budget-cutting "super committee" its recommendations for farm program cuts.

While the deficit reduction agreement didn't make any immediate cuts to farm programs, agriculture remains a target as the super committee finalizes their plan to reduce the federal budget by \$1.2 trillion or more, she said.

Stabenow told about 300 people who attended the field hearing in Kansas that she considers the farm bill a jobs bill because 16 million people work in agriculture.

"Agriculture has already taken substantial, and in my judgment, disproportionate cuts," Stabenow said.

The ranking member of the agriculture committee, Republican Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas, said agriculture faces tough challenges ahead as global population is expected to top 9 billion

in the coming decades. He said in order to meet this demand, agriculture must double output.

"Some folks question the need for a Farm Bill with commodity prices where they are today," Roberts said. "I don't have to tell this crowd that prices can fall much more quickly than they rise."

Roberts told reporters before the hearing that "everything is on the table" when it comes to farm programs, but that farmers and ranchers want them to use common sense in making program cuts.

The Kansas senator said he wants the budget cutting supercommittee to give them a number of farm program cuts, but leave it up to the agriculture committee to decide how to best make those farm program cuts.

"Farmers will understand fiscal responsibility and we simply ask that cuts to farm programs be proportionate to other programs," said Kenneth McCauley, a corn grower from White Cloud and past president of the Kansas Corn Growers Association.

Kansas Farm Bureau President Steve Baccus testified farmers need a strong safety net that

includes crop insurance as well as direct payments. He urged the committee not to increase crop insurance premiums for producers.

"We cannot afford this kind of weakening in the safety net," Baccus said.

Gregory Shelor, a sorghum grower from Minneola, acknowledged that it has been hard to justify in the past direct payments to farmers when they have good crops and good prices. But he said crop insurance doesn't cover all expenses whereby direct payments cover more during dry years.

Direct payments, which pay producers for crops whether they have had a good year or a poor year, is not as effective for the taxpayer, said Jeff Whitham, chairman of Western State Bank in Garden City.

"From our perspective, the most effective is multi-peril crop insurance," he said.

Ron Brown, president of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts in Fort Scott, urged the committee keep funding for conservation at or above current levels in the new farm bill. He said programs can be consoli-

dated to improve efficiency and provide easier access for producers.

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback focused his remarks to the committee on the future of the dwindling Ogallala aquifer, saying a multi-state approach to the problem accompanied by appropriate federal policy would be useful.

The governor urged inclusion of a conservation program in the Farm Bill that would provide federal incentive payments to water right holders in exchange for retiring all or part of their water right. He also urged the adop-

tion of so-called limited irrigated crop insurance that would protect farmers who apply reduced water to fields. Typically, crops are insured as either fully irrigated or dryland fields.

Kansas is among three states, in addition to Colorado and Nebraska, which has been given tentative approval to develop and offer limited irrigated crop insurance possibly as soon as next year if certain milestones can be met, Brownback said.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Monday Evening August 29, 2011. Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, etc.) listing programs.

FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK OF COLBY. Rated Superior. By Bauer Financial. Because Peace of Mind Matters. Why Farmers & Merchants Bank: Your only Colby chartered bank! Hometown, relationship banking.