

Weather



National Weather Service
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22. North wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 42. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: A 40 percent chance of snow, mainly after midnight. Cloudy, with a low around 25. East wind around 10 mph.

Sunday: A 40 percent chance of snow, mainly before noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 35. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 45.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 26.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 49.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear and blustery, with a low around 25.

Wednesday: Partly sunny and windy, with a high near 33.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy and blustery, with a low around 15.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 36.

Thursday: High, 74; Low 31
 Precip: Thursday None
 Month: None
 Year: None
 Normal: 0.42 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
 Saturday 8:04 a.m. 5:36 p.m.
 Moon: waxing, 97 percent
 Sunday 8:04 a.m. 5:37 p.m.
 Moon: waxing, 100 percent
 Monday 8:04 a.m. 5:38 p.m.
 Full Moon at 1:30 a.m.
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

Students go green



MARY SCHMIDT/Brewster Public Schools
 Mike Schultz, the Brewster city manager, helped the third and fourth graders make a difference by bringing the recycling trailer to school for the kids to load the school's recycling. Teacher Mary Schmidt had her students work with members of the Brewster community by decorating downtown and caroling at the Senior Center as well.

Pirates detained on boat

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just days after Iranian leaders warned the U.S. to keep its aircraft carriers out of the Persian Gulf, a U.S. Navy ship in the Gulf had just finished rescuing an Iranian fishing boat which had been commandeered by Somali pirates.

Navy officials said that American forces flying off the guided-missile destroyer USS Kidd responded to a distress call from the Iranian ship, the Al Molai, which had been held captive by pirates for more than 40 days.

A U.S. Navy team boarded the ship Thursday and detained 15 pirates who had been holding the 13-member crew hostage and were using the vessel as a "mother ship" for pirating operations in the Persian Gulf.

The rescue came amid escalating threats from Tehran, including assertions by Iran's Army chief that American vessels are not welcome in the Gulf. And Iran has also warned that it could block the Strait of Hormuz, the strategic waterway that carries to market much of the oil pumped in the Middle East.

The Iranian threats, which were brushed aside by the Obama administration, were in response to strong economic sanctions against Iran over its disputed nuclear enrichment program. Last week, President Barack Obama signed into law new sanctions targeting Iran's Central Bank and its ability to sell petroleum abroad.

Briefly

Session will teach how to prevent abuse

Northwest Kansas Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect plans a free session to teach adults how to identify, report and prevent sexual abuse of children. Project director Paige Campbell and Smart Start Northwest Kansas project director Maureen Ostmeier will lead the class from 9:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, Jan. 19, at Smoffee's, 365 N. Franklin, in Colby. Reservations should be made by Thursday. For information or to reserve a seat, call Campbell at 460-8177.

College pool closed by renovation work

The Colby Community College swimming pool is closed because of construction and renovation to the pool area, including a new ventilation and heating system. Call Kipp Nelson at 460-5476 for information.

Get a Colby Eagles flag and support the team

The Colby High School boys basketball team is selling Colby Eagles flags to raise money. The 3-by-5-foot flags are \$55 each. To order, call 443-2763.

Singles dance set at Meadow Lake lounge

There will be a singles' and couples' dance from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday at the Meadow Lake Golf clubhouse. Stevens will have the music. For information, call (785) 269-7057.

Seniors plan potluck at Presbyterian Church

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share; table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

Knights of Columbus to hold annual contest

The Colby Knights of Columbus will hold its annual free throw contest at 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, in the Colby Grade School gym. The contest is open to boys and girls aged 10 to 14 as of Jan. 1. Proof of age is required. Doors open at noon and the contest begins at 1 p.m. Winners advance to the district contest. For information, call Dewey Augustine at 443-1548 or 460-2924.

Sheriff can check vehicles for owners

The Thomas County Sheriff's Office can check vehicle identification numbers for cars, light trucks and motorcycles. The office is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 460-4570 for information or to set up an appointment. Sheriff Rod Taylor said trailer inspections still have to go through the Kansas Highway Patrol office in Hays. The fee is \$10; the inspection is required to get tags on many vehicles.

Ag research important in western Kansas

Some Americans may think of Kansas as one big expanse that looks the same from border to border, but there are big differences between the eastern and western parts of the state.

Those differences, which have a huge impact on how farmers and ranchers manage their operations, are the reason Kansas State University conducts agricultural research in all parts of the state, said Bob Gillen, director of K-State's Western Kansas Agricultural Research Centers.

Gillen, a professor, researcher and range-land management specialist himself, is based in Hays. He answered questions recently about K-State's agricultural research in western Kansas:

Q: What are some of the ways that western Kansas is different from the eastern part of the state? How do the differences affect agricultural producers?

Gillen: Obviously, the climate changes rather dramatically across Kansas. Rainfall is much higher in the east and then it diminishes as you travel west. As a rule, for every 15 to 20 miles you go west, you lose about an inch of annual rainfall, so our production environment is quite different and our soils are quite different in the west.

We need to have agricultural research out in different areas of the state to make results more relevant to growers in those areas. In the western part of the state, K-State has research centers at Hays, Colby, Garden City and Tribune. We have quite a legacy — three of those stations have celebrated their centennial and in just a couple of years,

Colby also will celebrate 100 years of agricultural research.

Q: Are all four of those research centers working on the same projects?

Gillen: At the Hays station we've headquartered our plant breeding program, which includes a wheat and sorghum breeding program. They have counterpart programs in Manhattan, but as an example, the diseases wheat often has to face are quite different in the central part of the state than in the western part of the state, plus drought stress is much more severe in the western part of the state.

So even for our own K-State wheats, the ones that Allan Fritz breeds for the central part of the state, often don't do as well in the west as the ones Joe Martin breeds here and vice versa.

The other stations are more oriented toward crop agriculture. Irrigation is a major focus at our stations in Colby, Tribune and Garden City. We also have weed science programs at a couple of the stations, as well as soil scientists, crop physiologists and entomologists. When you take all of our western locations together, it's a mini-College of Agriculture.

Q: What are some of the bigger research projects K-State is working on in western Kansas?

Gillen: One of the topics we're highlighting is the development of herbicide resistance in kochia, a common weed in crops. Phil Stahlman and Randy Currie, weed scientists at Hays and Garden City, have developed an intensive program looking at how kochia has become

resistant to glyphosate, which is one of the most common and cheapest crop herbicides we have. We're looking at how we can combat that resistance. This problem is so important that we are cooperating with scientists at Manhattan and Colorado State University to develop solutions as quickly as possible.

Another topic we're always working on is irrigation management because of the Ogallala Aquifer and its declining water levels. We have two irrigation engineers who spend almost all of their time on improving the efficiency of irrigation management. One thing about western Kansas is that we're always short of water and it seems like drought is always just around the corner.

We look at things like developing different crop rotations or

different tillage management, the use of no-till in different crop rotations, how many years of fallow should we have, what crops should follow which — all those things come back to the idea that we're in a water-deficit region. The question is how do we conserve every single drop of water we can so we can make it go toward production of that crop?

Water conservation really fits whether we're talking about dryland agriculture or irrigated agriculture. Obviously, in an irrigated situation we can put more water on, but because we have a limited underground water resource, we want to make sure that every inch of water that we pump and apply is going to be used as efficiently as possible.

Stocks mixed despite strong labor market

By the Associated Press

Stocks were mixed in midday trading today despite a government report that the unemployment rate dropped in December to the lowest level in three years.

Italy's borrowing costs spiked to dangerously high levels and the euro fell to a 16-month low against the dollar. U.S. bank stocks fell on concerns that the debt crisis will spread through the financial industry.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 17 points to 12,398 as of noon.

Europe's debt woes and China's slowing economy are still overshadowing signs of strength in the U.S. economy, said Doug Cote, chief market strategist at ING Investment Management.

Investors weren't impressed with the latest strong jobs report. The Labor Department said the unemployment rate fell last month to 8.5 percent, while U.S. employers added a net 200,000 jobs.

It was the latest in a series of positive signs about the labor market. The economy has generated 100,000 or more jobs each month for the past six, the longest such streak since April 2006.

TV
Listings

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Monday Evening										January 9, 2012	
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	The Bachelor				Castle		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live		
KBSL/CBS	How I Met U	2 Broke G	Two Men	Mike	Hawaii Five-0		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late		
KSNK/NBC	Still Standing		Fear Factor		Rock Center		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late		
KSAS/FOX	House				Local						
Cable Channels											
A & E	Hoarders		Hoarders		Intervention		Intervention			Hoarders	
AMC	Blazing Saddles				Blazing Saddles					CSI: Miami	
ANIM	Infested!		Infested!		Infested!		Infested!			Infested!	
BRAVO	Real Housewives		Real Housewives		Brad World			Happens	Real Housewives	Brad Wrld	
CMT	Because-Winn									Dangerous Minds	
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360		E. B. OutFront		Piers Morgan Tonight		
COMEDY	Work.	South Pk	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny		Daily	Colbert	South Pk	South Pk	
DISC	Gang Wars: Oakland		First Week In		Mobster	Mobster	First Week In		Mobster	Mobster	
DISN	Random	The Suite Life Movie			ANT Farm	Shake It	Good Luck	Random	Wizards	Wizards	
E!	Fashion	Kourtney		E Special	Scouted		Chelsea	E! News		Chelsea	
ESPN	Pregame	BCS Ch.								SportsCenter	
ESPN2	College Basketball		Unguarded		Basket.		SportCtr	NFL Live		NBA	
FAM	Pretty Little Liars		The Lying Game		Pretty Little Liars		The 700 Club		The Lying Game		
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	
FX	X-Men Origins									X-Men Origins	
HGTV	Love It or List It		House	House	House	House	House	House	House	House	
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	American Pickers		Pawn	Pawn				Pawn	
LIFE	Julie & Julia									Biography	
MTV	Ridic.	Ridic.	Jersey Shore		Caged		Caged			True Life	
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	70s Show	70s Show	George	George		Friends	Friends	Friends	
SCI	Troy									Odysseus: Voyage	
SPIKE	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Family Guy			Conan	Office	Office	
TCM	The Andromeda Strain						The Last Man on Earth			The Satan Bug	
TLC	Cake Boss:Next		Cake Boss:Next		Hook, Line		Cake Boss:Next			Cake Boss:Next	
TNT	The Mentalist		The Mentalist		The Closer		CSI: NY			CSI: NY	
TOON	Regular	MAD	King-Hill	King-Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen	
TRAV	The Layover		The Layover		No Reservation		Hidden City			The Layover	
TV LAND	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	King	
USA	NCIS		WWE Monday Night RAW				Raidrs-Lost Ark				
VH1	Love & Hip Hop		T.I.-Tiny	Love & Hip Hop	T.I.-Tiny		Love & Hip Hop		T.I.-Tiny	Hip Hop	
WGN	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		WGN News at Nine		30 Rock	Scrubs	Scrubs	Sunny	
Premium Channels											
HBO	Edge of Darkness				Avatar						
MAX	League-Gentle.				Sucker Punch						
SHOW	Homeland	Californ.	Lies		Shameless		Lies	Californ.		Shameless	

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	Rate	APR
*15 Year Fixed:	3.375%	3.449%
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*30 Year Fixed:	4.000%	4.042%

* Annual Percentage Rates listed above are based on a \$100,000.00 loan with an 80% loan to value and a 30 day rate lock. Rates may change without notice subject to market conditions.

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