

Weather



National Weather Service  
**Tonight:** Showers likely. Cloudy, with a low around 37. North wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

**Thursday:** A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 3 p.m. Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 58. East wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

**Thursday Night:** Isolated thunderstorms before 7 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. East wind around 5 mph becoming west. Chance of precipitation is 10 percent.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 67. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 40.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 75.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 46.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 79.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 51.

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 80.

**Monday Night:** Mostly clear and breezy, with a low around 46.

**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 69.

Monday:	High, 65; Low 28
Tuesday:	High, 56; Low 35
Precip:	Monday      None
	Tuesday    0.14 inches
	Month:     0.21 inches
	Year:      1.10 inches
	Normal:   2.11 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)	
<b>Sunrise and Sunset</b>	
Wednesday	7:44 a.m. 7:59 p.m.
	New Moon at 9:38 a.m.
	(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Rain may give wheat a drink

From “RAIN,” Page 1

layer underneath the topsoil.

The K-State Research and Extension weather station in Colby has recorded 1.10 inches of rain so far this year, .21 of an inch of it in March. Normal precipitation for March is 1.12, the station says, and 2.11 would be normal for the first three months of the year.

Despite that dry weather, the wheat is looking good. Enfield said he had a pretty good stand last fall and a good root system so far this year. However, with a fast-growing crop, farmers may have to worry about a late freeze.

Jim Shroyer, K-State Extension crop production specialist, said in a March 6 release that the wheat could also be vulnerable to early-season insects and disease problems such as army cutworms, grain mites or greenbugs.

Shroyer recommended topdressing fields with nitrogen before the jointing stage. Enfield said many farmers have already done that, and he plans to apply his topdress soon, but if it is done after the wheat has grown too big, the chemicals can damage the leaves.

“You don’t want to stress the wheat too much,” he said, “so get in there before it gets too big.”

Hot weather is supposed to return this weekend, however, with plenty of sun and highs up to 79 degrees on Saturday and Sunday.

The high winds could resume today. The service predicts gusts could get as high as 30 mph, dropping to 15 in the evening. On Sunday, high winds kicked up dust off dry fields, mixing with a light rain to create a mud shower from Colby east, but the storm produced little actual moisture. The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow

Network, a collection of citizens who report on precipitation levels, recorded only .01 to .04 inches of rain in Colby that day.

Winds on Sunday got as high as 62 mph in Yuma, Colo., where a grass fire burned about 24,000 acres. Two homes were destroyed and about 1,000 residents, including the 300-person town of Eckley. The fire was fully contained by Monday, but firefighters have been taking care of hot spots and flare ups throughout the week. In Kansas, wind gusts reached as high as 58 mph.

The dry conditions also contributed to a fire at Bonny Reservoir in Colorado.

The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook, released Thursday, says that most of southern Kansas is likely to see an improvement in drought conditions this year. The extreme southwest corner, however, along with southern Colorado and the Oklahoma Panhandle, are likely to see the same conditions as last year, if not worse.

Senate votes to cut state tax rates

From “SENATE,” Page 1

parties have said their constituents are far more concerned about high property taxes than income taxes.

The House has approved a bill cutting income and sales taxes, as well as its own property tax relief measure. The final version of a bill cutting taxes probably will be drafted by negotiators for the two chambers, meaning the Senate’s actions don’t preclude further discussion of income or sales tax reductions.

“There are always other ve-

hicles,” said Senate President Steve Morris, a Hugoton Republican.

Revenue Secretary Nick Jordan, a former state senator, expressed similar sentiments, saying senators’ actions are “disappointing,” but the debate isn’t over.

Brownback touted his plan, mixing individual income tax reductions and tax cuts for some businesses with the elimination of tax credits and deductions, as a way to make the individual income tax code simpler and fairer. He wanted to keep the sales

tax at 6.3 percent so that the state could afford to lower income taxes, arguing that income tax cuts represent the best way to stimulate the economy.

Jordan said the governor didn’t tackle property tax relief because they are levied mostly by cities, counties and local school districts, and the state’s ability to rein in levies is limited.

“We don’t discount that property taxes need to be dealt with,” he said.

The sales tax has become a sticking point for legislators in

both parties because lawmakers increased it in 2010, before Brownback took office, to balance the budget. When they did, they promised it would drop to 5.7 percent in three years, and many legislators say keeping the commitment is important.

*Senate income and sales tax measure is Senate Sub for HB 2117. Senate property tax relief measure is Senate Sub for HB 2241.*

Online: Kansas Legislature: www.kslegislature.org

Sheriff’s office to seek charges in death

From “SHERIFF,” Page 1

“It’s a bad deal.”

The victim, a long-time salesman at Herl Chevrolet in Goodland, was widely known around the area.

One reason the patrol took the accident report and his deputy did the follow up investigation, Taylor said, is that both arrived about the same time. He said Mr. Gallentine had been moved by the time the deputy, Craig Cersovsky, arrived.

Because both emergency medical technicians on the scene were doing life-saving procedures, he said, Cersovsky drove the ambulance to Citizens Medical Center in Colby. Doctors there pronounced Gallentine dead. That left the Trooper Medlicott to do the accident scene work.

The charges allege that House was drunk and criminally negligent. Taylor said the man apparently had his 11-year-old son

with him, though the boy was not present when officers arrived. He apparently had walked home, but his presence in the truck prompted the charge of child endangerment.

“The son was not at the scene,” the sheriff said, adding that the family lives nearby. “Val was found in the middle of the street on his back. They were trying

to get someone to call 911.... When Craig got there, he had already been moved.”

Taylor said the two officers and others were getting ready to send the case to County Attorney Kevin Berens for a decision on district court charges. That should happen sometime next week, he added.

Two hurt in county wrecks

From “WRECKS,” Page 1

by Butch’s Auto Body, the patrol reported, while the semi was drivable.

Monday, a Colby teen was taken to Citizens by ambulance and two companions went in family vehicles after the subcompact car they were in rolled north of town on County Road 20, or Country Club Drive, about three miles north of Colby.

The patrol reported that Jessica D. Koon, 17, was driving north on the road at “a high rate of speed” about 1 p.m. when she apparently lost control. The 2002 Chevrolet Cavalier rolled

into the east ditch, coming to rest on its wheels.

Robert Bond, 15, was not wearing a seat belt. He was ejected from the rear seat, the patrol said, and went to the hospital by ambulance. The driver, Koon, and Rockell M. Bedore, 16, who both were wearing seatbelts, went in private cars.

The patrol said the crash occurred about 590 feet north of County Road W.

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County gets request to allow beer

From “COUNTY,” Page 1

counties that allow drinking during their fairgrounds events, including Norton, Trego, Ellis, Rooks, Graham, Rush, Ford and Republic.

“I talked to Trego County, and it’s sad to say, but alcohol profits pretty much pay for their entire fair,” said board member Kathi Wright, “and they have their Boy Scouts recycle the cans afterwards as a money-making project, so it benefits other organiza-

tions as well.”

Schrock added that the money could help pay for activities the fair no longer has money for, which he said, is “a never-ending list.”

He said, for example, people have suggested putting in more benches, bigger sidewalks and better lighting, as well as redoing the entryway to make it look nicer and easier for people in wheel chairs to get into the grandstands. These things would be a big draw, Schrock said.

Wright said it’s no use pretending there’s no alcohol at the fair today.

“It’s there,” she said. “It’s just in different containers so we don’t know. So why don’t we provide it so we can better control it and make a profit, too?”

Commission Chairman Ken Christiansen said there is a lot to think about before a decision can be made, but the first thing to do is to contact County Attorney Kevin Berens to see if the no-alcohol rule can be changed.

LOCAL

TV Listings

Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Thursday Evening											March 22, 2012										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30											
KAKE/ABC	Missing		Grey's Anatomy		Private Practice		Local	Nightline		Jimmy Kimmel Live											
KBSL/CBS	2012 NCAA Tournament			2012 NCAA Tournament			Local	Letterman													
KSNK/NBC	Community	30 Rock	30 Rock	All Night	Awake		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late												
KSAS/FOX	American Idol	Touch		Local																	
Cable Channels																					
A & E	The First 48		The First 48		First 48: Missing		First 48: Missing		The First 48												
AMC	Shawshank R.						Shawshank R.														
ANIM	Wild Amazon		Wild Russia		Wild Russia		Wild Amazon		Wild Russia												
BRAVO	Interior Therapy		Housewives/Atl.		Housewives/Atl.		Housewives/OC		Shahs of Sunset												
CMT	Road House					Footloose															
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360		E. B. OutFront		Piers Morgan Tonight												
COMEDY	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	South Pk	Tosh.0	Daily	Colbert		Tosh.0											
DISC	Auction	Auction	Auction	Auction	Unchained Reaction		Auction	Auction	Unchained Reaction												
DISN	ANT Farm	Beauty and the Beast			Jessie	Shake It	Austin	ANT Farm	Wizards	Wizards											
EI	The Soup	Ice-Coco	Shallow Hal				Chelseas	EI News	Chelseas												
ESPN	MLB Baseball				Baseball Tonight		SportsCenter		SportsCenter												
ESPN2	Cheerleading				Cheerleading		NFL Live		MMA Live		GameDay										
FAM	Meet the Parents				The Pacifier		The 700 Club		Prince		Prince										
FOOD	Chopped				Chopped		Sweet Genius		Chopped												
FX	Tropic Thunder				Archer		Unsuper.		Archer		Unsuper.										
HGTV	Property	Property	Sell LA	Selling	House	Hunters	House	Hunters	Sell LA	Selling											
HIST	Swamp People				Swamp People		Swamp People		Swamp People												
LIFE	Project Runway				Project Runway		Runway		Project Runway												
MTV	Jersey Shore				Jersey Shore		Jersey Shore		Fantasy												
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	George	George	70s Show	70s Show	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends											
SCI	The Brothers Grimm				Red: Werewolf Hunter		American Werewolf														
SPIKE	Jail	Jail	IMPACT Wrestling				MMA	Am Digger	Jail	Jail											
TBS	2012 NCAA Tournament				2012 NCAA Tournament				NCAA Bask												
TCM	Where Angels Go				A Majority of One																
TLC	Four Weddings				Four Weddings		Four Weddings		Four Weddings												
TNT	Bones				Bones		Four Brothers		CSI: NY												
TOON	MAD	Regular	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Delocated	Childrens											
TRAV	Bizarre Foods				Bizarre Foods		No Reservation		The Layover		Bizarre Foods										
TV LAND	Home Imp.				Raymond		Raymond		King		King										
USA	NCIS				NCIS		NCIS		In Plain Sight		CSI: Crime Scene										
VH1	Basketball Wives				Behind the Music		ATL		Music												
WGN	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	WGN News at Nine	30 Rock	Scrubs	Scrubs	Death												
Premium Channels																					
HBO	Gulliver's Travels				Too Short		Game of Thrones		Cathouse: Musical												
MAX	X-Men: First Class				Hall Pass																
SHOW	The Tempest				Lip Service		Shameless		Comedy		Sunset										

American Profile

Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

HIST	American Pickers	Larry the Cable Guy	Larry the Cable Guy	Larry the Cable Guy	American Pickers
LIFE	I Survived	Amer. Most Wanted	Amer. Most Wanted	Amer. Most Wanted	I Survived
MTV	Fantasy	Fantasy	Jersey Shore	Jackass 3.5	Fantasy
NICK	Fred	SpongeBob	George	70s Show	70s Show
SCI	WWE SmackDown!		Merlin	Being Human	Merlin
SPIKE	Enter the Dragon		The Ultimate Fighter	The Ultimate Fighter	The Ultimate Fighter
TBS	2012 NCAA Tournament				NCAA Bask
TCM	Wuthering Heights				Devotion
TLC	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes	Gypsy Wedding
TNT	Shooter			Collateral	Body
TOON	TBA	Level Up	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad
TRAV</					