

**Weather**



**National Weather Service**  
**Tonight:** Patchy dense fog after 10 p.m. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 41. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

**Thursday:** Areas of dense fog before 1 p.m. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 63. Calm wind becoming south-east between 10 and 15 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Patchy fog after 10 p.m. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 47. Breezy, with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Friday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Areas of fog before 1 p.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 68. Breezy, with a south wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Friday Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy and breezy, with a low around 42.

**Saturday:** Sunny and breezy, with a high near 63.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 37.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 67.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 42.

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 66.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 42.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 66.

Monday: High, 68; Low 39  
 Tuesday: High, 46; Low 39

Precip: Monday 0.56 inches  
 Tuesday 1.11 inches  
 Month: 1.67 inches  
 Year: 3.34 inches  
 Normal: 3.98 inches

(K-State Experiment Station)

**Sunrise and Sunset**

Thursday 7:21 a.m. 8:13 p.m.

Moon: waxing, 98 percent

(U.S. Naval Observatory)

# Students escape after bus rolls

From "STUDENTS," Page 1

the scene. She said she told one of the troopers working the accident that she probably would have gotten a ticket if he hadn't been busy. By the time she arrived, though, school employees had come out with vans and picked up most of the students, taking them to the high school.

There, she said, they got breakfast and waited for their parents to come in and check them over. The muddy spot on Road Y is about a mile north and a mile and a half west of the high school, she said.

"They were there, and everybody had been checked over, and they were eating," she said. "I just want to commend our staff and the local citizens who helped. The Thomas County sheriff's officers and the highway patrol were excellent."

"One thing about our small community is everyone is family. You don't have to be related to be family. In the emergency room, they said that. They said, 'Your school district is like a family.'"

She praised two students, Cole Ziegelmeier, 14, and Nick Brown, 12, for helping the others out the back door.

"I'm sure there were other kids who helped," the superintendent said. "Mary mentioned those two. They said at first, some of the little kids were scared, but everyone calmed down."

Afterwards, she said, both the Oberlin and Colby school districts called to offer the loan of a bus if needed. She said the district didn't have school today because it's the host for the Western Kansas Liberty League forensics tournament.

The wayward bus looked fine after it was

pulled out of the ditch, she added, but it'll get a thorough inspection before it goes back on the road.

"You know what?" Welshon said. "We were very fortunate."

Students on the bus, as listed by the Highway Patrol, included:

Kassie M. Garrison, 6; Brown; Ziegelmeier; Baylee J. Lippelman, 11; Luke C. Wessel, 14; Josie Franz, 13; Brittany N. Fringer and Tori L. Fringer, both 14, Georgia K. Juenemann, 5; Wyatt E. Higerd, 6; Cheyanne Hills, 3; Braydan L. Fringer, 11; Rolis Loya, 8; Caleb Hills, 6; and Tessa Hills, 9, all of Rexford.

Tori Fringer was the only one listed by the patrol as possibly injured. Welshon said she had a skinned-up knee.

# 'Controlled burn' grew into an inferno

From "FIRE," Page 1

destroyed more than two dozen homes and burned 6 square miles in the mountains southwest of Denver.

Residents began calling to express concern about the fire and high winds around 2 p.m., and at first dispatchers assured them the heavy smoke and flames weren't a threat. Later they acknowledged that there was some trouble with a prescribed burn but told callers that firefighters were at the scene.

Jefferson County sheriff's office spokeswoman Jacki Kelley said sheriff's officials were aware the controlled burn had broken its perimeter that afternoon but she said the agency didn't know the fire had gotten out of control until a local fire department sent a notification at 5 p.m. She said that's when a firefighter first made a suggestion for evacuations.

"We have to listen to what groups in the field are telling us," Kelley said of why evacuations weren't called earlier. "If they're saying there's a controlled burn and the state forest service is on the scene, we don't just create evacuations for a fire that has gone outside the perimeter."

Residents in the mountains are particularly sensitive to smoke in the air, and it wasn't unusual for dispatchers to receive calls about seeing smoke

from the controlled burn, Kelley said. The dispatchers' messages to callers changed as the situation changed, she said.

A neighbor has said Lucas, 77, and his wife, Linda, 76, were packed and ready to go if they got orders to evacuate. Authorities say they did eventually get one but it's not clear when.

A friend concerned about the third person who apparently died in the fire also called to ask authorities to check on Ann Appel because she was getting chemotherapy and her husband was out of state. However, that call seems to have come after it was too late to help her.

"She's a little sickly. We have no idea if anybody even knows she's there," the caller said. "We know the fire went through her property because we were able to get hold of the neighbor."

The caller said Appel — who didn't get an evacuation notice — wasn't answering her phone. Meanwhile, authorities say evacuation orders were sent in error to homes that weren't in the fire's path.

"She had her stuff to leave. The car had a flat tire," the caller said.

The dispatcher took Appel's number and address and said, "We'll get someone out there to make sure she got out, OK?"

Searchers found human remains in Appel's burned-out home on Saturday.

"The information at the time

was we had a controlled burn, and fire agencies were on scene," said Jefferson County sheriff's spokesman Mark Techmeyer. "In law enforcement, you want to minimize radio traffic. There would be no reason to air out something that's already common knowledge."

He said the dispatchers were not giving interviews about what happened.

The fire appears to have been sparked by a controlled burn set four days earlier by the Colorado State Forest Service, which says embers escaped from the burn sometime on the afternoon of March 26. A review of what happened has been ordered by the governor.

A National Weather Service forecast reviewed by firefighters on March 21 showed no significant winds over the coming week, KMGH-TV in Denver reported today. The burn was set on March 22 and on the following day, an updated forecast showed that wind gusts up to 55 mph were expected at higher elevations.

The first wave of automated calls ordering residents to evacuate was sent at 5:05 p.m. but they went to the wrong list of phone numbers, Techmeyer said.

"It was way too large geographically," he said, adding that he had no other details. "That was a user error on our end."

That call was halted, and a

new round of calls was started at 5:23 p.m., he said.

The 911 recordings show that initial bad round of notifications caused even more confusion in the dispatch center.

Calls from people who wrongly got evacuation notices are mixed with more residents calling to report smoke and fire nearby. Dispatchers appear to become increasingly overwhelmed while fielding so many types of calls back-to-back.

Simultaneously, residents who were under mandatory evacuation called dispatchers to find out if they had to leave their homes. Some of those people do not indicate they received evacuation notices before calling 911 themselves.

A caller named Neal Biller on Sunburst Drive told a dispatcher he didn't get an evacuation call but a neighbor did.

The dispatcher said he didn't need to evacuate if he didn't get a call, but Biller asked her to look up his address.

A few seconds later the dispatcher said, "OK, yeah, it looks like on Sunburst you are to evacuate, so yes, do evacuate."

"Wow. Really?" Biller said.

"I wonder why you didn't get the call?" the dispatcher asked.

"Well I'm glad I called," Biller said.

Some dispatchers did urge people to err on the side of caution and evacuate if they felt they were in danger.

**Briefly**

## Clinic has young female that needs good home

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a tan-and-white, medium-large female mixed-breed dog around 1 to 1/2 years old 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.

## Hospital childbirth classes starts Thursday

Citizens Medical Center will hold a four-week series of childbirth classes at 7 p.m. Thursdays from this week to April 26 in the conference room. Women due to deliver before August are encouraged to attend with their labor support partner. The next series will begin July 5. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown at (785) 460-4850.

## Fourth graders draw historic buildings here

A free exhibit of drawings of historic area buildings by fourth graders at Colby Grade School is on display at the Prairie Museum of Art and History through Friday. For information, call Ann Miner at (785) 460-4590 or e-mail museumed@st-tel.net.

## Singles dance Saturday at Meadow Lake lounge

A Singles and Couples dance will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday at the Meadow Lake Golf Clubhouse. Craig Stevens provide music. For information, call Lue Duffey in Rexford, (785) 269-7057.

## Berean Church to hold 'Art of Marriage' class

An "Art of Marriage" weekend conference will be held Friday and Saturday, May 4 and 5, at the Colby Berean Church, 1000 S. Franklin. Theme of the six-session video event is "Getting to the Heart of God's Design." Sessions will begin at 7 p.m. Friday and continue from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Cost is \$50 per couple or \$25 per single, including books and lunch. Registration deadline is Sunday, April 15. For information or to register, call the church office at (785) 460-2763, Jim and Shelly Myers at 462-9665 or Lynn and Tammy Higerd at 460-3152.

## Senior center offers potato bar, bake sale

The Senior Progress Center will have a potato bar, bake sale and coin raffle fund raiser from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 12, at the center in Fike Park. Come for dinner and check out the goodies. For information, contact Kaila DeBoer at 460-2901.

## Kindergartners to put on show for town

Colby Grade School kindergartners invite everyone to a free show, "A Day in the Country," at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 12, in the Grade School Auditorium. For information, call music teacher Jennifer Koel at 460-5100.

# County hears that feds won't pay for electronic records here

From "COUNTY," Page 1

among other sources.

Gaede said counties can sign up for free and they submit names of people who owe money to the program.

She said the clients have to be contacted at least three times and have to owe at least \$25. However, the Health Department requires that she sends them six monthly statements before submitting

them to program.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Authorized Emergency Medical Services Director Joe Hickert to find two more medics. He said he would begin the search right away.
- Approved a loan sign-up for an employee to borrow money from her retirement fund with ING, a financial services firm.
- Approved the March 19 minutes,

March payroll and final accounts payable.

• Approved the annual agreement with Computer Information Concept for Peopleware.

• Scheduled the commissioners to meet with Sherman County commissioners, the Goodland City Council, townships and Rural Fire District No. 5 at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4, at the Brewster firehouse to discuss the future of the

Brewster Fire Department, which serves both counties.

• Discussed the possibility of finding a part-time person to do courthouse maintenance by the hour. Clair Schrock, road and bridge manager, said this would involve fixing minor problems, adding that he doesn't want to have to use one of his crew to fix small things that someone outside of road and bridge could do.

LOCAL TV Listings *Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS*

Thursday Evening April 5, 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		Scandal		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live	
KBSL/CBS	Big Bang	Rules	Person of Interest		The Mentalist		Local	2012 Mast	Late Show Letterman	
KSNK/NBC	Community	30 Rock	Office	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	Coach Carter				Escape From L.A.					
ANIM	Too Cute!		Polar Bear: Spy		Wild Japan		Too Cute!		Polar Bear: Spy	
BRAVO	Housewives/OC		Housewives/OC		Interior Therapy		Happens	Housewives/Alt.	Shahs	
CMT	Young Guns				Young Guns II			Am Digger	Am Digger	
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360		E. B. OutFront		Piers Morgan Tonight	
COMEDY	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama		South Pk	Tosh.0	Daily	Colbert	Tosh.0	Tosh.0
DISC	American Chopper		American Chopper		American Chopper		American Chopper		American Chopper	
DISN	Phineas	Phineas and Ferb: The Movie			Phineas	Austin	Jessie	Wizards	Wizards	Wizards
E!	Reunion	The Soup	Ice-Coco	Ice-Coco	Ice-Coco	Ice-Coco		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea
ESPN	2012 Masters							SportsCenter		SportsCenter
ESPN2	College Hockey							WTA Tennis		Baseball Tonight
FAM	DirtyDan	Raising Helen						The 700 Club	Prince	Prince
FOOD	Chopped		Chopped		Sweet Genius			Sweet Genius		Chopped
FX	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men					Role Models		Role Models
HGTV	Selling	Selling	Sell LA		House	Hunters	House	Hunters	Sell LA	Selling
HIST	Swamp People		Swamp People		Mudcats		Ax Men		Swamp People	
LIFE	Secret of Bees						Dance Moms: Miami		Reba	Secret of Bees
MTV	The Challenge		Pauly D	Punk'd	Punk'd	Pauly D	Pants	Punk'd	Pauly D	Challenge
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	George	George	'70s Show	'70s Show	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SCI	Gothika		White Noise					The Skeleton Key		
SPIKE	Jail	Jail	IMPACT Wrestling				UFC Unleashed		Ways Die	Ways Die
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Big Bang			Conan		Office	Office
TCM	Please Don't				The Thrill of It All				Glass Bottom	
TLC	20/20 on TLC		20/20 on TLC		20/20 on TLC		20/20 on TLC		20/20 on TLC	
TNT	NBA Basketball		NBA Basketball						Inside the NBA	
TOON	MAD	Regular	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Delocated	Childrens
TRAV	Truck Stp	Truck Stp	Sand M.	Sand M.	No Reservation		The Layover		Sand M.	Sand M.
TV LAND	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	King	King	King	King	King	King	Raymond	Raymond
USA	NCIS		NCIS		NCIS		In Plain Sight		CSI: Crime Scene	
VH1	Basketball Wives		Behind the Music		Barbershop 2: Back				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	God-Bigger		True Blood		True Blood		Taxicab Confessions			
MAX	Midnight Run				A Nightmare on Elm Street		Sex Games Cancun Feature 2			
SHOW	Scream				Shameless		Gigolos	Sunset	Lies	Californ.

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**Friday Evening April 6, 2012**

	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	Undercover Boss		CSI: NY		Blue Bloods		Local	2012 Mast	Late Show Letterman	
KSNK/NBC	Who Do You		Grimm		Dateline NBC		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late	
KSAS/FOX	The Finder		Fringe		Local					

**Cable Channels**

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
A & E	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
AMC	Halloween H2O				Halloween H2O				The Watcher	
ANIM	North Woods Law		North Woods Law		Rattlesnake Republic		North Woods Law		Rattlesnake Republic	
BRAVO	Sydney White		Enchanted				Enchanted			
CMT	Young Guns II		Tombstone						Road House	
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360		E. B. OutFront		Piers Morgan Tonight	
COMEDY	Sunny	Sunny	South Pk	Tosh.0	Katt Williams: Pimp		A Bernie Mac Tribute		Jo Koy: Lights Out	
DISC	Alaska: Most Extreme		Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch	
DISN	Lab Rats	[Snap!]	Phineas	Jessie	Austin	Good Luck	Austin	Austin	Austin	ANT Farm
E!	True Hollywood Story		Fashion Star		Fashion Police		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	
ESPN	2012 Masters						SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	MLB Baseball				MLB Baseball					
FAM	Bewitched		Nanny McPhee				The 700 Club		Prince	Prince
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FX	Live Free-Die				Ultimate Fight		UFC	Grindhouse: Death Proof	</	