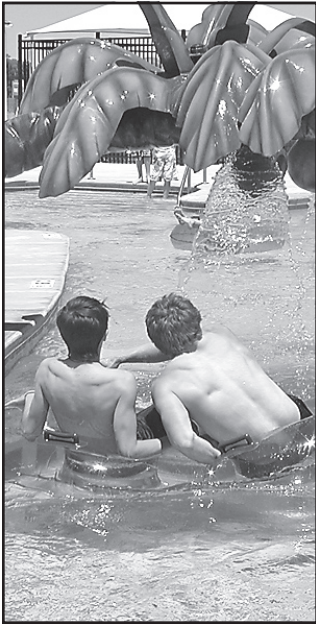


Weather



National Weather Service
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 3 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 94. Breezy, with a south wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 4 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 91. North wind 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 62.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 91.

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 69.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 94.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 66.

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

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 66.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 90.

Thursday: High, 89; Low 57
Precip: Thursday 0.07 inches
Month: 0.34 inches
Year: 9.18 inches
Normal: 16.36 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Saturday 6:54 a.m. 8:44 p.m.
Moon: waning, 32 percent
Sunday 6:55 a.m. 8:43 p.m.
Moon: waning, 24 percent
Monday 6:56 a.m. 8:42 p.m.
Moon: waning, 16 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)
Colby Water Use
Thursday 3,095,000 gal.
(Colby Public Works)

City council approves \$20.4 million budget

From “CITY,” Page 1

members of the public spoke up to comment. Councilman Tim Hutfles said that he did not feel that parts of the budget for sewer, water and solid waste were clear, but he was the only member to vote no.

Earlier, the council decided to trim street department expenses to keep the property tax levy the same as last year, as long as the estimate for assessed valuation holds up. The actual levy won't be known until later in the year.

In other business, the council:

- Discussed a project for joint sealing and pavement patching

at the airport. Jones said no one had bid on the project so far, but someone noted that contractors might bid later in the year when other work dries up.

- Tabled a motion to extend South Court Avenue 130 feet to the north from the intersection with Cedar Street and Court. Public Works Director Omar Weber said that the project would help with snow removal, but Hutfles said he wanted to look at the situation more closely.

- Set a public hearing on whether to demolish a building at 245 N. School Ave. for Tuesday, Sept. 18. Although the

building might yet be repaired, City Attorney John Gatz advised council member to be ready to enforce the building codes in case this didn't happen.

- Adopted, by reference, the 2012 versions of the Kansas Standard Traffic Ordinance and the Uniform Public Offense Code, as published by the League of Kansas Municipalities.

- Approved a request to allow parking on the north side of Horton Avenue and approve a route for the World's Largest Truck Convoy for the Special Olympics at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 8.

Colby chosen by department to get money for road project

From “ROAD,” Page 1

back, but he wasn't sure why.

“I don't know why that got backed up, but I assume it was funding,” Weber said. “I'm not 100 percent sure why that got drug out.”

Later, Weber said, the state had decided to put all three projects together and complete them next year.

The Department of Transportation, he said, will pick up a maximum of \$480,000 for the work, so the city will have to add about \$160,000 for construction and pay the design costs.

Weber said bids will be let in November, with the paving to be done sometime next year. He said the work is definitely needed.

“We've got deterioration on the surface that needs to be addressed,” he said, “and we need to try to smooth it up.”

“KLINK projects are important to communities statewide providing funding to address roadway surfacing needs on city connecting links of the state highway system,” said Secretary of Transportation Mike King when announcing the awards. “Projects range in scope from surface replacement and overlay to minor patching and joint repair.”

Through the Local Partnership Program, the department's share of the cost of the project is 75 percent for cities with a population of less than 10,000 or 50 percent for cities with a population of 10,000 or greater, up to a maximum of \$200,000.

U.S. department cuts corn outlook

By Jim Suhr

AP Business Writer

ST. LOUIS – The government slashed its expectations for U.S. corn and soybean production for the second consecutive month today, predicting what could be the lowest average corn yield in more than 15 years as the worst drought in decades scorches major farm states.

Nonetheless, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, in a statement supplied exclusively to the Associated Press, insisted U.S. farmers and ranchers remain resilient and the country will continue to meet demand as the global leader in farm exports and food aid.

The U.S. Agriculture Department cut its projected U.S. corn production to 10.8 billion bushels, down 17 percent from its forecast last month of nearly 13 billion bushels and 13 percent less than last year. That also would be the lowest production since 2006.

The department, in its World Agricultural Supply and De-

mand Estimates report, now expects corn growers to average 123.4 bushels per acre, down 24 bushels from last year in what would be the lowest average yield in 17 years.

Soybean production is now forecast at 2.69 billion bushels, a 12 percent decline from last year and well off the 3.05 billion bushels the department had expected last month. The expected average yield of 36.1 bushels per acre would be the lowest since 2003.

Corn farmers had expected a record year just months ago, when they sowed 96.4 million acres – the most since 1937. The department now predicts only 87.4 million acres will be harvested, although it notes the crop still could be the eighth-biggest in U.S. history.

“I have to be honest with you, I'm totally stunned we have corn with green stalks and leaves after going through weeks of 105-degree temperature,” said Garry Niemeyer, the National Corn Growers Association's

president, who has 1,200 acres of corn and 800 acres of soybeans near Auburn, Ill.

On Thursday, the U.N. food agency drew a direct correlation between price hikes in basic food commodities and the months of parched conditions in farm states. The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization said in its monthly price report that its overall food price index climbed 6 percentage points in July, although it was well below the peak reached in February 2011. The organization's index, considered a global benchmark used to track market volatility and price trends, measures the monthly price changes for a basket of food.

Severe drought punishing the U.S.'s midsection has sent corn prices soaring, and expectations of crop damage from dry weather in Russia sent world wheat prices up 19 percent, according to the organization. Spikes in the prices of staple foods have led to riots in some countries in recent years.

Briefly

Once a Month Lunch coming up on Saturday

Once a Month Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday in the basement of the Colby Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St. No reservation is needed, and the free meal, held the second Saturday of each month, is open to everyone. For questions, call the church office, 462-6342.

Registration open for kids' football teams

Colby Little League Football is accepting registrations for the fall season. If you have a child in third through sixth grades, stop by the Sports Shoppe to register. A physical form must be completed prior to participation, which costs \$100. For information, see Travis at the Sports Shoppe or call Amy Wildeman at 460-7815.

Signup continues Saturday for league

Registration for American Youth Soccer Organization players continues from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday. Cost is \$45 until then, \$50 after. Deadline to register is Friday, Aug. 17. Players must have been at least 4 1/2 by Aug. 1. The season runs from Saturday, Sept. 8, to Saturday, Oct. 27. Call Emily Griffin at 460-0647 for questions or paperwork.

Senior Progress Center wants volunteers

The Colby Senior Progress Center is looking for volunteers to help deliver meals to the homebound from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays. Call Kaila DeBoer at 460-2901 for information.

Lemonade stand will be set up on Tuesday

The Fourth Annual Lemonade Stand held by April Swartz will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday at the Swartz Veterinary Hospital, 1775 W. Fourth St. All proceeds go to the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter in Goodland. Come meet pets available for adoption. For questions, call the vet hospital at 460-1078.

Brewster church plans vacation Bible school

Kids in kindergarten to sixth grade will get a chance to learn about the Good Book at a vacation Bible school at the Brewster Community Church from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday. The theme is the 23rd Psalm. Call pastor Mike Pinkleman at (785) 694-2720 to register.

Community blood drive set for next week

The Colby Community Blood Drive will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, and from 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the Community Building, featuring the Battle of the Badges between law enforcement (sheriff, highway patrol, police), emergency medical and fire department members. People will vote on who they want to win the traveling trophy and bragging rights. Everyone who donates will receive a T-shirt and a chance to win a prize donated by local businesses. Call (800) 733-2767 to schedule an appointment or go to redcrossblood.org. Volunteers will be serving homemade zucchini bread. For information, call Bev Vaughn at 462-3861 or 443-1467.

Pre-registration open for Youth Skills Day

Pre-registration will be open until Wednesday for the 12th Annual Northwest Kansas Youth Outdoor Skills Day to be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, on the Pat Jones property six miles north and two miles east of Colby. Activities include shotgunning, archery, fur harvesting, wildlife habitat, compass and map reading. There will be a drawing for a backpack, a scope and a deer hunt. Pre-register at Colby Lumber or Rasure Lumber, or call Mike McGinnis, (785) 342-7290; Matt Bain, 462-3367; or Josh Williams, 460-0064, for information.

Organization ordering fruit for delivery

The Catholic Youth Organization at Sacred Heart Church is selling fruit for delivery in late August. Reserve your order of freestone peaches, Bartlett pears or Gala apples through Wednesday. Contact any member or Megan Augustine at the Sacred Heart rectory, 462-2179. Pickup is scheduled for 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 29, at the 4-H Building.

Kid's a' Cookin' classes set for Thursday

Kid's A' Cookin' classes will be held for third to fifth graders at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at the 4-H Building using produce grown in the Thomas County Coalition community garden. To sign up, call Diann Gerstner at the Extension office, 460-4582, by noon Wednesday. Limited to the first 20, minimum of 10.

Smart Start to hold car-seat check next week

Smart Start Northwest Kansas will hold a drop-in car seat check from 9 to 11 a.m. next Friday at 460 N. Garfield. Come see if your child is ready for a bigger seat and check for recalls, out-of-date seats or improper installation. Replacement seats are available to those who fit the requirements and fall within financial guidelines. Appointments can also be scheduled Monday through Friday by calling Denise Singer at 465-9103.

Gas prices spike; problems cited

NEW YORK (AP) – A surprise surge in gasoline prices is taking some of the fun out of summer.

The national average for a gallon of gas at the pump has climbed to \$3.67, a rise of 34 cents since July 1. An increase in crude oil prices and problems with refineries and pipelines in the West Coast and Midwest, including a fire in California, are mostly to blame.

Analysts don't expect gas prices to get as high as they did in April, when 10 states passed \$4 a gallon and the U.S. average topped out at \$3.94. But this is still unwelcome news in this sluggish economy, since any extra money that goes to fill gas tanks doesn't get spent on movies and dinners out.

The rising prices could also put pressure on President Barack

Obama in the heat of his re-election campaign.

When Phil Van Schepen recently went to fill up his dry-cleaning delivery van in Coon Rapids, Minn., he found a Post-it note a driver before him had placed on the pump faulting Obama for high gasoline prices.

“It's a reminder of his energy policies overall, which I don't agree with,” said Van Schepen, who buys about 100 gallons a week and finds he is spending about \$40 more than he did in early July.

Analysts and economists agree, saying prices for crude oil and wholesale gasoline are set on financial exchanges around the world based on supply and demand and expectations about how those factors may change.

The price at the pump in the

U.S. fell more than 60 cents per gallon during the spring as the global economy slowed and turmoil in the Middle East seemed to subside.

But crude oil is climbing again. Production outages in South Sudan and the North Sea, Western sanctions that have cut the flow of Iranian oil, Iran's threat to block tankers passing through the vital Strait of Hormuz, and fears that the violence in Syria could escalate into a wider regional conflict have driven up oil prices.

Seasonal factors are also sending pump prices higher. Gas usually costs more in the late spring and summer because refiners have to make more expensive blends of gasoline to meet clean air rules and because the summer driving season boosts demand.

LOCAL

TV Listings

Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Monday Evening										August 13, 2012	
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	Bachelor Pad				The Glass House	Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live			
KBSL/CBS	How I Met	2 Broke G	2 Broke G	Mike	Hawaii Five-0	Local	Late Show Letterman	Ferguson			
KSNK/NBC	Stars Earn Stripes				Grimm	Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	J. Fallon			
KSAS/FOX	Hotel Hell		Hell's Kitchen		Local						
Cable Channels											
A & E	Hoarders		Hoarders		Intervention		Intervention		Hoarders		
AMC	Crocodile Dundee				Crocodile Dundee II					3 Amigos!	
ANIM	Wildman	Wildman	Handfishin'		River Monsters		Wildman	Wildman	Handfishin'		
BRAVO	Housewives/NJ		Housewives/NYC		Gallery Girls		Gallery Girls		Housewives/NYC		
CMT	Reba	Reba	Unforgiven						Bandidas		
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360		E. B. OutFront		Piers Morgan Tonight		
COMEDY	Futurama	Futurama	South Pk	The Comedy	Central Roast		Daily	Colbert	South Pk	South Pk	
DISC	Air Jaws: Reloaded		Sharkzilla		MythBusters		Sharkzilla		MythBusters		
DISN	High School Musical		Shake It Up!		Good Luck Austin		Shake It	Good Luck	ANT Farm	Vampire	
E!	Kardashian		Kardashian		Opening Act		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea		
ESPN	NFL Football						SportsCenter		SportsCenter		
ESPN2	MLB Baseball				WTA Tennis				NFL Live		
FAM	Secret-Teen		Bunheads		Bunheads		The 700 Club		Prince	Prince	
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Mystery D	Diners	Diners	Diners	
FX	Star Trek				Star Trek						
HGTV	Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Hunters	Hunt Intl	Love It or List It		Love It or List It		
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	American Pickers		Pawn	Cnt. Cars	American Pickers		Pawn	Pawn	
LIFE	My Sister's Keeper				Memory Keeper				My Sister's Keeper		
MTV	Teen Wolf		Teen Wolf		Teen Wolf		Teen Wolf	Teen Wolf	Teen Wolf	Teen Wolf	
NICK	Victoriou	Victoriou	Hollywood Heights		George	George	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SCI	Starship Troopers		Warehouse 13		Alphas		Warehouse 13		Alphas		
SPIKE	Police Videos		Police Videos		Police Videos		Police Videos		Police Videos		
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Conan		Office	Office	
TCM	Black Narcissus				Tea and Sympathy					From Here	
TLC	Bates Family		Bates	Bates	Big Tiny	Big Tiny	Bates Family		Bates	Bates	
TNT	The Closer		The Closer		Major Crimes		The Closer			Crimes	
TOON	Regular	Annoying	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Squid	
TRAV	Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		
TV LAND	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	The King of Queens	King		
USA	WWWE Monday Night RAW						The Mummy				
VH1	Love, Hip Hop		Single Ladies		Love, Hip Hop		Single Ladies		Love, Hip Hop		
WGN	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		WGN News at Nine		Funniest Home Videos		Chris	Chris	
Premium Channels											
HBO	The Newsroom		Bridesmaids				Hard Knocks		What Nbr		
MAX	Grosse Pointe Blank				Strike Back		Strike Ba	Baby Dolls Behind Bars			
SHOW	Phenomenon		Kevin Nealon		Weeds	Episodes	Web Ther.	Weeds	Episodes	Web Ther.	

Thank You

I would like to extend a big “Thank You” to my family, friends, co-workers, and everyone that supported me in the 2012 Primary Election. I appreciate all the support given to me throughout my campaign and just want to say “Thanks” and ask for your continued support at the 2012 General Election.

- Shelly Harms