

Weather



National Weather Service  
**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north after midnight.  
**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 52. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming northeast in the afternoon.  
**Thursday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26. East wind around 5 mph becoming south after midnight.  
**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north in the afternoon.  
**Friday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27.  
**Saturday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 45.  
**Saturday Night:** A chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.  
**Sunday:** A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 33.  
**Sunday Night:** A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 14.  
**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 34.  
**Monday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 16.  
**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 36.

Tuesday: High, 65; Low 21  
Precip: Tuesday None  
Month: None  
Year: 1.74 inches  
Normal: 20.65 inches  
(K-State Experiment Station)  
**Sunrise and Sunset**  
Thursday 7:50 a.m. 5:21 p.m.  
Last quarter moon at 9:32 a.m.  
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Engineer discusses water goals

From “WATER,” Page 1

plain how the groundwater district will track of the water being allocated between users, and how these new allocations will be shared between water users in the Sheridan 6.

Bossert said the restrictions are meant to go into effect at the start of 2013 and remain for five years, until the end of 2017. A committee consisting of a district board member, a Division of Water Resources member and water users would be formed to oversee the agreement. Before it expires, the committee will decide whether and for how long to continue the regulations.

A law passed in the 2012 Legislature allowed the state to create Local Enhanced Management Areas. However, Bossert said the groundwater district has been considering tighter water restrictions for over a decade, and met with members from November 2008 to May of this year on the issue.

The restrictions are designed to keep the water right-holders in the Sheridan 6 from pumping more than 114,000 acre feet of water out of the ground in the next five years.

“The allocation of 114,000 acre feet is pretty much sacrosanct,” Bossert said, adding that future changes to the management area should be made in deference to this number.

They will mainly apply to farmers, keeping them from pumping more than 55 acre inches over the next five years, with no restrictions on how much of that allocation they can pump in any given year. The original yearly water-right restrictions on each well will still apply also.

“The annual rate of pumping is related to seasonal rainfall and therefore it’s variable from year to year,” Bossert said. “We’ve got to allow people to use that

water flexibly.”

He told Barfield that in earlier meetings, farmers said an average of 11 inches would suffice to irrigate their crops, if properly managed.

Users of stock water for cattle will be limited to using 12 gallons of water a day per head, Bossert told Barfield, down from 15 gallons. There is a single recreational pond which will be limited to using 90 percent of its old allocation.

After the order goes into effect, he said, farmers can pool their water rights or combine them with any other water rights in Sheridan 6. The groundwater district will keep spread sheets of each right to keep track of pooling and transfers of water rights between different users, making sure everyone stays within their boundaries.

“It’s going to track this like a bank account,” Bossert told Barfield, “and then again it’s going to stay under the 114,000-acre-foot bottom line.”

Water right users will be fined \$1,000 for every day they pump less than four acre feet over their five year limit, and will lose their water rights for two years if they pump four acre feet or more over that limit. Four observation wells in the area track groundwater levels, he said, and a fifth will be ready soon.

Not everyone was sure the water-right holders would be kept at the proper limit.

“Water rights get pretty complicated,” Barfield noted.

At the end of the meeting, he asked Bossert to clarify how allocations of water could be transferred between users.

Harold Murphy, a farmer who owns only one well in the Sheridan 6, said he was worried about how farmers will be able to pool together their water allocations, allowing them to pump more on some wells. Although farmers in the district can pool the place of

use between water rights by piping water to different fields, they cannot pump more than their yearly allocation on any given well. Under the proposal, the new allocations could be pooled together among any water right holders in the Sheridan 6.

“In the long run, in the bottom of the column, more water is used,” he said.

Murphy said he thinks he will only grow 60 to 70 percent of his old crop under the new restrictions. His well has been pumping less and less water each year. While it once was able to pump about 600 gallons a minute, he said, it’s now pumping closer to 450 gallons. This means, he said, that he is in favor of the restrictions on water use, but does not like the way they were written.

“I want it to go through,” he said, “but I want it to be fair and equal treatment between water users.”

Another farmer at the meeting, Gary Moss, suggested that there should be a limit on how far different allocations can be pooled.

Bossert said he’s confident the district will be able to track how much water is used, and does not think farmers will trade their water allocations on a wide scale.

“We’ve had this discussion a number of times,” Bossert said later.

He pointed out that water right holders in the Sheridan 6 will still be limited each year to what their water rights allowed them to pump before the restrictions go into place, and by how much their wells can physically pump out of the ground. If any users pool their allocations together under the new restrictions, they will be penalized as a group if they over pump.

He said they could borrow several extra inches if their allocation runs out near the end

of the five years. Flexibility for water use is a good idea under such tight restrictions because it allows every allocation to be entirely used up.

“They were comfortable saving the 20 percent,” he said. “They wanted all the economic gain from the 80 percent they were going to use.”

The Sheridan 6 area covers 125 water right holders. Ray Luhman, assistant manager for the district, said that about five of them own as many as 12 water rights. The land is mostly in Sheridan County but also includes nine square miles in Thomas County south of Menlo.

At the meeting, Brownie Wilson, support services manager with the Kansas Geological Survey, talked about data that the geological survey used create the management area, and on a study about the flow of water underground. Any area which saw 275 acre feet or more of water pumped out within a two-mile radius or saw a 9 percent decline in water level was included, he said.

Wilson said a study by the Geological Survey in southeast Thomas County determined that it takes a particle of water 15 to 20 years to move one mile through an aquifer in that area.

“We consider it very unlikely that the volume of ground water underneath a township could be replaced in less than 50 to 60 years,” Wilson said.

Bossert said after the meeting that the slow movement of water through the ground means that it will fill into the aquifer inside the Sheridan 6 area long before it flows downhill to the east.

Barfield could not be reached for comment. Mary Geiger, a spokesperson for the Kansas Department of Agriculture, of which the division is part, said that the engineer cannot comment on a pending action.

Briefly

Colby Women’s League invites public to coffee

The Colby Women’s League will hold its 16th annual Christmas coffee from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the Meadow Lake Golf Club. The group will raffle off a quilt and accept donations to help area groups and charities. For information, call Anita Hills at 462-6208.

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.

Church women are selling holiday nuts

The Colby Episcopal Churchwomen are selling fresh-crop pecans, walnuts and cashews for the holiday season. Call Martha Hullett at 462-2505 for delivery or you can make a purchase at Colby Canvas, 285 E. Third St.

Genesis will fill food baskets in December

Genesis-Thomas County food bank needs volunteers to help fill containers for its annual Christmas Basket project at 7 p.m. Friday at the Thomas County 4-H Building on West Olive Street. Anyone interested in helping is welcome. Baskets will be distributed from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday.

Santa City soon to be open weeknights

Santa City, in the Scout Hut at Fike Park, is open from 1 to 5 p.m. every weekend. Starting Monday, the winter wonderland will be open weeknights from 6 to 8 p.m. On Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec. 24, it will be open from 1 to 3 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

Gem Lions to offer pancakes, eggs and pie

The Gem Lions Club plans to hold its annual pancake feed from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. next Wednesday at the Gem Community Building. Come and enjoy lots of pancakes, sausage, eggs, pie and Lions Candy Day mints – and some visiting. Donations will be used for community projects, sight programs and education. Bring eyeglasses and hearing aids to recycle. For information, call Ken Poland at 462-7809.

Big Brothers cookin’ up soup, chili and gumbo

For a \$5 donation to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County at their second annual soup supper, you can enjoy chili; chicken noodle, ham and bean or cream-can soup; or gumbo, with a cinnamon roll for dessert. Come to the Colby High School basketball game from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, at the Community Building. For information, call Orvella Romine at 460-9125.

Governor: Kansas must fill revenue gap

From “REVENUE,” Page 1

fors” to fill the gap.

His proposals for “pay fors,” eliminating many tax deductions and credits, including deductions for interest on home mortgages and for charitable contributions, were stripped from the bill before it was passed last year, leaving the state with a revenue gap.

“I think we ought to do some of the pay fors that I proposed last year,” Brownback said at a forum Tuesday sponsored by the Lathrop and Gage law firm. “I think the Legislature ought to do those. We will see if they are going to do it.”

His revenue-balancing proposals, which also included keeping part of a penny sales tax that is supposed to expire July, never made it out of the Legislature.

In January, the state will reduce individual income tax rates, drop the top tax rate to 4.9 percent from 6.45 percent and increase the standard deductions claimed by married couples and heads of household. The state also will exempt the owners of 191,000 partnerships, sole proprietorships and other businesses from taxes.

Legislative researchers have estimated that the cuts will be worth \$4.5 billion over the next six years. But the researchers also project that the cuts will create collective budget shortfalls approaching \$2.5 billion during the same period.

Brownback’s proposal ran into problems when lawmakers received a cool reception from constituents who didn’t want to give up their home-mortgage interest deduction.

He also faced a negative backlash when it was revealed his tax plan as originally proposed would actually have raised taxes on people with incomes under \$25,000, while everyone else’s taxes would be lowered.

Within days of his initial proposal, conservative lawmakers in the House created their own plan that would lower taxes without eliminating many tax deductions and credits.

“I thought the plan we put forward was a good, full plan,” Brownback said Tuesday. “We got the tax cuts, which was good, but we didn’t get the pay fors.”

He said education, public safety and medical services for the poor would be protected from budget cuts.

Brownback and other advocates for the tax plan believe a short-term dip in tax revenues will eventually be replaced with revenues created by economic growth prompted by the cuts.

posed would actually have raised taxes on people with incomes under \$25,000, while everyone else’s taxes would be lowered.

Within days of his initial proposal, conservative lawmakers in the House created their own plan that would lower taxes without eliminating many tax deductions and credits.

“I thought the plan we put forward was a good, full plan,” Brownback said Tuesday. “We got the tax cuts, which was good, but we didn’t get the pay fors.”

He said education, public safety and medical services for the poor would be protected from budget cuts.

Brownback and other advocates for the tax plan believe a short-term dip in tax revenues will eventually be replaced with revenues created by economic growth prompted by the cuts.

LOCAL

TV Listings

Sponsored by the

COLBY FREE PRESS

Thursday Evening										
December 6, 2012										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Last Resort		Grey's Anatomy		Scandal		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live	
KBSL/CBS	Big Bang	Two Men	Person of Interest		Elementary		Local	Late Show Letterman	Ferguson	
KSNK/NBC	30 Rock	All Night	Office	Parks	Rock Center		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	J. Fallon	
KSAS/FOX	The X Factor		Glee		Local					
Cable Channels										
A & E	The First 48		The First 48		Panic 9-1-1		Panic 9-1-1		The First 48	
AMC	The Princess Bride		Yours, Mine & Ours				Robin Hood			
ANIM	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman
BRAVO	Housewives/Atl.		Real Housewives		Real Housewives		Happens	Real Housewives	Atlanta	
CMT	Reba	Reba	Smokey-Bandit					Smokey and the Bandit II		
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360		E. B. OutFront		Piers Morgan Tonight	
COMEDY	Futurama	Tosh.0		The Comedy	Central Roast		Daily	Colbert	Tosh.0	Tosh.0
DISC	Moonshiners		Moonshiners		Ghost Town Gold		Moonshiners		Ghost Town Gold	
DISN	Dog	Good Luck Charlie			Good Luck	Phineas	Austin	ANT Farm	Wizards	Wizards
E!	The Soup	Love You	Kardashian			Kardashian	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	
ESPN	College Football Awards		30 for 30				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	College Basketball				30 for 30		Nation		NFL Live	
FAM	Christmas Carol				Elf				Elf	
FOOD	Cupcake Wars		Sweet Genius		Sweet Genius		The Next Int Chef		Sweet Genius	
FX	The Other Guys				Sunny	League	League	Unsuper.	Sunny	League
HGTV	Buying and Selling		Extreme Homes		Hunters	Hunt Intl	Home Strange Home		Extreme Homes	
HIST	American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers	
LIFE	Project Runway		Project Runway		Abby's Dance		Project Runway		Project Runway	
MTV	Jersey Shore		Jersey Shore		Jersey Shore		Jersey	Jersey Shore	Jersey	
NICK	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	See Dad	Full H'se	The Nanny	The Nanny	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SCI	Starship Troopers		Constantine				Serenity			
SPIKE	iMPACT Wrestling				Ink Master		MMA	GT Academy		Ways Die
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Big Bang		Big Bang	Conan		Office	
TCM	Casablanca				The Third Man				The Other Love	
TLC	Say Yes	Say Yes	Four Weddings: Holid		Bride	Bride	Four Weddings: Holid		Bride	Bride
TNT	NBA Basketball					NBA Basketball				
TOON	MAD	Regular	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Childrens	Delocated
TRAV	Mysteries-Museum		Mysteries-Museum		Mysteries-Museum		Dead Files Revisited		Mysteries-Museum	
TV LAND	Cosby	Cosby	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	The King of Queens	
USA	NCIS		NCIS		Burn Notice		NCIS		Law & Order: SVU	
VH1	Basketball Wives LA		Movie					Behind the Music		
WGN	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	WGN News at Nine		Funniest Home Videos		Rules	Rules
Premium Channels										
HBO	Something Borrowed		In Vogue: Edit		Boardwalk Empire		Real Sex			
MAX	Green Lnt	Project X			Aliens					Baby Doll
SHOW	Fright Night		Piranha				Old Porn	Reality	Old Porn	Next Stop

50

50

Friday Evening

December 7, 2012

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Last Man	Mailbu	Shark Tank		20/20		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live	
KBSL/CBS	Undercover Boss		CSI: NY		Blue Bloods		Local	Late Show Letterman	Ferguson	
KSNK/NBC	Saturday Night Live				Dateline NBC		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	J. Fallon	
KSAS/FOX	Kitchen Nightmares		Fringe		Local					
Cable Channels										
A & E	Duck Dynasty		Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck Dynasty	
AMC	The Fifth Element				The Walking Dead				Comic Men	5th Elmnt
ANIM	Monsters Inside Me		Adrift: 47 Days		Back to the Wild		Monsters Inside Me		Adrift: 47 Days	
BRAVO	Housewives/Atl.		Housewives/Atl.		Housewives/Atl.		Housewives/Atl.		Shahs of Sunset	
CMT	Reba	Reba	The 46th Annual CMA						CMT Music Awards 201	
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360		E. B. OutFront		Piers Morgan Tonight	
COMEDY	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Kevin Hart: Grown		Chris Rock/Scared		Katt Williams: Pimp		Comedy Central Roast	
DISC	Gold Rush		Gold Rush		Jungle Gold		Gold Rush		Jungle Gold	
DISN	Star New Year		Phineas	Gravity	ANT Farm	Good Luck	Good Luck	Shake It	Dog	Jessie
E!	Sweet Home Alabama				Fashion Police		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	
ESPN	NBA Basketball		NBA Basketball						SportsCenter	
ESPN2	College Football						SportsCenter		NBA	Nation
FAM	The Santa Clause		Santa Clause 3				The 700 Club		Date Christmas	
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Mystery D	Health	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FX	Predators				The Ultimate Fighter		Predators			
HGTV	Celebrity Holiday		Celebrity Homes		Hunters	Hunt Intl	Hunt Intl	Hunt Intl	Celebrity Homes	

American Profile

We Celebrate Hometown Life

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

HIST	Pawn	Pawn	WW2 From Space		10 Things	10 Things	Pawn	Pawn
LIFE	Under the Mistletoe			Finding Mrs. Claus			Under the Mistletoe	
MTV	Jersey Shore		Jersey Shore	Notorious				
NICK	A Fairly Odd Christmas		Full Hse.	The Nanny	The Nanny	Friends	Friends	Friends
SCI	WWE SmackDown!			Haven		Dark Side	Dark Side	Haven
SPIKE	Ink Master		VGA Ten			VGA Ten		
TBS	Worse	Worse	Worse	Married Too?				Yes Man
TCM	Loves of Pharaoh			Smiling Lieut.				Shop Around Corner
TLC	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes	Brides	Brides	Say Yes	Brides
TNT	Inception						U.S. Marshals	
TOON	Smurfs	Dragons	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy
TRAV	Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures	The Dead Files			The Dead Files	Ghost Adventures
TV LAND	Cosby	Cosby	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King
USA	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU			Burn Notice	CSI: Crime Scene
VH1	Miss Congeniality			40 Greatest Pranks 3			40 Greatest Pranks 3	Miss You
WGN	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	WGN News at Nine		Funniest Home Videos	Rules

Premium Channels

HBO	24/7	Weigh-In	Red Tails		Your Highness
MAX	Alien Res	Wanderlust		Hunted	Lingerie
SHOW	War Horse	The Mechanic		Sexy Baby	Drive Angry

©2009 Hometown Content, listings by Zap2it