

Weather Corner



Clear and hotter

The forecast

Tonight — Mostly clear with a low around 59. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast.

Friday — Mostly sunny with a high near 94. Southwest wind around 10 mph. Friday night —

Mostly clear with a low around 64. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday — Sunny and hot with a high near 99. Breezy with a south wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday — Sunny and hot with a high near 98.

Sunday night — A slight chance of thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 64. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Monday — A slight chance of thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a high near 94. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Temperatures

Tuesday's high, 87
Wednesday's high, 52
Low this morning, 63

Records for this date, 106 in 1911, 46 in 1931

Precipitation last 24 hours, 0.00
July's precipitation, 0.00

Water Use Report

July 3-4

- gallons per day, average 3.5 million = Water Watch.
- 4 million = Water Warning
- 4.5 million = Water Emergency

A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-8367.

Briefly

Vacation Bible School in Rexford

Vacation Bible School will be held at the Rexford Community Church July 10-12 for all children ages preschool through 5th grade. Hours Tuesday, July 10, and Wednesday, July 11, will be from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, July 12, hours will be from 1 p.m.-6:30 p.m. with a program to follow at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend the program. Noon meals will be Tuesday and Wednesday, and an evening meal Thursday will be provided for the children. For any questions, call 687-3305, 687-3333 or 687-4465.

Prairie Land Food pick-up July 28

Participants can exchange two hours of volunteer work to save money on a family's monthly grocery budget through the Prairie Land Food Organization. The next distribution of Prairie Paks is Saturday, July 28. Orders can be placed now through July 16 by contacting Marguerette Edmundson at 460-8640, Gene Griffin at 460-3579, Mary Schroeder with State Farm at 462-

7255 or Linda Hagan at 1-800-298-1989 or e-mail her at clkhagan@ruraltel.net. Participants will also have a chance to win two adult passes to Wild West World in Park City or an Aug. 1 Prairie Pak, plus an Aug. Special of the person's choice.

Farewell to Undersheriff

The public is invited to the Commissioners' Room at the Thomas County Courthouse Tuesday, July 10, from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. to attend a farewell for Undersheriff Jason Moses. Undersheriff Moses has accepted a position with the State of Kansas and will be leaving the Thomas County Sheriff's Office.

Saint Francis Academy camp

The Saint Francis Academy is announcing their third annual KidzKamp to be held at the Rock Springs 4-H Center in Junction City. The free summer camp is for 70 children ages 8-11 who are in foster care. Children from

53 countries in Kansas will come together to enjoy campfire songs, horseback riding, swimming and creating friendships, said the Saint Francis Academy. KidzKamp is scheduled from Aug. 8-10. For more information, contact Aimee Copp, Director of Marketing/PR at Saint Francis Academy, (866) 999-1599.

Modeling clinic scheduled

The Thomas County Extension Office will be hosting America's Next Top Model — Thomas County-style in Colby for ages 7-16. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, Friday, July 13, at the United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave., Colby. The clinic will include six 30-minute sessions covering color coordination, facial care, grooming and make-up, modeling 101, dressing different body shapes and sensible buying. Reservations can be made by calling the Thomas County Extension Office by noon, Friday, July 6. A small registration fee is required and payable at the Extension Office, 350 S. Range Ave., or at the door.

Undersheriff taking new state job

From "MOSES," Page 1

the statewide communications interoperability plan," he said "This plan will be built by practitioners in the public safety field from all levels of government; hence, statewide, and not state of Kansas. This is a consensus-based plan and will be built around the needs of all responders."

Although Moses has accepted a job based in Topeka, he and his wife, Ashlee, and their son, Jake, 2, will continue to live in Thomas County, where they make their home in Oakley.

"I have enjoyed working closely with the people here in Thomas County and have the fortune of being able to stay here with my new job," Moses said. "Even though my responsibilities and the direct contact with the public will change, my role as a public servant will remain. Public service is important to me."

Moses grew up in Imperial, Neb., and graduated from high school there in 1994.

A 1996 graduate of Colby Community College, Moses went on to become a graduate of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson and has served as Thomas County Undersheriff for

the past three years. He joined the sheriff's office as a deputy in 2004, coming from Logan County where he served as a sheriff's deputy from 1996 to 1998, and as undersheriff from 1998 until 2004.

While working with the Logan County Sheriff's office, Moses was a part-time Oakley Police Department communications officer and served as Logan County Emergency Management Director from 1999 to 2004.

Moses has been honored for his accomplishments in law enforcement, twice being recognized for uncommon valor in the line of duty. Both awards stemmed from assisting other officers in the apprehension of suspects during high speed chases while being fired upon in 2003.

A member or officer of numerous law enforcement connected associations such as Kansas Emergency Managers' Association, Kansas Concerns of Police Survivors and Quad-County Narcotics Task Force, Moses is currently chairman of the Kansas Sheriff's Association Jail Committee. He will step down from that position on July 12.

Allen Markum will be the new undersheriff. He will be sworn in July 13.

Celebrating an award



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Dr. Mekki Saba, left, orthopedic surgeon, Margaret Kummer, center, and Jennifer Scott, right, all employees of Citizens Medical Center, enjoyed refreshments after an awards presentation Monday. The hospital received a \$1,000 Community Connections award from the Kansas Hospital Association for establishing the Northwest Kansas Orthopedic Clinic.

Yard Sale

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Sat. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
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Sebelius seeks czar to oversee gambling

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Kathleen Sebelius is seeking the appointment of a new gambling czar, and she already has someone in mind to help oversee the development of state-owned resort casinos and slot machines at racetracks.

Sebelius asked the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission on Tuesday to appoint a "chief gaming officer" to oversee the new gambling and serve as a liaison between the commission and the Kansas Lottery. A new law that took effect in April authorizes four casinos, owned by the lottery, and slot machines at three dog and horse tracks.

She also suggested the commission appoint former state Rep. Robert Krehbiel to the job. Krehbiel is one of three members of the Kansas Corporation Commission, which regulates utilities.

Sebelius said in a written statement that having a single official oversee the execution and enforcement of the new gambling law "just makes sense."

"The goal is to ensure the process proceeds smoothly and that proper oversight is maintained at every step of the way," she said.

The new law allows hotel-and-casino complexes in Ford County, Wyandotte County, either Cherokee or Crawford County, and either Sedgwick or Sumner County. It also permits slot machines at Wichita Greyhound Park, The Woodlands in Kansas City and the now-closed Camptown Greyhound Park in Frontenac.

Voters must approve the new gambling, and they have done so in all but Sedgwick County, where an election is scheduled for Aug. 7. The Lottery Commission will review applications from potential casino developers and forward acceptable ones to a special review board that will pick an applicant.

The law leaves regulation of the new gambling to the Racing and Gaming Commission, a board created in 1987 to oversee dog and horse tracks. The governor appoints the board's five members, but she

doesn't have direct control over its operations, as she does with executive departments.

Steve Martino, the commission's executive director, said it would take up the governor's request, although he could not say when. He said he doesn't have a problem with her proposal because the commission expects its workload from the new gambling to be three times greater than its existing workload.

"The volume of activity has increased dramatically," Martino said. "She is looking for someone who could take a big-picture view of what is going on."

House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, said Sebelius' request is valid, but any appointment should be an interim one until further legislative review.

"I believe the Legislature will want to review such a position, its responsibilities, and make it subject to Senate confirmation," Neufeld said.

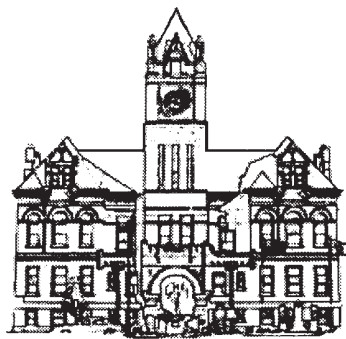
Sebelius said the new gambling czar would report to both the commission and the governor's office, serve as a liaison to the Legislature, and help draft regulations for the new casinos and slot machines.

In her letter, Sebelius said the new czar would "ensure the state manages and regulates all forms of gaming permitted in the state uniformly and efficiently."

Lottery Director Ed Van Petten said he thinks the new official will improve coordination of gambling oversight. Besides his agency and the racing commission, the state has a Gaming Agency, under the racing commission, that deals with four American Indian casinos.

"I think it's a great idea," Van Petten said. "There's never been a problem, but there's going to be a ton of issues out there."

Krehbiel, 60, served 12 years in the Kansas House before deciding not to seek re-election in 2000. He worked as a lobbyist for independent oil and gas producers before Sebelius appointed him to the KCC in 2003.



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