

Weather Corner



Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows around 70. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday...Partly sunny. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 90s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent. Thursday night... Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the upper 60s. Northeast winds around 10 mph. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 90s. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent. Friday night...Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Saturday...Partly sunny in the morning then becoming mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s. Saturday night...Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s.

Sunday and Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s. Lows in the upper 60s.

Monday through Tuesday... Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s. Lows in the mid 60s.

Tuesday's low, high: 65, 98
Monday's low, high: 62, 98
Water usage

Tuesday
3,549,000 gallons
3 Consecutive Days over 3.5 million will put us in a water watch

3 Consecutive Days over 4.0 million will put us in a water warning

3 Consecutive Days over 4.5 million will put us in a water emergency

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

Sheriff incumbent explains his platforms

From "BAUGHN," Page 1

Allen Marcum, is very "common sense," and the rest of his staff is "very capable and efficient." After learning one of his staff members filed to run against him, Colby resident Rod Taylor, Baughn fired Taylor. Taylor, along with C.D. Hopper, makes the run for sheriff a three-way race.

"That was an at will discharge," Baughn said. "My belief is that anyone has the right to run for office, but that was an at will discharge, meaning an employee can quit and the employer can (fire someone) without a reason. There's no implied contract with employment unless you do have a contract."

Baughn's tenure as sheriff has not been without challenges. On Sept. 23, 2005, Deputy Cory Wang committed suicide while off-duty.

Grieved by the incident, Baughn in mid-October attempted suicide while at a sheriff's convention in Junction City.

"In everyone's life they make wrong choices," Baughn said. "I made a wrong choice then owned up to what happened and have fully recovered. I went through a period of grief, recovered and have no lingering problem. I made a mistake, admitted and learned from it. If I hadn't learned from it, that would be different."

Baughn admitted consuming alcohol while at the convention facilitated his action. He said he has since abstained from alcohol use.

"I told the public I wouldn't drink and I stand by my word," he said.

Baughn prides himself that he is the only of the three candidates running for sheriff who is not already drawing a government

pension. Taylor is retired from the Kansas Highway Patrol, and Hopper is retired from the United States Army.

Baughn said the job of sheriff, particularly in northwestern Kansas, is changing. He said new laws and having "twenty-four hour jail coverage," means his role includes being a human resource manager; providing training and scheduling; learning, understanding and implementing new laws; working with volumes of court documents; being knowledgeable about drugs and drug trafficking; and dealing with a decreasing and aging population.

"In short," Baughn said, "The job of the sheriff, entrusted with enforcement of the law and maintenance of the peace, will increasingly be that of a business manager, and job just someone out on patrol."

If re-elected, Baughn said one of his primary goals for the office of sheriff is to re-establish vehicle identification number inspections through his office.

"Currently, the only VIN inspection available in the county is through the Kansas Highway Patrol," Baughn said. "Another goal is to establish a closer working relationship with the schools in Thomas County combatting drug and alcohol abuse."

For 11 years, Baughn presented Drug Abuse Awareness Education (D.A.R.E.) classes to three of the county's schools. He said it is important for young people to meet law enforcement officers in social, civic and learning situations, not just during enforcement situations.

He said he also wants to continue developing multi-jurisdictional opportunities for law enforcement,

such as continued involvement in the Quad County Drug Task Force as a way to address illegal drug operations and expanding jail space in northwest Kansas.

"Currently, we house inmates for Logan and Gove Counties, as well as the City of Colby," Baughn said. "One of my goals is to study the feasibility of expanding inmate capacity to serve projected jail needs in northwest Kansas without increasing property taxes."

"My ultimate goal as sheriff is to serve the people of Thomas County in the most honest and fair manner possible. I view the sheriff and his deputies as being peace officers, answering the call to protect and serve with common sense and an understanding of community standards."

Military, previous law enforcement helps candidate

From "HOPPER," Page 1

School and in 1955 he joined the U.S. Navy.

Following military service, he said he worked at various jobs until his appointment to the Colorado State Patrol in 1960, which was also the start of his law enforcement career.

Hopper served as a field training officer for a time and said he was able to work with many people in law enforcement.

"I touched the careers of men and women, providing leadership, guidance and personal development," he said. "Many of these people have since gone on to become police chiefs and sheriffs."

He also continued his education at Metro State College in Denver, majoring in law enforcement and administration, receiving a degree in management of Human Resources from Colorado Christian University.

From Oct. 1981 to Jan. 1994,

Hopper was on active duty with the National Guard as a company first sergeant and administrator in the military police corps. He later worked as military police battalion operations sergeant and administrator.

Hopper served as operations sergeant with the battalion during Operations Desert Shield and Storm in Saudi Arabia as support for an enemy prisoner of war camp.

After many years in law en-

forcement, Hopper said he wanted to return home in hopes of retiring.

However, not long after Hopper returned to the area, the former Thomas County sheriff, Tom Jones, offered him a job as criminal investigator for the sheriff's office.

He continued as the investigator until Feb. 2008. Currently, he is the investigator for the Thomas County attorney's office.

"Due to my past experience,

couple with my education, training, leadership skills, ethics and personal values, I believe I will be an excellent sheriff for Thomas County," he said.

Hopper and his wife, Barbara, have been married 28 years. He has three adult daughters: Tamra, Traci and Teresa, along with seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Former patrolman eyes job

From "TAYLOR," Page 1

improve his career by graduating from Northwestern in Alva, Okla. with a degree in law enforcement and social psychology.

"My first assignment as a Kansas Highway Patrol trooper was in Atchison," he said. From there, he said, he went to Topeka, Greensburg, Wichita and Colby.

His career as a highway patrolman spanned more than 30 years, seeing changes in technology and the law enforcement field in general.

"In 1966, there was no moving radar and whenever we needed a tag number or name, it had to be called in," he said. Today, patrol cars are equipped with laptops or built-in computers.

Taylor was promoted to Ser-

geant in 1980 to early 1991 in Wichita, but then took the assignment in Colby where he returned to traffic officer, patrolling Thomas, Sherman, Rawlins and Cheyenne counties.

The patrol in K-9 units in the 1990s and Taylor agreed to work with K-9 Officer, Trooper, a German Shepherd.

Together, Taylor and later, his dog, Trooper, seized more than \$2.5 million in cash, property and many pound of illegal drugs off Interstate 70 and other roadways in the area.

The state was able to turn the illegal seizures into good improvements and at no taxpayer expense, he said.

Following his retirement from the patrol in December of 1997,

Taylor said Tom Jones, then Thomas County sheriff, hired him in May of 1998.

In his years as a trooper and sheriff's deputy, Taylor has received many hours of K-9 training, criminal interdiction and more.

Taylor said he would like to become Thomas County's sheriff for many reasons.

Taylor said he knew he wanted to be a law enforcement officer the first time he rode with his dad when he was in high school.

"My dad was Forest "Frosty" Taylor and was a law enforcement officer in Goodland and on the road from 1956 to 1979," he said.

Taylor's brother was also a law enforcement officer for 18 years.

Norton has plans for visitor's center

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Saturday morning was a work day for Economic Development Director Diane Becker and several volunteers. Miss Becker, along with the Lions Club, the Downtown Restoration Committee Director Gloria Nelson, City Attorney Karen Griffith, and many other volunteers were all repainting the old Kent Oil Station on South State Street.

"We are in negotiations with the Chamber of Commerce and the county commissioners to turn it into a visitor's center," said Miss Becker.

The Kent Oil Station was built in 1938 by Rex Kent. Sometime before 1972, a cafe was added to the south side. It was last used as an antique store.

In May 2007, the city started the process to condemn the building

for health and safety reasons. An architect deemed the cafe part of the building to be unsafe, and reported it should be torn down. The service station half of the building was sound, but had been unused for about 10 years. Because the old tea house behind the service station, including anything within 500 feet of it, is protected by Kansas Historical Preservation Law, there were a lot of legal hoops to jump through to get approval for demolition.

On March 5, 2008, Miss Becker went before the city council to propose the building be used as a visitor's center. The city agreed, and gave her 180 days to demolish the cafe side and have the exterior painted. With the exception of some detail work, the deadline was met.

A fund raiser was held on April 5, 2008 to raise public awareness and money for the project. The Li-

ons Club sandblasted the exterior on May 20 and 21, and sealant was applied on May 31. June 28 and July 19 were painting days.

Miss Becker said there is still a lot of work to be done on the inside, and volunteers are always welcome.

Have you enjoy the Fair!

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West Nile case in Decatur County

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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With the mosquitos bad this year and one confirmed case of the West Nile Virus already, the Decatur County health administrator says people need to be careful when they are outside.

Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said she hasn't received the paperwork from the state re-

porting the virus here, but one of the doctors at the clinic had confirmed the case to her.

The virus is passed by mosquitoes from birds to humans and horses, said Ms. Gamblin. People who are going outside need to take precautions. First, she said, they should use an insect repellent with the chemical DEET in it, but not more than 33 percent.

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