



Weather
Corner

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with areas of fog after midnight. Lows in the 50s with humidity at 95 percent and south winds at 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy and clearing later in the day. Highs expected in the mid 80s with winds from the south at 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy with lows in the low 60s and winds continue from the south at 10 to 20 mph.

Friday: Warmer with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 90s with winds from the southwest at 10 mph shifting to the northeast later in the day.

Friday night: Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the 60s.

The extended forecast for the weekend is for highs in the 90s, mostly cloudy, and light winds.

Tuesday's low 55, high 79, .0 rain.

Water Usage for Tuesday: 1,628,000 gallons

Three consecutive days over 3.5 million gallons will mean a water watch;

Three consecutive days over 4.0 million gallons will mean a water warning and possible restrictions;

Three consecutive days over 4.5 million gallons will be a water emergency and require restrictions in watering.

Current temperatures are available by calling (785) 460-8367.

Kansas tops 25 percent barrier in obesity report

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kansas has joined the ranks of states with an adult obesity rate higher than 25 percent, according to a new report released on Tuesday.

According to the “F is for Fat” report issued by Trust for America’s Health, Kansas is the 23rd-fattest state, with 25.8 percent of its adult population obese and 62.3 percent either obese or overweight.

Last year, the state’s rate was 24.3 percent, putting it 27th nationwide.

“Obesity is probably the largest public health problem facing our country and has the most dramatic impact on the conditions that are driving escalating health care costs,” said Jeff Levi, executive director of Trust for America’s Health. “We are now at two-thirds of the country overweight or obese. Some forecasts say that within the next decade that will be 75 percent. People are not leading as healthy lives as they could.”

Mississippi led the nation with a 31.7 percent obesity rate, one of three states with an obesity rate higher than 30 percent. The other two were West Virginia and Alabama.

The report, which uses a three-year average to determine obesity rates, says only 22 states now have obesity rates less than 25 percent — down from 31 states the previous year. Colorado, at 18.4 percent, is the only state with an obesity rate of less than 20 percent.

In 1980, the national average of obese adults was 15 percent; in 1991, no state had an obesity rate above 20 percent, the report says.

Rising food costs, bigger portions and a lack of exercise all are blamed for the national increase. Part of the challenge is figuring out how to best fix the problem when government resources are tight, the report said.

State Sen. Jim Barnett, an Emporia Republican who also is a physician, said that while things such as school lunches can be addressed by state government, the adult obesity problem is more a matter of personal responsibility.

“We know there’s a problem. We don’t know how to approach the problem,” Barnett said. “It raises the question of how much can you legislate behavior and diet in a population.”

A proponent of bariatric surgery, also known as weight-loss surgery, Barnett introduced a measure last year in the Senate to study the cost-effectiveness of the procedure. He said he is optimistic that over time it will become more common and covered by insurance. Still, “so much of this goes back to personal responsibility,” he said. “I believe education and better airing of the topic across the state is important. And targeting childhood obesity. The greatest savings will come with earlier intervention and prevention.”

Calling obesity an epidemic, Levi said it will take a lot more federal money before the tide can be turned in the battle of the bulge.

“Not enough money is coming from the federal government,” he said. “Funding over the last few years has been going down for obesity efforts. If we take seriously the notion that this is a major public health crisis, we need to invest more money.”

While Levi acknowledged an increased awareness of the obesity issue, he said economic factors are preventing some people from changing their eating habits because they simply can’t afford it.

“Unfortunately the healthier food is often more expensive,” he said.

Pharmacist charged

A pharmacist was charged with an Internet crime and a pharmacy in Lyons was shut down for its role in the illegal and unethical practices stemming from that scheme, said Kansas Attorney General Steve Six.

Hogan’s Pharmacy pharmacist Rick Kloxin was charged for his part in an Internet pharmacy scheme. The store was shut down in March following reports of the illegal activities.

“Kansas pharmacies play an important role in protecting the health and well-being of Kansans,” Six said. “Most pharmacists take this responsibility seriously. It is absolutely critical that all pharmacists perform their duties ethically with the best interests of their patients in mind.” After an investigation, Kloxin was charged with computer crime, conspiracy to commit computer crime, one count commercial bribery, seven counts of violations of the Pharmacy Act of Kansas and seven counts of violations of the Kansas Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

The state alleges that Hogan’s pharmacist-in-charge, Rick Kloxin, distributed prescription-only drugs to people throughout the United States based upon questionnaires customers completed via the Internet. The complaint alleges that Hogan’s pharmacist violated Kansas law by shipping the drugs without valid prescriptions, by not offering counseling to people who purchased the drugs, and that Kloxin accepted compensation for violating a duty owed to people the drugs were shipped to.

Student News

Faculty at Fort Hays State were back today to hear from President Edward H. Hammond about the theme for this year’s State of the University speech.

The speech is an annual event and this year a new feature was introducing new classified staff.

The 2008 President’s Distinguished Scholar will also be announced.

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