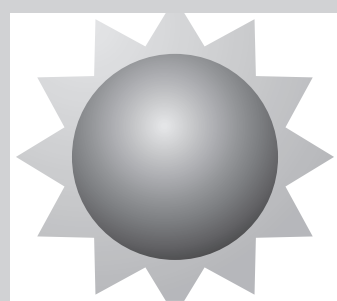


## Weather Corner



National Weather Service

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 27. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. Breezy, with a west wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. Blustery, with a northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Wednesday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 40. Breezy, with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 19.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 45.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 21.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 53.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 18.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 52.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 23.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 58.

**Friday:** High, 27; Low 15

**Saturday:** High, 31; Low 15

**Sunday:** High, 45; Low 18

**Precip:** Friday 0.04 inches

Saturday 0.00 inches

Sunday 0.00 inches

Month: 0.49 inches

Year: 0.64 inches

Normal: 0.97 inches

(K-State Experiment Station)

# Leadership wants state to cut 10 percent from 2010 budget

From "BUDGET," Page 1

Leaders are trying to avoid a discussion of rolling back some of the business tax breaks granted in recent years, when the economy was stronger. Sebelius' proposals include freezing the state's estate and corporate franchise taxes at current levels, rather than phasing them out by 2011, as planned.

"Let's truly put everything on the table, and look at delaying tax cuts that we've had," said Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, a Topeka Democrat. "We've had 113 tax cuts for business since 1987 and yeah, that's got to be part of the debate — no question."

Legislative researchers previously projected that the gap between anticipated revenues and spending commitments for fiscal 2010 approached \$1.1 billion — or 20 percent. Earlier this month, the National Conference of State Legislatures said only eight states, including California and New York, had estimated larger percentage gaps in their 2010 budgets.

But the \$1.1 billion figure was inflated. First, it assumed the state would end its 2009 fiscal year on June 30 with a \$199 million deficit.

The shortfall figure also assumed that the state was locked into nearly \$6.6 billion worth of spending financed by general tax revenues — the amount required if current programs carried forward and the state fulfilled a legal requirement to increase aid to public schools.

But legislators passed a bill last week revising the fiscal 2009 budget, eliminating its deficit and trimming spending financed by general revenues to \$6.25 billion.

Legislative researchers anticipate revenue collections of about \$5.7 billion in fiscal 2010. In theory, if Senate GOP leaders were successful in hitting their target for spending cuts, the state would end its 2010 fiscal year with a small cushion.

But Senate Vice President John Vratil, a Leawood Republican said, "That assumes there's no further revenue dropoff, which we think there will be."

Aid to public schools is a key issue because, in the revised 2009 budget, it consumes half of the state's general tax revenues.

Schools also are a target because in the past four years, the state has phased in an \$892 million increase in aid — a big reason the budget was destined to be out of balance even without the recession.

But educators and Democrats note that the increase was a response to Kansas Supreme Court orders in 2005 and 2006 that the state had failed its constitutional duty to finance an adequate education for every child. Also, educators credit the extra money with allowing schools to keep up with

increasing academic standards mandated by the federal No Child Left Behind law.

Sebelius proposed freezing aid to schools — denying them promised increases in aid — but hoped to avoid cutting their state dollars. Her proposals for fiscal 2010 managed it, and Democrats noted she and her staff spent several months developing her proposals.

"The governor, really, I think deserves a wide degree of deference in this process," said House Minority Leader Paul Davis, a Lawrence Democrat. "Starting with the governor's product is the way that the process ought to work."

But Republican leaders find some of the governor's proposals dubious. They want to push ahead

with the estate and corporate franchise tax cuts and note that her budget relies on \$56 million in one-time startup fees from yet-to-be-built state casinos. It also would withhold nearly \$83 million in aid from cities and counties, which local officials say could force them to raise property taxes.

Sebelius and legislators in both parties also have ruled out raising the state's sales, income or other general taxes.

"We've got our work cut out for us," said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Kevin Yoder, an Overland Park Republican. "The better work we do in committee at eliminating programs in other agencies, the less momentum there will be behind a school cut."

## Benefit ball beauties



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Two women conversed at the second annual American Cancer Society Charity Ball, Dinner and Auction on Saturday night at City Limits Convention Center.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

To have your ad placed in the Business Directory call Jasmine or Heather today at 462-3963.

**Prairie Museum of Art & History**

Membership Individual - \$20  
Family (at same address) - \$30  
Lifetime - \$1,000

**BENEFITS**

- Four Prairie Winds News letters
- Free Admission to the Museum
- 10% gift shop discount except books
- Yearly historic calendar

**Thomas County Historical Society**  
1905 S. Franklin \* Colby, KS 67701  
785 460-4590  
praiiem@st-tel.net  
www.prairiemuseum.org

**FAMILY DENTAL CARE**

The Latest Technology and Most Complete Care Available!

- Root Canals • Orthodontics
- Implants • Wisdom Tooth Surgery

New Patients Welcome  
No Referral Necessary - Financing Avail.  
1690 W. 4th St., Colby ~ 785-460-3999  
Toll Free: 1-866-305-3999

SHAWN D. JENSEN, D.D.S.

**ROOFMASTERS**

Your Local Roofing Contractor

425 East Hill, Colby, KS  
Licensed - Bonded - Insured

<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	1-800-536-6642	<b>COMMERCIAL</b>
Tamko Shingles	1-785-462-6642	Rubber Single Ply
GAF Shingles		White TPO Single Ply
Wood Shingles		Built Up Systems
Metal Roofs		Modified Systems

**FREE ESTIMATES**

Elastomeric Rubber Coating For Metal Roofs

Place Your Ad Here!  
Call Jasmine or Heather Today!  
785-462-3963

## Bonds for renovations may go on

TOPEKA (AP) — Officials in Topeka are asking lawmakers to restore money for the final phase of Statehouse renovations.

Supporters say low material costs, low inflation rates and a lack of impact on the current year's budget mean there is little reason to suspend the restoration's completion.

Doug Kinsinger, the president of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, says there's probably not a better time to invest, or to borrow to finish the job.

The Capitol Restoration Commission in December declined to authorize bonds for the final phase of what has become a \$285 million project. House leadership called it a "symbolic gesture" as the economy declined.

Susan Mahoney of Downtown Topeka Inc. says tourism spikes during states' sesquicentennial years. Kansas' 150th birthday is in 2011, when the project was expected to be completed.

## Irrigators meet here next week

From "IRRIGATION," Page 1

culture: A Cooperative's Point of View."

- Other presentations will cover:
- Crops and weather.
  - Optimizing crop water productivity.
  - Center pivot sprinkler considerations.
  - Subsurface drip irrigation.
  - Irrigation technology and energy.
  - Central Plains water policy (panel discussion).
  - Economic issues facing irrigators.

The \$75 registration fee includes all sessions, entry to the equipment expo, a copy of the proceedings, two lunches and a social hour. The fee is \$85 if applying for continuing education units.

For information and registration help, contact Donna Lamm by mail at 760 N. Thompson, Colby, Kan. 67701 or by phone at (785) 462-7574.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

<b>Hi-Plains Co-op</b>	
Wheat (bushel)	\$3.06
Corn (bushel)	\$3.35
Milo (hundredweight)	\$4.83
Soybeans (bushel)	\$8.38

**Strength. Stability. Service.**

And us.

That's what you can count on. We're in the business of helping people just like you through all stages of life with insurance and financial products. To learn more call today.

www.fbfs.com  
(785) 462-3388

Auto / Home / Life / Business / College / Retirement

Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company\*West Des Moines, IA. Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company\*West Des Moines, IA. \*Company of Farm Bureau Financial Services © 2007 FBL Financial Group, Inc. 346

**Murray Roofing & Construction**

Residential & Commercial  
(785) 462-6908

Residential roofs  
Flat & Low-Sloped Roofs  
Metal Retro-Fit  
Energy Efficient Roofing Solutions

Vinyl & Steel Siding  
Decks & Patios  
Wood & Vinyl Fencing  
Soffit & Fascia

**FREE ESTIMATES**

**FREE ESTIMATES**

Jim Murray - Owner  
(785) 443-1339

**Introducing...**

**QTA Quality Title & Abstract**

785-460-1858 \* 275 La Casa Drive \* Colby, KS

Partners of:

**Western Appraisal Service**

Owner and Operator-Paul F. Bailey

785-460-2839 \* 275 La Casa Drive \* Colby, KS

Call on us for your Appraisal and Title needs.

"Where one call...Does it all!"

**A GOOD SIGN EVEN IN TIMES LIKE THESE.**

Everyone's looking for an encouraging sign in today's economy. The fact is, they'll see one in over 17,500 locations across North America. Because for over 86 years, State Farm® agents have been there helping people protect the things that matter most. That's why more people trust State Farm. And we consider that a very good sign.

**LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, STATE FARM IS THERE!**

Jane W. Johnson, Agent  
305 E 4th Street  
Colby, KS 67701  
Bus: 785-462-7525  
jane.johnson.gj2@statefarm.com

**PROVIDING INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
State Farm, Bloomington, IL

**Modern Woodmen** FRATERNAL FINANCIAL

Touching lives. Securing futures.®

**Looking for an IRA?**

Get timely advice about opening or contributing to an IRA or Roth IRA for retirement. Your Modern Woodmen representative can help you decide which is best for you.

**4.75% New IRA. Up to 5.6% on Rollover IRA's. Guaranteed 3% Minimum Rate. Guaranteed Return of Principal.**

Call today to learn more.

Shawn Carney, FIC  
1210 West 4th  
Colby, KS  
785-460-6921  
shawn.carney@mwarep.org

modern-woodmen.org

IRA0408

**NEW SYSTEM Professional WINDOW CLEANING**

Colby, KS (800) 611-6735

COMMERCIAL - RESIDENTIAL - FREE ESTIMATES