

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. Northwest wind around 5 and 10 mph.
Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 74. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53. West wind around 5 mph.
Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a high near 87. Southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.
Saturday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 87.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 59.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 85.
Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.
Monday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 88.
Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.

Monday: High, 91; Low 62
 Tuesday: High, 74; Low 54
 Precip: Monday 0.10 inches
 Tuesday 0.36 inches
 Month: 3.58 inches
 Year: 16.62 inches
 Normal: 13.76 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
 Thursday 6:42 a.m. 8:58 p.m.
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

Colby Water Use
 Monday 2,592,000 gal.
 Tuesday 1,740,000 gal.
 (Colby Public Works)

New government web site aims for easier voter registration

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas officials on Tuesday formally launched a new online system that they hope will make it easier for residents to register to vote and eliminate the need for casting provisional ballots.

The Web site links the secretary of state's office with the Department of Revenue's Division of Motor Vehicles. Residents may apply to register to vote, using data and an electronic signature verified through their driver's license that already are on file.

Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh said the program, which was rolled out about three weeks ago, is the culmination of a multiphase project aimed at improving election participation. Since it launched, 88 Kansas residents have registered.

"An online voter registration application is the next step in making the traditional elections process easier, faster and cheaper," Thornburgh said. "As technology continues to change and evolve, it is important that we implement strategies that will allow the citizens of Kansas to register in a way that is most convenient to them, without sacrificing the security and uniformity that sets our elec-

tions system apart."

The application process takes minutes to complete, requiring residents to submit their name, address and driver's license number. They may select a party affiliation if desired. The applications are downloaded each night and sent to counties to verify.

"We've simply removed paper from the process," Thornburgh said.

He said residents can expect the county to issue a voter registration card within seven days of filing the application. Residents may apply to register up to 14 days before an election. About 60 percent of those currently registered to vote did so through the so-called motor voter process when getting or renewing a license, Thornburgh said.

Revenue and secretary of state information technology staff developed the online system using existing resources and staff, he said, keeping costs to a minimum.

A law passed in 2007 implemented several provisions that strengthened the security of the driver's license system and allowed the Department of Revenue to share information with other federal, state or local governments.

"One of the reasons this works and works so well is we have a secure driver's license system," Revenue Secretary Joan Wagnon said.

Thornburgh said the online system was no more susceptible to identity fraud than current paper applications, which can be picked up at numerous locations or downloaded from government Web sites. He said Kansas residents shouldn't worry that the state is gathering other personal information during the process.

"We do not have a need for or a desire for e-mail addresses. And I'm not sure we have the authority for them," he said.

Residents voting for the first time or in a new location must show identification to obtain a ballot. But Thornburgh said the new system should eliminate many of the clerical errors, such as spelling or addresses, that frequently cause a ballot to be cast provisionally and then counted separately by election officials after verification.

There were more than 1.72 million Kansas residents registered to vote as of January, the most recent figure available.

Chamber announces fair parade awards

There were 60 entries in the Thomas County Fair Parade. First and second place awards were given in six categories and one entry was chosen that best represented the parade theme.

Community and Organization: Thomas County Emergency Medical Services, first place; Thomas County 4-H Council, second place.

Youth 12 and Under: HRLK Donkey Company, first place; Modern Woodmen Youth Service Club, second place.

Business: Colby Care Center, first place; J and R Marketing, second place.

Antique Vehicles: Larry Havel, first place; Patty Dible, second place.

Dirt Bikes and All Terrain Vehicles: Colby Kart Club, first place; Plumisto Grandkids, second place.

Horses and Riders: Thomas County Rodeo Royalty, first place; Plainville Rodeo Royalty, second place.

Best Representation of the Parade Theme: AYSO Youth Soccer.

Wind project nearly ready to go

From "WIND," Page 1

prices are set by natural gas, since it is the most expensive. Contracting with utilities is a far less risky than selling into the open market.

Keenon said Acciona can begin construction on the project within months of finalizing a contract.

Acciona and the commissioners also have not formalized their development agreement. Some details, such as road repairs, have not been ironed out yet.

"The road maintenance agreement is the biggest thing we're talking about," Keenon said.

One idea Acciona has been discussing, he said, was to pay the county a fixed amount for "as good

or better" road repairs, so that they would not have to negotiate separate agreements each time a major maintenance or expansion happens at the site.

Commissioner Paul Steele said there are several state construction projects that may be using the same roads, and if possible the truck traffic should be lined up to reduce the amount of repairs needed.

Commissioner Ken Christiansen called the update encouraging, and said the commissioners will be reviewing the development agreement.

Keenon said the company will provide a report to the public closer to the beginning of construction that will include the final construction plans and project maps.

Board renames health building

From "HENRY," Page 1

trees and built roads. The corps was created by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the Great Depression with the goal of putting unemployed American men back to work. The media release said Henry was promoted to the head of a surveying crew that built roads and fire lanes in the Sierra Nevada Mountains while working for the corps.

Henry was hired by the Douglas Aircraft Company to work in the engineering department designing and constructing fighter planes in the 1930's, the press release said.

He did this job with only an eighth grade education.

Henry was in and out of the Army Air Corps in the 1940's. He worked in the corps as a flight engineer in B-17s, B-24s and B-29s.

Henry arrived in Brewster in 1949. He provided all the labor on his farm until he was 88 years old and he made all the managerial decisions until his death.

Bev Biel, former member of the college endowment association, said Henry's love was for kids and their education.

"He was a quiet man — but a wonderful man when you got to know him," she said.

Documents show Eisenhower's challenges

TOPEKA (AP) — Newly declassified documents from President Dwight D. Eisenhower's administration show that the iconic views of the 1950s as a peaceful era aren't all that accurate.

The papers from Eisenhower, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and the National Security Council show an administration that was worried about a Soviet invasion of Berlin, defending Western Europe and Iraq turning

communist.

Between 10,000 and 20,000 pages of documents were recently declassified by the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene, Eisenhower's boyhood home.

There are more than 28 million pages in the library archives.

Library director Karl Weissenbach says the documents show the Eisenhower era was just as dangerous as that facing President Barack Obama.

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