

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 85. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 55.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79.
Sunday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, low around 54. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.
Monday: High, 96; Low 64
Tuesday: High, 82; Low 63
Precip: Monday 0.03 inches
 Tuesday 0.63 inches
Month: 3.16 inches
Year: 20.00 inches
Normal: 16.41 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Thursday 7:08 a.m. 8:22 p.m.
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)
Colby Water Use
Monday 2,407,000 gal.
Tuesday 2,073,000 gal.
 (Colby Public Works)

County attorney explains unpaid property tax laws

From "TAXES," Page 1

track the individuals down some other way. Every attempt has to be made to make contact, Applebury said.

The letter informs interested parties that there are taxes owed, and they need to be paid by Sept. 1, or a judgment of tax foreclosure will be filed in county court, and the property will become county property and subject to sale.

Unless the property owner pays the taxes, the property automatically defaults to the county on the final day, or Sept. 1. The public notification states "no other bidders are allowed," and means that if someone

knows a person hasn't paid their taxes, they can't just show up and pay the taxes and take the property for cents on the dollar, before it automatically defaults to the county. An owner can come in and pay the taxes up before the Sept 1 deadline, plus the penalties, interest and abstracting fees.

Flipse said that many times there are part owners of properties who do not know they have an interest in property in Thomas County. An example is that if a grandfather has had a one fourth interest in a mineral right, and wills it to his grandchildren, and somehow, it is overlooked at the time of his death, they are the owners of record, and may be unaware they owe taxes anywhere.

"Tracking down all the owners without a valid address is a frustrating and slow process," said Flipse.

After the foreclosure process is complete, the county attorney has to hold a hearing to prove everything was done according to the law before he can proceed to set up a tax sale.

When the sale finally happens, Kansas law states that no owner, relative or friend of the person who owes the taxes can purchase the property at a tax sale.

Successful bidders do not have to pay any of the fees, back taxes or court costs at a tax sale.

However, the county commissioners

have the right to hold property for sale out of the public tax sale, if they believe it has more value than it would bring in a public tax sale.

They can offer the property for sealed bid. Applebury said once the sale is over, the court receives all fees generated by court costs, the interest goes into the county general fund, and the recovered taxes are distributed to all the taxing entities in the particular district from which it was collected.

"We are really fortunate in Thomas County," Applebury said, "because our delinquent taxes are only around one and a half percent of the total taxes."

University warns of West Nile virus

From "WEST NILE," Page 1

outdoor fans.

"Mosquitoes are fragile. A stiff breeze will send them looking for cover," he said.

"Perspiration and the carbon dioxide you exhale are mosquito attractants," the entomologist said. "Some evidence suggests dark clothing is a visual cue for the pests."

- Until temperatures are averaging below 50 degrees, female mosquitoes will still be laying eggs in stagnant water. So, allow no outdoor water to stand for more than six days. Remove such "accidental" rain collectors as bottle caps, toys and tires. Empty and refill dog bowls, birdbaths and the like. Don't allow water to collect in gutters, tarps or plant container saucers.
- "Eliminating breeding sites can be particularly important... Our primary disease-carrying mosquito species rarely range very far from where they were born," Zurek said.

- Follow label directions and apply a mosquito repellent. The Environmental Protection Agency says the most effective products have DEET or Picaridin as their active ingredient.
- The American Association of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control both state children will get the best protection from a 30 percent DEET solution, applied by an adult to all exposed skin except the children's hands, mouth area and eyes.
- But, for infants less than two months old, the best protection is simple mosquito netting, draped over their carrier or stroller, Zurek warned.
- "Some stores also carry products that contain permethrin. They're not for use on skin, but can be quite effective on clothing, shoes, bed netting and camping gear," he said. "You pre-apply permethrin and let it dry before using treated items. That way, the ingredient won't accidentally off-set onto your skin."

Ted Kennedy dead at age 77

From "KENNEDY," Page 1

Kennedy's eldest brother, Joseph, was killed in a plane crash in World War II. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas in 1963. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was gunned down in Los Angeles as he campaigned for the 1968 Democratic presidential nomination. John F. Kennedy Jr. was killed in a plane crash at age 38 along with his wife in 1999.

Kennedy was elected to the Senate in 1962, when his brother John was president, and served longer than all but two senators in history. Over the decades, he put his imprint on every major piece of social legislation to clear the Congress.

His own hopes of reaching the White House were damaged — perhaps doomed — in 1969 by the scandal that came to be known as Chappaquiddick, an auto accident that left a young woman dead.

The third-longest-serving senator in U.S. history, Kennedy was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor in May 2008 and underwent surgery and a grueling regimen of radiation and chemotherapy.

His death late Tuesday comes just weeks after that of his sister Eunice Kennedy Shriver on Aug. 11.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Kennedy's son Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., said his father had defied the predictions of doctors by surviving more than a year with his fight against

brain cancer.

Ted Kennedy fought his way back to Capitol Hill that summer to cast a pivotal vote for the Democrats on Medicare. He made sure he was there again last January to see his former Senate colleague Barack Obama sworn in as the nation's first black president, only to collapse in fatigue at a celebratory luncheon afterward.

His legislative achievements included bills to provide health insurance for children of the working poor, the landmark 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, Meals on Wheels for the elderly, abortion clinic access, family leave, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

He was also a key negotiator on legislation creating a Medicare prescription drug benefit for senior citizens and was a driving force for peace in Ireland and a persistent critic of the war in Iraq.

Wildly popular among Democrats, Kennedy routinely won re-election by large margins. He grew comfortable in his role as Republican foil and leader of his party's liberal wing.

President George W. Bush welcomed Kennedy to the Rose Garden on several occasions as he signed bills that the Democrat helped write.

"He's the kind of person who will state his case, sometimes quite eloquently and vociferously, and then on another issue will come along and you can work with him," Bush said shortly before his first term began in 2001.

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