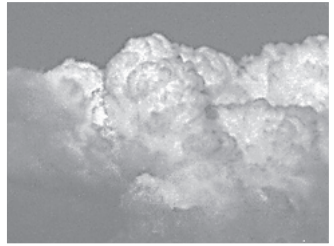


Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Patchy fog after 1 a.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Friday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Patchy fog before 10 a.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 79. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Friday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. Northeast wind around 10 mph.
Saturday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 70. East wind around 10 mph.
Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.
Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 71.
Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.
 Wednesday: High, 79; Low 59
 Precip: Wed. 0.00 inches
 Month: 0.16 inches
 Year: 20.69 inches
 Normal: 17.71 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
 Friday 7:22 a.m. 7:59 p.m.
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

Trucks ready to hit the road for Special Olympics

From "CONVOY," Page 1

Atwood, Grinnell, Hoxie and Quinter
 The 2009 convoy will take off from the Mitten TA Travel Plaza in Oakley and go west on U.S. 40 to Freeman Avenue. It will then take a right on Freeman to Front Street and go north on Center Avenue to Eighth before taking a left and getting on U.S. 83 to go north. Once on I-70, the trucks will head to Colby's main exit, where they will go north on Range Avenue.
 They will go east on Fourth Street and take a right at Franklin. The trucks will stay on Franklin to Willow, go left, then taking

right on Country Club Drive. From there they will head south to Horton Avenue and head for Truck Town.
 Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. at Mittens. Before the giant vehicles begin rumbling down the road, an auction will determine which truck will lead the parade. Truckers who want to be part of the auction may register in advance or enter for \$100 per truck Saturday morning. Trucks must be 10,000 pounds or more gross vehicle weight to enter. Truckers must sign a waiver, have a valid license and proof of insurance.
 Once the route is finished, the truckers,

law enforcement officers and athletes will have sloppy joes for lunch at Truck Town. Jane Mentlick said the food is being provided by several groups, including Mike's Locker in Oakley and the Oasis Travel Plaza in Colby. She said lunch is being organized by Leann Sloan. A disk jockey from Goodland will provide music.
 The athletes will vote on best truck in five categories, including Best of Show and trucks with most miles on them (million-mile trucks) after lunch, said Jane Mentlick. Her husband the winners will get prizes.
 Jane said the truck drivers will vote on the best poster created an athlete. Joe said

the posters are collages where the athletes cut out sayings from magazines and placed them on the poster boards along with pictures relating to the trucking industry and congratulating the truckers for their contributions to the cause.
 There also will be an auction after lunch. A quilt made with Special Olympics shirts will be given to the person whose name is drawn from a bunch of raffle tickets, said Joe Mentlick. Other items will also be sold at the auction, he said. All proceeds will go to the Special Olympics.

Kansas state government posts employee salary information online

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansans now have a better view of where their tax dollars are spent and how much each state employee earns.
 The Department of Administration and the Information Network of Kansas have added salary and wage information for all state employees to the KanView Web site. Visitors can search the database to see how much employees are being paid by job classification and by agency they represent.
 The Web site, which first went live in the spring, is to provide more transparency to government operations. Kansans are able to make comparisons in revenues and expenditures from the past three budget years.
 Gov. Mark Parkinson said Thursday that transparency in government "is extremely important" and encouraged Kansans to visit the Web site to learn more about how government works.
 "I think what they'll learn from going to the Web site is the sacrifice that so many of these public officials make to serve," Parkinson said.
 The Web site, which was expanded last week, was financed through existing revenues and the contract the state has with INK to provide information technology, said Department of Administration spokesman Gavin Young.
 About half of the people who click on the site are new visitors and the other half are returning viewers, Young said.
 "Most people just like to look at the overall numbers," he said, adding that the list of vendors who

supply the state with goods and services is also popular.
 One taxpayer watchdog says that Kansas government has made significant strides in shedding light on how the state spends its revenues.
 "We've come a long ways," said Alan Cobb national director of state operations for Americans For Prosperity.
 Cobb said some legislators initially resisted the push for the database, by blocking bills from getting final approval. Eventually, he said, the KanView system was approved in a provision of the state budget bill in 2007. It was permanently established by a separate law in 2008.
 Cobb said the information must be viewed in the proper context, for example, explaining why an expenditure was made or the source of revenue. Overall, it will be helpful in giving the public access and understanding.
 "It gives people more faith in government that nothing is being hidden," he said. "It's not going to solve the budget problems. People feel helpless at times, and this gives them a bit more ownership of their tax dollars."
 Young said in the coming year, more financial information will be made available as the state upgrades its financial management system.
 "It's the kind of site that has received a lot of national attention because of the ease of navigation," he said. "I think transparency is far and away the best benefit."

Fort Hays to build radar weather station

The National Science Foundation will build a radar facility at Fort Hays State University to help monitor space weather in partnership with Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg.
 University President Edward H. Hammond said the project, part of the worldwide Super Dual Auroral Radar Network, or "SuperDARN," will study the impact of solar wind on Earth's near-space environment.
 He said the site will be southwest of Hays at Golf Course Road and 210th Ave. The installation will consist of two low-power, high-frequency radars, each having two dozen 56-foot poles that support wire antennas over 42 foot gaps.
 "The antennas need to be this large to generate the signal with a 100-foot wavelength that is used to produce the echoes from the upper atmosphere that reveal space weather," Hammond said.
 Students will benefit from the project through internship and research opportunities, and in observing the motion of the partially ionized gases of earth's ionosphere, at an altitude of 45 to 600 miles.
 The overall goal is a chain of SuperDARN radars at low latitudes so that space weather can continue to be mapped when it expands below the auroral regions during large and potentially dangerous storms.
 There are currently two U.S. radars in Virginia. The Kansas site will add two more, and \$6 million has been awarded for a budget for the installation of pairs of new radars at sites in Kansas, Oregon, Alaska and the Azores.
 The project involves four institutions: Virginia Tech, as the lead university; Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.; the University of Alaska at Fairbanks; and the Johns Hopkins University of Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Md.

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