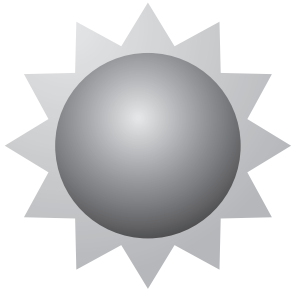


Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 35. North wind around 5 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 62. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 40.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 69.
Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 43.
Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70.
Monday Night: A 30 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 44.
Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 65.
Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40.
Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 57.

Wednesday: High, 45; Low 34
 Precip: Wed. 0.01 inches
 Month: 1.15 inches
 Year: 23.23 inches
 Normal: 19.19 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
 Friday 7:55 a.m. 7:03 p.m.
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

Social Security recipients to get stimulus

From "SECURITY," Page 1

"Since the purpose of COLAs is to preserve beneficiaries' purchasing power, the decline in overall prices means that beneficiaries do not need a COLA in January 2010," Kathy Ruffing, a senior policy analyst at the center, wrote in a report this week.

Over the past 12 months, gasoline prices have fallen 29.7 percent and overall energy costs have decreased 21.6 percent, the Labor Department said Thursday.

Ruffing noted that government forecasters don't expect consumer prices to return to 2008 levels until 2011.

Some advocates for seniors, however, argue that older Americans spend a disproportionate amount of their incomes on health care costs, which rise faster than consumer prices.

The lack of a cost of living increase triggers several provisions in the law. Among them, the amount of wages subject to Social Security payroll taxes will remain unchanged. The first \$106,800 of a worker's earned income is currently subject to the tax.

Also, Medicare Part B premiums for the vast majority of Social Security recipients will remain frozen at 2009 levels. However, premiums for the Medicare prescription drug program, known as Part D, will increase.

Obama called on Congress Wednesday to approve the second round of stimulus payments, and several key lawmakers said they would.

The \$250 payments would go to Social Security recipients as well as those receiving veterans or disability benefits, railroad retirees, and retired public employees who don't receive Social Security. Recipients would be limited to one payment.

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Democrat says he'll measure up against opponents

From "CANDIDATE," Page 1

he said, are subsidies for tobacco growers and the Housing and Urban Development Department's budget.

"You can't just slash and burn," he said.

Another issue that Jilka is championing is energy independence. Jilka said he is old enough to remember gas lines during the oil embargoes in the 1970s. Since the United States needs much more oil today than it did 30 years ago, he said, it is important to decrease dependence on Middle Eastern energy production and focus on things such as biofuel development.

Jilka also sees immigration reform returning as a prominent issue for the mid-term election. Living in Latin America has given

him a unique perspective, having seen the conditions on the other side of the border. The issue, he said, become much more important in the southwestern part of the district, where towns like Liberal and Garden City have large Hispanic populations.

Jilka is currently the only Democratic candidate who has announced for the seat, and said he doesn't know of any others who are considering a run. There are six candidates on the Republican side, and although Jim Barnett and Tim Huelskamp have commanding fund raising leads, the race is still wide open.

Jilka said that while it's hard to know many factors this far out from the election, he feels he'll stack up well against any opponent.

Children's theater group to play for Colby school

A musical adaptation of "Little Red Riding Hood" will be presented at several elementary schools by the Wichita Children's Theatre Professional Touring Company next week. The Colby performance will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Colby Elementary School.

This retelling of the Brothers Grimm story introduces us to the endearing, yet capricious Little Red, her understanding mother, her doting, yet wise grandmother, the brave and kindly woodsman, and the silly, bumbling wolf who is more interested in Little Red's basket of goodies than he is in

Little Red. This show, written by Kevin Reese, will educate as well as entertain the audience.

Other Tuesday performances are at 8:30 a.m. for Oberlin Grade School and at 10:30 a.m. for Atwood Elementary School.

They will perform at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Oakley Elementary School, and at 3 p.m. (Central Time) in Goodland.

The group is sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association. Season ticket holders of the association are welcome at the performances.

Madoff masks a hit for costumes

NEW YORK (AP) — Don't be alarmed if Bernard Madoff comes knocking this Halloween.

The real Madoff pleaded guilty to a decades-long Ponzi scheme that cost investors millions of dollars. The New York financier is now serving a 150-year prison sentence.

But he'll be joining the witches and ghosts on spook night.

Madoff masks are at retail stores and on Web sites that sell costumes. One firm that makes a rubber Madoff mask, Rubie's Costume Company, has distributed more than 15,000 of them to stores across the country.

But Executive Vice President Howard Beige predicts Madoff will be outsold by Michael Jackson and Super Mario Brothers.

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