

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, low around 21.
Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 50.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49.
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29.
Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 46.
Thursday Night: A slight chance of rain and snow.
Friday: A slight chance of rain and snow.
Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 27.
Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 51.

Friday: High, 50; Low 23
Saturday: High, 52; Low 28
Sunday: High, 44; Low 27
Precip: Friday 0.00 inches
Saturday 0.00 inches
Sunday 0.04 inches
February: 0.38 inches
March: 0.04 inches
Year: 0.91 inches
Normal: 1.20 inches
Sunrise and Sunset
Tuesday 7:16 a.m. 6:38 p.m.
Wednesday 7:14 a.m. 6:39 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Legislators questioned over budget and schools

From "BUDGET," Page 1

any budget problems in the future with taxes rather than looking for other solutions.
One voters asked for a show of hands in support of the governor's sales tax plan, which involved a "temporary" three-year increase of 1 cent on the dollar.
"The crowd is giving you a message to take back with you," she said.
Another citizen asked about the state Lottery and why that money wasn't being put toward the public school system.
"Somewhat the public got the idea that it's all supposed to go for education," Morrison said.
He and Ostmyer said the first \$50 million of lottery revenue is earmarked for economic development and prisons.

\$15.6 million went to the general fund.
Morrison went on to say that he voted against renewing the lottery.
Another asked why the state is building a casino if cutting spending is a priority.
Ostmyer said that although the casino is controlled by the state, Dodge City spent the most money building it and much of the money generated goes to the city and county, not the state.
Another asked about the Capitol renovation project.
Ostmyer said that was started well before the budget crisis.
Another said the closing of armories in Goodland and Norton - one of the governor's cost-saving measures - would hurt those towns by limiting the 170th Maintenance Company's response time after a disaster.
Ostmyer said the Legislature was informed of those cuts only a day before the general public.

but so far nothing has come of it.
Morrison circulated what he called the "Billion Dollar List," a list of suggestions that could save the state money.
Some of the suggestions include reducing the number of legislators, consolidating counties and selling off assets such as the Kansas Turnpike.
Morrison said he knew many of the suggestions would not be popular.
"You're not going to like all of them," he said.
Morrison also said he didn't think much of the list would be politically doable this year.
Many other questions revolved around education.
Ostmyer said the plan for the rest of the fiscal year was not to cut any more money from education.
"I hope we can hold them to a freeze," he said.
Ostmyer said as a former school board member, he knows how tough it is to close a school.

"You have to watch what you say, or you might get beat up or shot," he said.
One audience member asked if there is anything in place to audit school districts for fraud or misuse of money.
Ostmyer said there is a voluntary management audit that districts can go through, but nothing required by the state.
Another asked Morrison if he was supporting a House bill that would raise the age limit on school buses from 20 years to 25 years.
Morrison said he wasn't, which drew an angry response from some of the audience.
Superintendent Terrell Harrison said the district has two buses that are in good condition that are nearing the 20-year limit.
The bill would save the district from having to replace them right away, she said.
Morrison said he wanted to hear people's opinions on bills like this because he was elected to represent, not to dictate.

Developmental agency can't afford tax on vacated building

From "TAX," Page 1

ers approved the plat and signed a waiver allowing the firm involved to proceed with the structure as soon as approval is received from the Federal Aviation Administration.
They reserved rights for the county to have space on the tower when and if needed.
Al Koenig withdrew his bid to paint the court services offices which was presented for approval last week.
The county asked at last week's meeting for the judge to get two other bids before accepting the Koenig bid.
Since there are rumors about the state putting the courts on furlough, commissioners decided

to hold off on the painting, but would furnish the paint if the court services employees wanted to do the painting themselves.
Commissioner Byron Sowers told the other two commissioners he had received two complaints about traffic on the Campus Road that trucks carrying "distillers grain," the cattle feed by product from the alcohol plant east of Oakley, were traveling down the road at a rate of one every 15 minutes.
This would be in violation of a resolution signed by the county in 1993 prohibiting excessive commercial use of county roads.
The road department will look into the matter, said Clair Shrock, depart-

ment superintendent since there is another available route available.
County Treasurer Donita Applebury told the commissioners she is having a turn over in employees in her office who are leaving for better paying jobs, elsewhere and would like to name a deputy and raise the pay to meet private business pay scale to stop the turnover.
The commissioners

said this same situation has happened in other departments, and approved the treasurer and county clerk raising their deputies pay to \$13 an hour.
In other business, the commissioners:
• Agreed to participate in a statewide tornado drill next Tuesday, March 9.
• Gave the register of deeds per-

mission to have a \$30 petty cash fund.
• Agreed to pay annual dues of \$500 to the Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development agency, a regional development group backed by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Liquor tax considered for disability programs

KANSAS CITY (AP) - Kansas lawmakers are mulling a possible tax hike on liquor.
The estimated \$21.8 million it would generate would support programs for the developmentally disabled and mentally ill.
Programs for both groups have experienced funding cuts since the

state's financial crisis began.
The Kansas City Star reported that under the legislation, the existing tax on wholesale alcohol would double, costing Kansans a few more cents for every beer.
The tax increase is one of several that lawmakers are considering to close a \$400 million deficit.

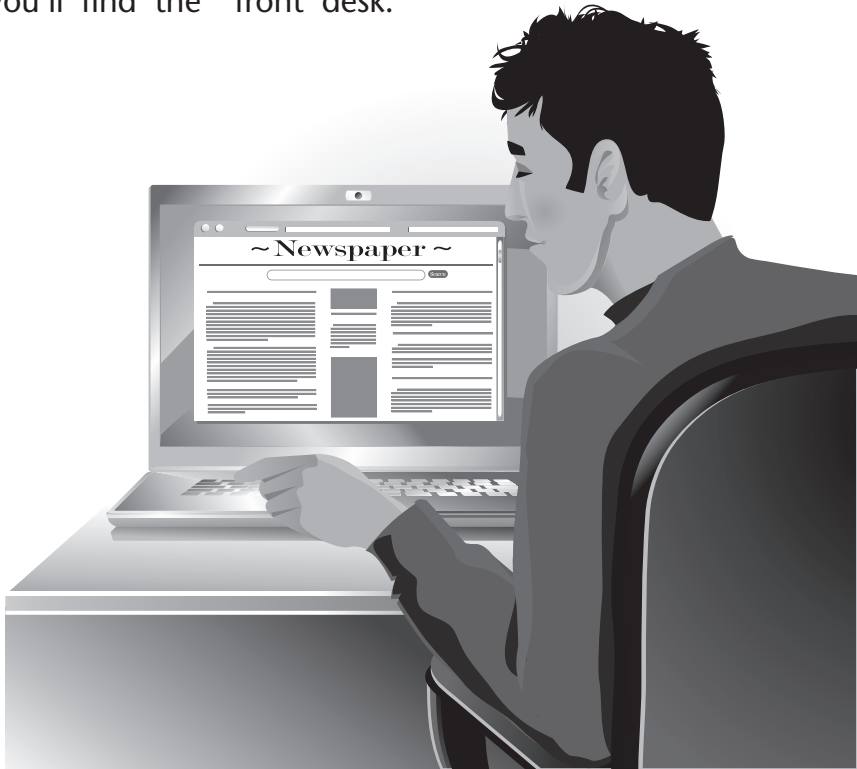
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Table with columns for Tuesday Evening March 2, 2010. Rows include KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KAS/FOX, Cable Channels, A & E, AMC, ANIM, BRAVO, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISC, DISN, EI, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FOOD, FX, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, MTV, NICK, SCI, SPIKE, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TOON, TRAV, TV LAND, USA, VH1, WGN, Premium Channels, SHOW.

Table with columns for Wednesday Evening March 3, 2010. Rows include KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KAS/FOX, Cable Channels, A & E, AMC, ANIM, BRAVO, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISC, DISN, EI, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FOOD, FX, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, MTV, NICK, SCI, SPIKE, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TOON, TRAV, TV LAND, USA, VH1, WGN, Premium Channels, SHOW.

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- Because of the flooding, we are working in the back room. While repairs are under way, come to the front door, come on in, turn left and you'll find the "front desk."
• As always, customers are our priority at the Colby Free Press. We're here to serve you. Please pardon our mess.



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