

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Patchy fog after midnight. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. South wind around 10 mph.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 10 a.m. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 56. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Thursday Night: Areas of drizzle. Areas of fog. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 35. Breezy, with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph.
Friday: Areas of drizzle before noon, then a slight chance of showers after noon. Areas of fog before noon. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 54. Breezy, with a south wind 15 to 20 mph becoming west. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 31.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 58.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 1 a.m. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 34.
Sunday: Patchy fog before 9 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 61.
Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35.
Monday: A 30 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 47.
Monday: High, 38; Low 28
Tuesday: High, 54; Low 28
Precip: Monday 0.01 inches
Tuesday 0.00 inches
Month: 0.05 inches
Year: 0.92 inches
Normal: 1.20 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Thursday 7:13 a.m. 6:40 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Court employees wait for decision on furloughs

From "FURLOUGHS," Page 1

The courts already have cut where they can. "Statewide, the judicial branch had a \$15.9 million shortfall just to make payroll at the beginning of the year," Keefover said. "We have eliminated temporary part-time employees, and eliminated the use of retired judges to help with the case load, but (even with the restored \$5 million) it looks like we could still be \$3.3 million short to make ends meet by the end of (fiscal year) 2010.

hiring freeze, he said. If a person leaves a job, that position is not filled, which results in fewer people doing the same amount of work in an already-overloaded court system.

Judges, he noted, are taking a 5 percent cut in their pay along with other top state officials, but are exempt from the furloughs. The state Constitution protects them from being singled out for pay cuts, he said, but the across-the-board cuts apply. They still have to put in a full week's work, however.

He said the court proposed the projected furloughs starting in March in case the \$5 million from filing fees, the April and

May tax receipts, and the other cost savings measures don't come in at the estimated figures.

One observer said the \$5 million might reduce the furloughs to four or five days, but officially, no one is saying.

The state's February receipts were \$71 million short of predictions, Keefover said. Many hope some of that money will come back this month and next.

"They are thinking the most likely reason for the shortfall is that people filing income taxes wanted their money back from the state as soon as they could get it, so they filed early, and those owing tax are waiting

until the last minute," he said. "At least that is what the state is hoping for."

Keefover said the department has 1,500 employees other than judges. About 100 have left and those positions have not been filled. He added that about 10 employees have already taken retirement rather than take the furlough hit.

He said the governor proposed the supplemental appropriation bill and the Legislature adopted it. The governor got it on his desk Friday and has 10 days to make his determination. Keefover said he believes it will be signed.

Aging conference set for April 23

Aging is a normal progression in the life cycle, yet the process generates questions and concerns, said Tranda Watts, regional nutrition specialist for Kansas State University Research and Extension based in Colby. Watts, who works with all ages in her job, is organizing the 2010 edition of "Full Circle ... an Aging Expo."

is for seniors, their families and caregivers, she said.

"And, this year, we're allowing more time for questions," said Watts, adding that Dr. Tana Goering, the keynote speaker, calls her presentation "How Do I Know When a Trip to the Doctor is Necessary?"

Goering, a physician and Wichita television personality who emphasizes healthy living, also will offer tips for organizing personal information for a medical appointment. After her talk, people will choose three sessions on various topics:

- Elder Law, presented by Randy Clinkscales.
• Mind Aerobics, by Kathy Sikes, representing the Alzheimer's Association.
• Wolf in Sheep's Clothing, on investment fraud, by Beth Victor.

The one-day conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Friday, April 23, at the Colby United Methodist Church. Sponsors are the Extension Northwest Area Office and the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging.

The spring date is a change, as past conferences have been held in the fall, said Watts, but committee hopes for better weather and more daylight hours for travel. The program on aging healthfully

Wind farm awaits buyer for power it will produce

From "WIND," Page 1

during construction. There are a lot of competing projects around the power pool, Kennon said, and utilities are looking for the cheapest source that meets their needs.

"We've been told our project is very competitive," he added.

The Southwest Power Pool, which Kennon described as a bulk-energy co-operative, covers all of Kansas and Oklahoma and parts of Nebraska, Texas, Arkan-

sas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Acciona has other projects in the works right now, Kennon said, including one at Syracuse in Hamilton County, one in Oklahoma and one in Canada. They also have completed wind farms in Illinois, Oklahoma, North Dakota, South Dakota and Canada as well as in Europe.

The planned Solomon Forks farm, capable of generating 108 megawatts of power, would be built near Mingo.

Legislature looks at sales tax on utilities

From "TAX," Page 1

Still, Menghini said, her constituents tell her they don't want further cuts in education or social services.

"I'm glad that it just didn't die," she said of the bill.

But the committee did strip out provisions that would have forced numerous nonprofit groups, other than churches, to start paying the tax. Repre-

sentatives of some groups said they're already facing financial stress from the sour economy.

"They probably do more good than they cost us," said Rep. Arlen Siegfried, an Olathe Republican.

Menghini said when the House debates the bill, she wants to strip out the provision taxing lottery tickets. Lottery officials have said it would hurt sales.

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Thursday Evening March 4, 2010

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSAS/FOX, Cable Channels, HBO, MAX, SHOW) listing programs like Grey's Anatomy, Survivor: Hero, Community/Parks, etc.

Friday Evening March 5, 2010

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSAS/FOX, Cable Channels, HBO, MAX, SHOW) listing programs like Supernanny, Ghost Whisperer, Who Do You, etc.

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