

**Weather Corner**



**National Weather Service**  
**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 27. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.  
**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.  
**Friday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35. Breezy, with an east wind 15 to 25 mph becoming north. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.  
**Saturday:** Rain likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 42. Windy, with a north wind between 30 and 35 mph, with gusts as high as 45 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.  
**Saturday Night:** A slight chance of rain and snow before 1am. Mostly cloudy and blustery, with a low around 30. Chance of precipi-

tion is 20 percent.  
**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 55.  
**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 29.  
**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 65.  
**Monday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 33.  
**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 71.  
**Tuesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 39.  
**Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 74.  
 Wednesday: High, 50; Low 19  
 Precip: Wed. Trace  
 Month: 1.47 inches  
 Year: 2.34 inches  
 Normal: 1.20 inches  
 (K-State Experiment Station)  
**Sunrise and Sunset**  
 Friday 7:38 a.m. 8:02 p.m.  
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

**State budget cuts could raise local taxes**

From "TAXES," Page 1

in the middle school, is considered a separate building. At the hearing, the board has one more decision to make to close the school. If the board votes to close it, they will have to adopt a resolution.  
 • Curriculum Director Diana Wieland said the district got a grant for new laptops. The grant will be \$125,000 with a \$50,000 match. She said the grant will mean a lot of staff development time, but the cost is covered by the grant.  
 • Wieland said the Thomas County Academy is gearing up for the robotics competition in Hays.  
 • Activities Director Larry Gabel said 90 stu-

dents have gone out for track at Colby Middle School, 60-75 for high school track, seven for tennis, 24 for softball and 20 for golf.  
 • Principal Lance Krannawitter said the students have been taking their state tests and preliminary results look good. Krannawitter said 82.3 percent of students have to get above average or better in math and 83.2 percent in reading to make the state standards. Principals Don Krebs and Rob Ross said their students are also taking the tests right now.  
 "I'm always real pleased with how hard the kids work on those," Ross said.  
 • Krebs said the high school will be moving to a different schedule next year. Instead of 90-minute blocks, the school will have eight 49-minute periods. Some electives such as ag-

riculture sciences will be two of those periods back to back.  
 • Kevin Cox and Norm Behring gave a presentation on a grant they had received through the Southwest Plains Regional Service Center for about \$10,000 worth of new equipment. Behring said the school got 40 new mats, worth about \$3,200 total; three Nintendo Wiis with exercise boards; and two laptops for tracking fitness testing results.  
 Cox said tracking results helps the kids see the benefits of the physical education classes over time.  
 "The kids can see the strength they've gained from the beginning of the year to the end of the year," he said.

**Rainy day fund hits road block in House debate**

By John Hanna  
 Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — A proposal to divert some of Kansas' surplus tax revenues each year into a "rainy day" fund easily won state House approval Wednesday, but senators refused to be rushed into putting it to a statewide vote.  
 The measure would amend the Kansas Constitution to create what supporters called a savings account for state government and set aside money to repay bonds

early. If both chambers pass it by two-thirds majorities, it goes on the Nov. 2 ballot for approval by a simple majority of voters.  
 The House's vote Wednesday was 102-20 on a heavily rewritten version of a proposal that senators approved last year.  
 But Senate leaders canceled their vote in the middle of the chamber's debate after members kept raising questions about the proposal's details. Senators now plan to negotiate a final version with the House, which will be vot-

ed upon later by both chambers.  
 A key moment came when Sen. Susan Wagle, a Wichita Republican, read two thick paragraphs of the explanation of the proposed amendment that would appear on the ballot. She supports creating a rainy day fund but acknowledged being flummoxed by the 640 words of dry legalese in the explanation.  
 "I think people's eyes are going to glaze over when they see it," Wagle said. "I'm wondering if there's a way we can simplify this,

because this embarrasses me."  
 The proposal would require the state to contribute to its rainy day and debt-reduction funds if its tax revenues grew more than 3 percent in a fiscal year. The contributions could reach 1.5 percent of the previous year's tax collections — about \$81 million now.  
 The measure also would set up a formula to determine how money could be withdrawn from the rainy day fund to bolster the budget in lean times.

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