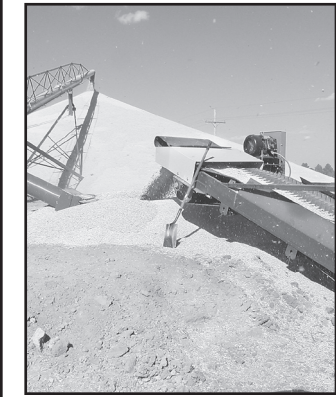


Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 32. North wind around 5 mph.
Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 68. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 38. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 63. Breezy, with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around 29.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 60.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 63.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 35.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 70.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 37.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 70.

Friday: High, 77; Low 24
Saturday: High, 76; Low 38
Sunday: High, 59; Low 27
Precip: Friday 0.00 inches
Saturday 0.00 inches
Sunday 0.00 inches
October: 0.22 inches
Year: 17.88 inches
Normal: 19.95 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
Tuesday 8:13 a.m. 6:42 p.m.
Wednesday 8:15 a.m. 6:41 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Tax hike opponents expect wins Tuesday

From "TAX," Page 1

against Holland, a state senator. Brownback and his fellow Republicans have been talking for months about a "clean sweep" of statewide and congressional races.

"I think we have to recognize that people are taking their frustration about the economy out on the party in power in Washington, D.C., and that does have a trickle-down effect," said House Minority Leader Paul Davis, a Lawrence Democrat.

Republicans go into Tuesday's election holding 76 Kansas House seats, compared with 49 for Democrats. The GOP has a 31-9 majority in the Senate.

The split in uncontested House races helps Republicans. GOP candidates are unopposed in 37 districts, while Democrats are unopposed in only 14.

But the bigger issue is the strength - or vulnerability - of the bipartisan coalition that supported the increase in the sales tax on July 1 from 5.3 percent to 6.3 percent. In the House, 43 Democrats and 21 Republicans supported the bill.

In August, coalition members said they'd emerged from the Republican primary with as much strength as they'd had going in, despite a loss by Rep. Jill Quigley, of Lenexa.

In Tuesday's general election, the focus shifts to Democrats who supported the increase. All 14 Democrats who are unopposed did, but that leaves 29 in contested races.

Davis contends overall, Kansans aren't unhappy with the tax increase, given a potential alternative of further cuts in education spending, social services and other programs.

"I'm optimistic that we can stay at 49 or even pick up a seat or two," Davis said. "I don't sense that people are upset with Democrats at the state level in Kansas. I think people are very happy with the fact that Democrats have been able to forge a bipartisan coalition

in the Legislature."

Many Republicans disagree about voters' mood and see the tax increase as a potent issue.

"We are benefited, frankly, by what is going on at the national level," O'Neal said. "Voters sense that the Democrat administration is taking us the wrong direction."

The Senate's GOP leaders are less conservative than the House's and both President Steve Morris, of Hugoton, and Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jay Emler, of Lindsborg, supported the tax increase.

Republican Sens. Terrie Huntington, of Fairway and Jeff Longbine of Emporia must win voters' approval to keep their seats until the 2012 election, when all 40 seats will be on the ballot again. Both are perceived as moderates; both have Democratic challengers.

If Holland pulled off among the biggest Kansas political upsets in at least a generation and won the governor's race, he'd most likely have to depend upon a bipartisan coalition to get proposals through the House, just as Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson relied on it for approval of the tax increase.

If Brownback wins as expected and the bipartisan coalition retains its House strength, it could create problems for the new governor. The picture is murkier, because GOP coalition members could feel pressure to help Brownback if Republicans want to, as O'Neal puts it, "play offense."

The GOP nominee has promised to freeze overall state spending amid questions about the severity of budget problems facing the state when federal stimulus funds disappear.

"The state demands specifics," said Washburn University political scientist Bob Beatty. "It's not now when you're running; it's by the end of the (Legislature's annual) session."

"If that coalition is weaker, and there is this desire to freeze or cut spending, cut taxes, cut services, then we're going to sort of see the reality of the rhetoric in Kansas."

Colby grad picked for internship

From "INTERNSHIP," Page 1

23 students in the program who wants to work for a small stand-alone community. Everyone else wants to go to a city."

The students in the intern program are preparing for positions as budget analysts, personnel specialists, city manager assistants and interns in state government and nonprofit organizations.

The university says the distinctive feature of KU's two-year master's program is the full time year-long paid internship. It combines class work and mentored field training in city government, county government, public agencies or nonprofit organizations. Their placement rate of graduates into professional positions is nearly 100 percent.

The master's internship option program limits admission to 12 to 15 students each year. This year's

group has 12 first-year students in part-time paid internships and 11 second-year students in full-time paid internships. The university's master's of public administration program consistently ranks first in the nation in the U.S. News and World Report of America's Best Graduate Schools. The program has been in place since 1948.

Bielser said "Colby was a great place to grow up. I married a girl from Council Grove, so we both want to end up in a small town in the midwest. Colby and my grandmother were a good influence on me," he added.

Asked if he would consider coming back to his home town, Bielser replied, "Yes I would, if they needed a community developer or city manager. Small communities need a spark and jobs and it would be good to try to revitalize and restore a small town."

All eyes on Tuesday's election

From "ELECTION," Page 1

Senate in 2004, he lost only in heavily Democratic Wyandotte County. He carried 84 percent of the vote in Thomas County.

Also in the race are Libertarian candidate Andrew Gray of Topeka and Reform candidate Ken Cannon of Andover.

In other state offices, three incumbent Democrats, all appointed to their jobs, are up against Republican challengers.

Secretary of State Chris Biggs of Junction City opposes Kris Kobach, a Piper law professor who helped write a controversial Arizona immigration law, as well as Libertarian candidate Phillip Lucas of El Dorado and Reform candidate Derek Langseth of Valley Center.

Sitting Attorney General Steve Six of Lawrence faces state Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt of Independence and Libertarian Dennis Hawver of Ozawkie.

Treasurer Dennis McKinney of Greensburg is being challenged by Ron Estes of Wichita. The Sedgwick County treasurer.

Republican Sandy Praeger of Lawrence is running unopposed for re-election as insurance commissioner, and Republican Sally Cauble of Liberal is unopposed for re-election to District 5 on the state Board of Education.

National Offices

One of the biggest questions across the nation this year is whether or not Republicans will take back the majority in the House and Senate. In the Kansas 1st District, Republican Tim Huelskamp is favored to win over Democrat Alan Jilka to hold that seat for the GOP.

The New York Times is predicting a Republican win, with Huelskamp carrying 75 percent of the vote. Jilka, in an interview in October, said he believes the margin will be much smaller. Libertar-

ian Jack Warner is polling in the single digits.

The Times is also predicting Republican wins in the other three Kansas districts.

In the Senate race, Rep. Jerry Moran is favored to win over Democrat Lisa Johnston. The latest SurveyUSA poll has Moran leading 66 percent to 26 percent among 561 likely voters.

Judges

Four of seven Kansas Supreme Court justices are up for retention this year. Republicans Lawton Nuss, the chief justice, and Marla Luckert and Democrat Carol Beier have all served since 2003. Democrat Daniel Biles was appointed in 2009 when Chief Justice Kay McFarland retired.

Six appellate judges are also up for retention: Michael Buser, Henry Green, Stephen Hill, Thomas Malone, Patrick McAnany and Melissa Standridge. Judge Nancy Caplinger is on the ballot, however, she was appointed to the Supreme Court today.

Ballot Issues

There are two amendments to the Kansas Constitution on the ballot this year. The first would change Section 4 of the Kansas Bill of Rights to say that people have the right to bear arms for lawful purposes, including self or home defense, hunting and recreational use. The current text includes only defense and security.

The section also includes a portion that reads: "standing armies, in time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, and shall not be tolerated, and the military shall be in strict subordination to the civil power." The new amendment would delete that part.

The second ballot issue would ensure the right to vote for people with mental illnesses. Currently the Legislature has the authority to exclude people who have mental illnesses, or are in prison, from voting. If passed, the new law would only allow the Legislature authority over prisoners.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table with columns for Tuesday Evening and November 2, 2010. Rows include programs like Dancing With the Stars, NCIS, The Biggest Loser, and various cable channels.

Wednesday Evening November 3, 2010. Table with columns for programs like Middle, Better, Family, Cougar, In the Spotlight, and various cable channels. Includes American Profile advertisement.

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