

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. North wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Thursday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 38. North wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 18. North wind around 5 mph.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 40. West wind around 5 mph.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 16.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 39.
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 19.
Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 44.
Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22.
Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 43.
Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 20.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47.

Monday: High, 50; Low 14
 Tuesday: High, 59; Low 19
 Precip: Monday 0.00 inches
 Tuesday 0.00 inches
 Month: 0.07 inches
 Year: 18.22 inches
 Normal: 20.34 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
 Thursday 7:58 a.m. 5:22 p.m.
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

State takes Decatur dogs

From "DOGS," Page 1

The weekly Decatur County commissioners meeting, the county received a form and a letter from the state Department of Health and Environment asking for a zoning approval for a site to dispose of dog carcasses. After discussion at the courthouse, the form was signed by Commissioner Ralph Unger with a statement that no county approval was needed.

"No zoning exists for sites outside the City of Oberlin, so no local approval needed," was typed on the form and it was signed and sent back. The form asked for approval to dispose of waste "without a permit."

The state Health Department, among other things, regulates landfills and other in-ground disposal of waste. In a letter dated last Wednesday, it discussed giving Mr. Fortin permission from the Bureau of Waste Management to dispose of the waste, dogs, without a permit. It said that the disposal or burying had to be done by Friday.

Guidelines spelled out in the letter stated that the animals had to be buried within 48 hours, quick or slaked lime, if needed, had to be added to control odors, the dead animals had to be covered with a minimum of four feet of soil and the site was to be used only as open space.

Stacey Baalman, with the solid waste landfills unit under the Department of Health and Environment, signed the letter. She said the agency was directing all calls on the matter through the public information officer Katie Ingells.

Ms. Ingells was called Wednesday morning but said she didn't have any information compiled yet. Ms. Baalman said that there is a process for this kind of disposal and several people have to sign off on it.

The disposal issue first became public when the manager of the Barton County Landfill re-

ceived a request to dispose of the carcasses. The facility is licensed as a regional landfill, authorized to take waste from outside the county.

Mark Witt, solid waste manager, said he's managed the facility for 10 years. It's a regional facility, he said, and has the needed permits to take different kinds of waste, including animal carcasses, plus household and commercial waste.

The landfill, said Mr. Witt, was contacted about an option to dispose of euthanized canine carcasses from a project the Kansas Department of Animal Health was working on in Decatur County.

It's not uncommon, he said, for the Barton County landfill to be asked to take different kinds of waste, including animals.

Mr. Witt said they take in between 100 to 200 euthanized dogs through the Humane Societies in the area each week.

Although Mr. Witt can make the decision on what is taken, he said he let the county administrator know about the request.

Eventually, however, it was decided not to take the canines to Barton County.

Onsite disposal can be done only with state permission, he said, but sometimes it is a better option when looking at transportation costs. The landfill, said Mr. Witt, was a secondary option.

While the estimate may be high, he said, the dogs were estimated at 33 tons. Mr. Witt said he wouldn't have known until the carcasses got to the landfill.

The dumping fee is \$34 a ton, he said, so given the estimate, it would have cost \$1,122 plus a \$25 administrative fee to place them there. The landfill charges the fee on animal carcasses, said Mr. Witt, because they have to keep of records on that type of waste.

Judge commission plans open selection process

From "PROCESS," Page 1

many state appointments, and no role for legislators in the selection process. Kansas is one of 11 states with such a system. Arizona and Tennessee have a similar process but, unlike Kansas, they have legislators select some nominating commission members.

But Kansas is the only state in which lawyers chosen only by other lawyers make up a majority of the commission screening applications for the appellate courts. That's led some critics to describe Kansas' system as the least accessible to the public in the nation.

One critic, state House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lance Kinzer, welcomed the commission's action as a step toward openness.

"It certainly is a change in tone," Kinzer, an Olathe Republican, said in an interview. "In the past, when myself and others have raised concerns that the process is too insular, the response has been that the process is entirely appropriate."

Gov.-elect Sam Brownback, also a Republican, said, "That sounds like a good opening-meetings process and something that should take place."

Yet Kinzer said the commis-

sion's action doesn't solve the fundamental problem, which he sees as the power of a relatively small group of lawyers to control the process.

And Stephen Ware, a University of Kansas law professor, said there still will be no way for the public to learn why commission members select certain candidates as finalists over others - or to hold the commission accountable.

"I think they understand this is a tiny, barely noticeable change, and they're trying to make it out to be bigger than it is," Ware said of the commission members. "Have sunshine on the vote itself."

Kansas voters amended the state constitution in 1958 to create the current selection process, switching from partisan elections. Since then, voters have not removed either a Supreme Court justice or Court of Appeals judge and judicial retention got little attention.

This year, the anti-abortion group Kansans for Life urged members this year to vote to oust four of the seven Supreme Court justices. It named its campaign "Fire Beier," after Justice Carol Beier, who'd written majority opinions in abortion cases that upset the group. The justices were retained by small margins.

Flier honors mechanics

From "MECHANICS," Page 1

Parts for the engine came in on Saturday. Foley mechanic Jose Oliver worked until 2 a.m. Sunday morning, MacKeen said.

Oliver's daughter was graduating from high school on Sunday, and the family had a graduation party planned, MacKeen said.

"Oliver told us he'd come back into the shop and work on the vehicle on Memorial Day," he said. "He even postponed his daughter's graduation party two times to work on our motor home."

"These amazing people even drove 45 miles to get a belt."

Thoughts of the events and the kindness shown to his family stuck with MacKeen, he said, so while he was in Afghanistan, he and his crew flew an American flag on one of their missions especially for the Foley crew in Colby.

MacKeen and his family were planning another trip to Colorado Springs in early December and would be able to present the flag on their way. So that's what they did - as a surprise.

MacKeen called the Colby Free Press last Friday and told part of the story, adding that the family would be at the Foley parking lot by 8 a.m. Saturday morning.

It was a surprised Foley manager Daman Glover when the family waiting for him in an inner office turned out to be the MacKeens.

"I flew a flag for you over Afghanistan," MacKeen told Glover. "You went over and above what you should have done, and we'd like to present you with that flag, flown by the MARSS (Medium Altitude Reconnaissance and Surveillance System) air crew."

The inscription on the certificate that accompanied the flag read, "Presented to: Foley Equipment Company (Foley CAT) (Special thanks to Daman Glover and MX Crew) Colby, Kansas. This flag was flown by MARSS aircrew on July 4th, 2010, over the country of Afghanistan during an actual seven-hour long Combat Mission. As the flag flew, it symbolized the sovereign power of the United States of America and the unshakable resolve to keep our country safe."

It was signed, Richard MacKeen, pilot, and John Holmes, pilot.

"Oh, my, this is the best thing that ever happened to me," Oliver said with a huge grin. "I feel appreciated all the way to the top."

When MacKeen isn't flying combat missions, he said, he's making sabre shields in his wood shop for graduates from the Air Force Academy. His wife home schools their five children so the family can travel together and be in school all at the same time.

"These people really blessed us," MacKeen said, "and we just wanted to bless them back."

LOCAL TV LISTINGS
 sponsored by the
 COLBY FREE PRESS

Thursday Evening											December 16, 2010			
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30				
KAKE/ABC	Charlie Brown		Grey's Anatomy		Private Practice		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live					
KBSL/CBS	Big Bang	Dad Says	CSI: Crime Scene		The Mentalist		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late					
KSNK/NBC	Community	30 Rock	Office	Outsource	Office	Office	Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late					
KSAS/FOX	Bones		Bones		Local									
Cable Channels														
A & E	The First 48		The First 48		Peace	Peace	Peace	Peace	The First 48					
AMC	White Christmas							White Christmas						
ANIM	The Blue Planet		Blue Planet		Blue Planet			The Blue Planet	Blue Planet					
BRAVO	Real Housewives		Real Housewives		Real Housewives			Happens	Real Housewives	Happens				
CMT	Hazzard	The Dukes of Hazzard	Beverly Hills					Redneck	Redneck					
CNN	Parker Spitzer		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360				Larry King Live					
COMEDY	Tosh.0	Wedding Crashers					Daily	Colbert	Tosh.0	South Pk				
DISC	Brew Masters		American Chopper				Auction	Oddities	Brew Masters	American Chopper				
DISN	HS Musical 3				Deck	Deck	Phineas	Phineas	Hannah	Hannah				
E!	Honey				Married	Married	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Chelsea				
ESPN	High Scho	Score	High School Basketball				SportsCenter		NFL Live	Baseball				
ESPN2	Wm. Volleyball		SportsCtr	Wm. Volleyball				SportsNation		MMA Live				
FAM	Find Nmo	The Incredibles						The 700 Club	My Wife	My Wife				
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Chopped			Iron Chef America	Diners	Diners				
FX	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	It's Always Sunny			It's Always Sunny	Two Men	Two Men				
HGTV	First	First	Property	Property	House	Hunters		Hunters	House	Property	Property			
HIST	Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens		Brad Meltzer's Dec.			Ax Men		Ancient Aliens				
LIFE	Reba	Reba	Div'a Cmas					The Fairy Jobmother	Frasier	Frasier				
MTV	Pranked	Pranked	Pranked	Pranked	Pranked	Bully		Megadrive	Vice	Jackass	Jackass			
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	Chris	Chris	Lopez	Lopez		The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny				
SCI	Ultraviolet		Total Recall					Highlander: The Source						
SPIKE	Gangland		TNA Wrestling					Phowned!	TNA Re.	MANswers	Son Beach			
TBS	Fred Claus				Funniest Commercials			Conan		Lopez Tonight				
TCM	Judge Hardy and Son				Andy Hardy Gets Spring	Fever			The Hardys	Ride High				
TLC	Police: Dallas		Police- Dallas		Cellblock 6			Police- Dallas		Cellblock 6				
TNT	NBA Basketball							NBA Basketball						
TOON	Total	Scobby	Adventure	Regular	King/Hill	King/Hill	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Delocated	Amer. Dad				
TRAV	David Blaine		David Blaine		Carnivore	Man, Food	Bar Food Paradise		David Blaine					
TV LAND	Sanford	Sanford	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne				
USA	Law & Order: SVU		Burn Notice					White Collar		Burn Notice				
VH1	Saturday Night Live				Saturday Night Live			Saturday Night Live		Back-Future II				
WGN	WWE Superstars		How I Met	How I Met	WGN News at Nine		Scrubs	Scrubs	WWE Superstars					
Premium Channels														
HBO	17 Again				Wishful Drinking			Cathouse	Real Sex	24/7 Penguins				
MAX	Love Happens				Spider-Man 2					X-Men Origins				
SHOW	Punisher: War Zone				Dexter				Next Stop	Single	Girlfriend Exp			

Friday Evening											December 17, 2010			
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30				
KAKE/ABC	Supernanny		Primetime: What		20/20		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live					
KBSL/CBS	Virginia	Frosty	Frosty	I Get Tha	Blue Bloods		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late					
KSNK/NBC	Minute to Win It		Dateline NBC				Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late					
KSAS/FOX	Are We There Yet?				Local									
Cable Channels														
A & E	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds						
AMC	Miracle-34 St.						Miracle-34 St.		All Want					
ANIM	I Shouldn't Be Alive		Fatal Attractions		The Haunted			Fatal Attractions	The Haunted					
BRAVO	Real Housewives		Something's					Something's Gotta Give						
CMT	Parents	Emancipated		Strictest Parents		Pure Country								
CNN	Parker Spitzer		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360				Larry King Live					
COMEDY	Original Kings		Chris Rock: Kill the Messenger		Chris Rock: Bigger & Blacker				Benson	Sam K.				
DISC	Gold Rush: Alaska		Gold Rush: Alaska		Gold Rush: Alaska		Gold Rush: Alaska		Gold Rush: Alaska					
DISN	Wizards	Fish Hook	Phineas and Ferb		Shake it	Wizards	Wizards	Wizards	Wizards	Fish Hook				
E!	Kardash	Kardash	Kardash		The Soup	Fashion	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Chelsea				
ESPN	NBA Basketball				NBA Basketball				SportsCenter					
ESPN2	College Football						SportsCtr	NFL Live	Nation	Football				
FAM	The Incre	WALL-E				Mickey's		The 700 Club	My Wife	My Wife				
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Chopped			Unwrapped	Diners	Diners				
FX	Grandma's Boy		Pineapple Express						It's Always Sunny	Rescue Me				
HGTV	Battle	Battle	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters				

American Profile
 We Celebrate Hometown Life
 Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

HIST	Top Gear		Modern Marvels		Beatles-Record		Gangland		Top Gear					
LIFE	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	How I Met	How I Met	Reba	Reba				
MTV	16 and Pregnant		16 and Pregnant		Roll Bounce					Roll				
NICK	Big Time Rush		Chris	Lopez	Lopez	G. Martin	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny				
SCI	WWE SmackDown!		Sanctuary		Sanctuary		Stargate SG-1		Sanctuary					
SPIKE	Auction	Auction	Auction Hunters		Auction Hunters		Entourage		Entourage	Ways Die	Ways Die			
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	My Cousin Vinny				Office		Office	Glory Daze				
TCM	Holiday Affair			In Summertime					Little Women					
TLC	What Not to Wear		What Not to Wear		Stuffocating			What Not to Wear		Stuffocating				
TNT	Christmas in		The Wizard of Oz					Christmas in		Yours				
TOON	Titan	Generator	Star Wars	Star Wars	King/Hill	King/Hill	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad				
TRAV	Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures					
TV LAND	Sanford	Sanford	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne				