

Weather Corner



National Weather Service Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 14. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 16. South wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 51. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Partly sunny and breezy, with a high near 51.

Thursday Night: A 30 percent chance of snow. Cloudy and blustery, with a low around 14.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy and blustery, with a high near 19.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 4.

New Year's Day: Partly sunny, with a high near 25.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 8.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 31.

Sunrise and Sunset Tuesday 8:03 a.m. 5:28 p.m. Wednesday 8:04 a.m. 5:29 p.m. (U.S. Naval Observatory)

Winners picked in light contest

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ly woman called Applebaugh's mother and said the display "just made my Christmas."

Second went to Dinah Charles at 1025 W. Third St., who had strings of lights in shape of tents over her yard, as well as decorations on the ground and a sign on her fence reading "Merry Christmas."

Honorable mention went to Brent and Nichole Moss at 745 W. Cherry St.

In motion display, a new category this year, Brent Menges at 545 Cherokee Dr. and his neigh-

bors Ron and Linda Vrbas at 565 Cherokee Dr. tied for first. Both houses have numerous lighted bushes, fences, ducks and reindeer. Menges also has lighted Kansas City Chiefs and University of Kansas logos.

Tim and Deb Micek at 1315 E. Eighth St. took second with a display that included a moving and talking Santa Claus.

In the business/other category, first place went to Colby Implement, second to the City of Colby for the Fike Park display, third to People's State Bank and fourth to the Colby Visitor's Center.

Horlacher said the judges debat-

ed giving second place to the city, but decided it deserved a share of first because of the effort put into the display.

The committee noted some other well-done displays around town, including 417 Smith Dr., 260 N. School St., 425 Arrowhead St., 1130 Court Ave., 665 W. Third St., 455 W. Eighth St., 935 W. Third St., 1114 Terrace Dr., 720 S. Garfield Ave., 260 W. Third St. and 3380 W. Fourth St.

Judging took place Dec. 11. First-place winners got a \$100 Chamber of Commerce gift certificate and second was good for a \$75 certificate.

Texting ban to begin on New Year's Day

TOPEKA (AP) - Kansas drivers should resist the urge to text while driving beginning Jan. 1.

After a six-month warning period, law enforcement officers will begin handing out tickets on Jan. 1 to anyone they catch texting while driving. The tickets will cost \$60, plus any local court fines. The law also bans instant messages and e-mails while driving.

Lt. Robert Baker, of the Kansas Highway Patrol, says

officers can easily tell the difference between texting and making a phone call. He told The Lawrence Journal-World that someone making a phone call looks at the phone for only a few seconds, while texting requires looking at the phone for much longer.

The law includes exceptions for reading emergency, traffic and weather related alerts, and to report a crime.

Redistricting fight may focus on northeast Kansas counties

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA - Congressional redistricting debates among Kansas legislators are likely to focus on the northeast part of the state, giving Democrats drubbed in this year's elections some hope that new lines will improve their chances of capturing a U.S. House seat in two years.

U.S. Census Bureau figures released last week confirmed that Kansas won't lose any of its four House seats, a result expected by state political leaders. But those same leaders anticipate that detailed Census data will show major shifts in population from rural to urban and suburban ones.

They expect the already sprawling and rural 1st District of western and central Kansas to grow because most of its counties have lost population, some of them a lot. The 3rd District, centered on the state's share of the Kansas City metropolitan area, is expected to shrink because suburban Johnson County has seen the state's most robust population growth.

What that really means is that legislators have to figure out what to do with Lawrence and Kansas City, Kansas, two of the handful of Kansas communities where Democrats are strong. Lawrence is divided between the 3rd and the 2nd districts of northeast Kansas, while all of Kansas City, Kansas, is in the 3rd.

The most likely result is that some Democratic areas of either county will move into the 2nd District, represented by two-term Republican Lynn Jenkins. That could make her district at least a little more competitive for Democrats.

The state has an all-GOP congressional delegation, and Republicans hold all statewide offices and huge majorities in both legislative chambers - but that actually might make the next congressional redistricting trickier.

"When you have a Democrat and Republican who are trying to figure out redistricting, deals can be made that are mutually beneficial," said state House Minority Leader Paul Davis, a Lawrence Democrat. "When you have two Republican congressmen who are arguing about which district gets

a Democratic area, it can be very complex."

Jenkins and the state's three GOP congressmen-elect so far have little to say about redistricting, which is natural, given that the state won't have its new district lines in place until late spring or perhaps even the first days of summer 2012. The state's U.S. House members also traditionally have tried to keep disputes about redistricting from becoming public, even at the height of the Legislature's debate.

Legislators also must consider factors other than what the congressional delegation wants, because their redistricting work is subject to review by the courts. They have to ensure that the districts are as equal in population as possible, and they're supposed to avoid splitting "communities of interest."

"People sure get nervous when they see lines move," said House Speaker Mike O'Neal, a Hutchinson Republican who was involved in redistricting both in 1992 and 2002. "It's probably a good thing that we do this only once every 10 years."

Republicans can control the redistricting debate, having swept all statewide and congressional races on the ballot this year for the first time since 1964. Their majorities are 92-33 in the House and 32-8 in the Senate, giving them their strongest legislative advantages since the 1950s.

"It's going to be a tough struggle," said Kansas Democratic Party Chairman Larry Gates, an Overland Park lawyer. "Republicans certainly have all the power right now."

Yet, if Kansas history shows anything, it's that the more power Republicans have, the more they seem to argue among themselves. And, as Gates notes, the key debates in congressional redistricting will be over "pockets of places that Republicans don't want."

Officials are still awaiting the release of county-by-county population data from this year's census, but comparisons of 2000 data to 2009 estimates suggest some trends.

First, Johnson County had an estimated population increase of more than 19 percent from 2000 to 2009, and Douglas County is

ties as part of the larger Kansas City metro area.

In such a scenario, all of Lawrence is most likely to end up in the 2nd District, as it was from 1982-92, linked to Topeka. Its leaders objected in 2002 to the relative novelty of a city being split among two districts and Davis predicts there would be sentiment to have the whole city in one again.

But for most of the past century, Lawrence has been in the same congressional district as Johnson County.

"There's certainly a little more commonality with Johnson County than there is with parts of the 2nd District," Davis acknowledged.

There also is precedent for Wyandotte County to be split between congressional districts. It occurred during the 1960s and 1970s, though any such move - or any move to put the whole county in the 2nd District - is almost certain to face resistance from local officials and Democrats.

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Boast lands lawmaker with deer fine

MCALESTER, Okla. (AP) - A state legislator who helped write some of Oklahoma's hunting laws was so proud when he bagged a piebald white-tailed deer that he called the media and gushed about the hunt.

But his pride turned to embarrassment when state Rep. Terry Harrison was told what he did might have been illegal because he didn't have a permit to shoot the animal. A piebald animal has a spotting pattern of large, irregular unpigmented areas alternating with normally pigmented patches.

The McAlester News-Capital reports that Harrison's friend, Oklahoma game warden Shane Fields, called him after seeing the story in the newspaper and suggested he research regulations.

Harrison says his heart "just sunk" when he realized his mistake. He called the agency and a game warden wrote a \$296 ticket. Authorization from the state wildlife director is required to take such an animal.

Table of Tuesday Evening TV listings for December 28, 2010, including channels like KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, etc.

Table of Wednesday Evening TV listings for December 29, 2010, including channels like KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, etc.

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