

Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 17. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southwest.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 46. South wind around 10 mph becoming northwest.

Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 19. Blustery, with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 35. Breezy, with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 19.

Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 39.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 17.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 44.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny and breezy, with a high near 44.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 20.

Thursday: High, 34; Low 6

Precip: Thursday 0.00 inches

Month: 0.22 inches

Year: 0.22 inches

Normal: 0.45 inches

(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset

Saturday 7:59 a.m. 5:53 p.m.

Sunday 7:59 a.m. 5:54 p.m.

Monday 7:58 a.m. 5:55 p.m.

(U.S. Naval Observatory)

District looking to buy activity bus

From "BUS," Page 1

The Falcon has some additional safety measures, he said, including rollover protection and seat belts.

The Bluebird and Thomas buses are traditional yellow school-bus models. Wade said all of the buses get similar gas mileage.

"We're not committed," he said. "I just want to get bid prices."

The district included \$150,000 toward a new activity bus in its five-year capital outlay plan approved in November. Superintendent Terrel Harrison said that the district hadn't accelerated its plans when the old bus broke down, but it certainly brought the issue to the forefront. Wade said the district doesn't plan to get rid of its two existing buses after buying a new one.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the Thomas County Learning Center's new program "Pathway to Success."

Center Facilitator Melinda Fikan said the program is geared more toward older students returning to class after a long time away. It is set up in four levels. Students take a test before each level and can test out if they know the material already, skipping to the next level. Each level includes core subjects such as history, math and language arts. Fikan said all the material meets state standards.

She said the levels help students see their progress.

"I think with this program," she said, "they'll see successes and see progression and they'll keep going."

Fikan said the program should also appeal to students who need a refresher before taking a test.

She said she didn't know how long the program would take to complete because different students will move through the levels at different paces.

Like the other programs at the Learning Center, Fikan said, Path-

way to Success will help students earn diplomas rather than General Education Development certificates. Colby Community College handles GED testing.

Fikan said she already knows some new and existing students who would benefit from the program.

- Approved changing course codes to fit state requirements for several middle-school technology classes: robotics, publication production, technology II, keyboarding and TechYES, a general technology class. Curriculum Director Diana Wieland said the district may rotate the popular electives so that one or two will be offered each year.

Wieland said the changes would require no new staff or materials.

- Grade School Principal Lance Krannawitter said his teachers are working more with electronic "clicker" quizzes instead of paper. The clickers, which are hooked into a computer and projector, allow the students to take the quiz and immediately see the results on the computer. Krannawitter said the technology makes quizzes a little more interesting for the kids and easier to grade for the teachers.

- Middle School Principal Rob Ross said the district has applied for another Food for Kids grant for spring break. Food for Kids, a Thomas County Community Foundation program, provides money to buy food to send home with underprivileged kids over breaks. Ross said the school spent \$714 for Christmas break and received many thank-you notes from families.

- Approved hiring Alicia Unruh as an assistant special education teacher, Kelsie McMillan as an at-risk aide and Jeanne Sloan as an assistant forensics coach.

- Approved extending contracts for Krannawitter, Ross, high school Principal Larry Gabel and Wieland until June 30, 2012.

Legislators talk school finance

From "LEGISLATORS," Page 1

is putting in more money," he said. "It's just in retirement payments and other things."

Billinger sits on the House Education Committee as well as the commerce, insurance and local government committees, panels that are sure to be influential this year.

Meanwhile, veteran Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer said he was encouraged that the governor's budget did not include a tax increase, but had concerns about some of his other proposals.

Ostmeyer's district covers 18 counties in the northwest corner of the state. He said he would rather put money into the classrooms than into capital projects for schools. Districts borrowed too much with bonds for new buildings while the economy was good, he said, and now the state is paying for it, leaving less money for students.

Consolidation of state agencies is something the legislature had hearings for several years, but Ostmeyer said he was concerned that his district would lose valuable resources like State Conservation Commission, which works with county

conservation offices. Several agencies on the chopping block, including the Animal Health Department, mostly pay for themselves with fees, he said, and the state wouldn't save much money by closing them.

Despite his reservations, Ostmeyer said people will have to trust that Brownback has the state's best interest in mind.

"He's got a big responsibility," he said. "He knows what he wants to do; it's whether he can get it done or not."

Brownback has been reaching out for support in the Legislature. Ostmeyer said he'd seen the governor walking the halls at the Capitol unannounced every day and even dining there with legislators.

The new governor may not have an easy time of it. Despite a clear Republican majority in both houses, Ostmeyer said, the more conservative wing of the party has grown in influence. The House, he said, has a lot more conservative members, while the Senate is a bit more moderate.

"I think the House is going to be a little ornery," he said. "They're going to say no and the Senate's going to say yes."

Mill Bar Angus 3x8

Radio program gets more students

From "RADIO," Page 1

market course. He said two of the four students in last year's broadcast class ended up with jobs in sales.

Vyzourek told the board the college station has been saving \$60 to \$100 a game by buying a mobile broadband modem from S&T Communications. The modem can be plugged into a laptop computer anywhere Nex-Tech Wireless has cell-phone service, he said, and people using the computer have the equiva-

lent of unlimited high-speed Internet service.

The modem is plugged into a laptop and students get on the Internet and use Skype, a software program where people can make video and voice calls. That way, he said, they can broadcast games and communicate with the station. He said the modem eliminates the need to pay a land-line phone company to hook up to a circuit before every game.

"It sounds awesome," Vyzourek said. "It's much better than hooking up to the phone line. It's more like studio-quality sound."



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Monday Evening January 24, 2011

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	The Bachelor				Castle		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live	
KBSL/CBS	How I Met Rules	Two Men Mike			Hawaii Five-0		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late	
KSNK/NBC	Chuck		The Cape		Harry's Law		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late	
KSAS/FOX	House		Lie to Me							

Cable Channels										
A & E	Intervention	Intervention			Heavy		Heavy			Intervention
AMC	The Brave One						The Brave One			
ANIM	Maneaters		Killer Aliens				Maneaters		Killer Aliens	
BRAVO	Housewives/Atl.		Housewives/Atl.		Tabatha's Salon Take		Tabatha's Salon Take		Housewives/Atl.	
CMT	The Dukes of Hazzard		The Replacements				Wedding		Smarter Smarter	
CNN	Parker Spitzer		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360				Piers Morgan Tonight	
COMEDY	Harold & Kumar Go		Sunny Sunny		Sunny Sunny		Daily	Colbert	Sunny Sunny	
DISC	Get Out Alive		American Chopper		FBI's 10 Most Wanted		Get Out Alive		American Chopper	
DISN	Hannah Montana				Hannah Hannah		Deck Deck		Hannah Hannah	
E!	Sex and t	Sex and t	Kourtney Holly's W		Fashion The Soup		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	
ESPN	College Basketball		College Basketball				SportsCenter		NFL Live	Final
ESPN2	Wm. Basketball		Tennis							
FAM	Pretty Little Liars		Greek		Pretty Little Liars		The 700 Club		Whose? Whose?	
FOOD	Unwrapped		Diners Diners		The Best The Best		Good Eats Good Eats		Diners Diners	
FX	Forget Sarah						Forget Sarah			
HGTV	Property Property		House Hunters		Cash & Ca		Hunters	First First	House Hunters	
HIST	Pawn Pawn		American Pickers		Pawn Pawn		American Pickers		Pawn Pawn	
LIFE	Reba Reba		Final Sale				How I Met How I Met		Frasier Frasier	
MTV	Jersey Shore		Jersey Shore		Skins		Skins		Jersey Shore	
NICK	My Wife My Wife		Chris Chris		George George		The Nanny The Nanny		The Nanny The Nanny	
SCI	Being Human		Being Human		Saw IV				Being Human	
SPIKE	Barbershop						Barbershop			
TBS	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy		Fam. Guy Fam. Guy		Fam. Guy Fam. Guy		Conan		Lopez Tonight	
TCM	Heart-Hunter						Member of the Wedding		Ballad of Cafe	
TLC	Cake Boss:Next		Cake Boss: Next Great Baker				19 Kids		Cake Boss: Next Great Baker	19 Kids
TNT	Bones		Bones		Rizzoli & Isles		Rizzoli & Isles		CSI: NY	
TOON	Adventure MAD		King-Hill King-Hill		Amer. Dad Amer. Dad		Fam. Guy Fam. Guy		Chicken Aqua Teen	
TRAV	The Wild Within		No Reservation		No Reservation		No Reservation		No Reservation	
TV LAND	Sanford Retired a		Terms of Endearment						Roseanne Roseanne	
USA	NCIS		WWWE Monday Night RAW				White Collar		Royal Pains	
VH1	You're Cut Off		You're Cut Off		The X Lif You're Cut Off		The X Lif		You're Cut Off	
WGN	Chris Chris		Funniest Home Videos		WGN News at Nine		Scrubs Scrubs		South Pk South Pk	

Premium Channels										
HBO	Real Time/Bill Maher		Clash of the Titans				Gervais		Ricky Gervais: Out, England	
MAX	He's Just Not				The Blind Side				Alien Sex Files	
SHOW	Knowing		Shameless		Californ. Episodes		Californ. Episodes		Shameless	