

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: A slight chance of snow before midnight, then snow likely and areas of blowing snow after midnight.

Public, board meet with third candidate

From "CANDIDATE," Page 1

to help the surrounding community feel ownership in the college. Developing relationships with business and industry can help, he said, as well as reaching out to area high school students.

"The institution needs to become indispensable to the community, not just important," he said. "Otherwise it will never be what it needs to be."

Another citizen asked whether the college should focus on transfer or vocational students. Vacik said that when he began as a teacher, he believed that transfer programs - students who take core classes at a two-year college and then transfer to a four-year university - were the most important.

"All that we're doing is preparing people to go out and work," he said.

Vacik added that the college shouldn't focus on just vocational or transfer programs, but both need to be rigorous.

Vacik said the college needs to be thinking 10 to 15 years in the future. He pointed to the area of east Mississippi where he lives, which he said lost a lot of jobs to outsourcing.

"East Mississippi really rediscovered itself 10 years ago," he said, noting that the area added high-tech aerospace industry and manufacturing jobs which required specialized training.

"A lot of people went back to school," he said.

A college like Colby, he said, needs to know the needs of the industries around it and provide

programs that mesh with them. "Adding a new technical program doesn't do much good if we don't have a place to put that person," he said.

The greatest recruiting tool for a college, he said, is if students know the degree or credentials they get are going to be valuable.

"Rural community colleges," he said, "can always say, 'We're small, so we can get to know you and you can get to know us. We can get you wherever you need to go in the world.'"

When asked about cooperation with Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland, Vacik said he had experienced a similar situation. He worked at Bevell State Community College in Fayette in the late 1990s and early 2000s, a school comprising several smaller colleges that had merged.

"Walker College wasn't just a rival," he said. "They were an enemy."

The colleges tried several approaches to working together, he said, including ignoring each other, but eventually figured out that working together was better for everyone. For Colby's situation, Vacik said making sure the two colleges don't duplicate programs or services would help ensure that both are successful.

Vacik said that as money from the state continues to decline, colleges will have to reach out for private or federal money so they can keep tuition affordable.

"I don't see the funding situation becoming rosy anytime soon," he said. "We have to take care of essential services first."

Vacik said he believes his relationship-building skills will help him raise money for the college.

Couple face charges in chase

From "CHASE," Page 1

The Toyota hit the stop sticks but continued east at a slower speed. Brattin's car was hit by a bullet near the gas filler cap.

The chase continued to the Brewster exit, where the Toyota turned off and went north toward Brewster with the trooper closely behind.

Permission was given for the troopers to use "intervention tactics" with their cars to stop the car after it had hit the stop sticks at Edson, and finally permission was given for the trooper to use "deadly force." Trooper Frey was able to shoot the driver in the shoulder, and he stopped about two miles north of Brewster on Thomas County Road 2.

By that time, a Thomas County deputy and two Colby police officers had joined the patrolmen and Sherman County deputies in the chase. Ambulances from Goodland and Colby were called.

Patrick and Stout-Briese were arrested and taken to Goodland, Patrick in an ambulance. The driver was flown to a Denver hospital to have the trooper's bullet removed from his back left shoulder and then returned to the Sherman County Bastille.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation was called in because the officers had been involved in the chase and shooting. Director Robert Blecha said the investigation had been completed, and with the recommendation of the Sherman County attorney, had been turned over to the attorney general for prosecution.

The defendants were advised in Sherman District Court on Jan. 18, and both requested court-appointed attorneys. Doug C. Spencer of Oakley was appointed to represent Patrick and Lawrence A. Taylor of Colby for Stout-Briese.

Both lawyers filed first appearance and discovery motions on Jan. 20, with a preliminary hear-

ing tentatively scheduled for 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16. Stout-Briese's attorney filed a plea of not guilty along with the discover motion.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said Friday she felt it was the right move to have the case handled by the attorney general's office. Nicole Romine of the Criminal Litigation Division will be handling the case, said Jeff Wagonman, spokesman for the attorney general.

The complaint filed in the Sherman County District Court charges that Patrick was driving the Toyota and told his passenger to "shoot those cops." The document alleges that Stout-Briese shot a .22 rifle at Trooper Perry, hitting the windshield of his car, and as they approached Edson, she shot at Trooper Brattin and one bullet hit near the gas tank area. Trooper Brattin was using the car to shield himself.

Selby said she has not seen the particular charges being sent by the attorney general, but the original charges included two counts of aggravated attempted first degree murder, two of aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer and attempted aggravated battery of a law enforcement officer.

Both Patrick and Stout-Briese remain in the Sherman County Bastille on \$1 million bonds.

Patrick listed himself as homeless. Stout-Briese had an address from Palmdale, Calif.

A note on the back of the request for a court appointed lawyer in Stout-Briese case file said, "I would be happy to do my time with you. I never would give you up. I thought that Cy was the reason, not you. I die for you. Good luck," signed Piper Patrick.

Sheriff Kevin Butts and Selby both said when Stout-Briese was in court for advisement she told the judge, "Piper was dead, and she was Star."

Governor orders more consolidation

From "GOVERNOR," Page 1

The second order abolishes Kansas Inc., an economic development agency. The Department of Administration take charge of Kansas Inc. records. Brownback's statement said the state has too many economic development agencies that "pick winners and losers" instead of creating an environment for growth.

The changes are part of Brownback's effort to fulfill his campaign promises to make Kansas economic development efforts more cohesive and to shrink overall government spending. His office says the eight proposed reorganizations would save \$9.2 million in the initial budget year, with more savings achieved through efficiencies in the coming years.

"As we retool for the 21st century economy, I'm looking to consolidate various functions and to make them more accountable to voters for their success or failure," the governor said.

Both executive orders will take effect July 1 unless either chamber of the Legislature objects. The Kansas Constitution gives the new governor 30 days from when he takes office to sign reorganization orders and submit them for legislative approval.

Brownback said during his Jan. 12 State of the State address that

he was moving or abolishing eight agencies. He has already signed executive reorganization orders moving the parole board to the Department of Corrections, transferring tourism functions to the Department of Wildlife and Parks,

and moving the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns to the governor's office.

Spokeswoman Sherriene Jones-Sontag said the governor would be issuing more orders to complete the process early this week.

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Tuesday Evening February 8, 2011

Table of TV listings for Tuesday Evening, February 8, 2011, including channels like KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, and various cable channels.

Wednesday Evening February 9, 2011

Table of TV listings for Wednesday Evening, February 9, 2011, including channels like KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, and various cable channels.

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