

Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 18. Blustery, with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 51. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 57. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26.

Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 47.

Monday Night: A chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Tuesday: A 40 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy and breezy, with a high near 37.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy and windy, with a low around 16.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny and breezy, with a high near 35.

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

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50.

Thursday: High, 68; Low 19 Precip: Thursday 0.03 inches Month: 0.03 inches Year: 0.46 inches Normal: 2.11 inches (K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset New mood today

Saturday 7:11 a.m. 6:41 p.m. Sunday 7:10 a.m. 6:42 p.m. Monday 7:08 a.m. 6:43 p.m. (U.S. Naval Observatory)

Principal makes hall of fame

From "PRINCIPAL," Page 1

finishes, 34 individual state champions, 10 two-time state champions, three three-time state champions, one four-time state champion - his son Billy - and 76 second- through sixth-place individual placers. Gabel's coaching record in duals is 205 wins, 104 losses and 10 ties.

Gabel has received his fair share of individual honors as well including being a five-time wrestling coach of the year, two-time Kansas wrestling coach of year and regional coach of the year (an award that covers six states). St. Francis High School named one of its wrestling tournaments after him: the Gabel/Jenkins Invitational. Steve Jenkins was Gabel's assistant wrestling coach for 30 years.

During his own college wrestling career Gabel was an All-American at Northeastern Junior College in Colorado and he took fourth in the national tournament.

Gabel also served on the Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service staff in Cheyenne County for 25 years and was an emergency medical services director for the county for 16 years. He was elementary grade school principal for 23 years. He was active in the wrestling coaches association for 31 years and served as the 3-2-1A representative to the Kansas Coaches Association.

Gabel said his wife Beth, his daughter Brandi Jones of Goodland, her son Jordan, 3 years old; Billy and his wife Rudilee and their daughter Gia, 2; all attended the induction ceremony.

Special education costs still a sticking point on state budget

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA - Kansas legislative negotiators made no progress this week on a bill sought by Gov. Sam Brownback to trim spending from the current budget because they weren't talking Friday about how to meet his goal while satisfying the federal government's demand to increase spending on public schools' special education programs.

The key issue is covering \$26 million in special education costs. U.S. Department of Education officials have told Kansas that if it doesn't spend the money, it will lose the same amount of federal funds each year going forward.

Senators initially committed to spending the money, going against Brownback's goal to trim spending. The House initially didn't include any new special education dollars in its version of the bill trimming the current budget.

House negotiators are now willing to spend the money on special education but want to take it out of the state's base aid to Kansas' 289 school districts. Senators have a plan to push the bill into the fiscal year that begins July 1.

The three senators and three House members who are supposed to draft a compromise budget bill

didn't meet this week, and they don't have any meetings scheduled. Each chamber insists it's open to compromise but is waiting for the other chamber to make a new offer.

Negotiations on major issues often stall when the two chambers have major disagreements, but protracted impasses are unusual for budget talks, because legislative leaders usually feel some urgency to resolve spending issues. Brownback had asked legislators to put forth a budget bill before Feb. 1.

"It's very disappointing," said Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairwoman Carolyn McGinn, a Sedgwick Republican who is her chamber's lead negotiator. "They've pretty much said all conferring is off and we are adjourned."

The deadlock creates the possibility legislators won't pass any bill to trim the current budget. Kansas law allows Brownback to make some cuts himself, but his authority is limited. Also, the federal government's demands must be addressed at some point.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Marc Rhoades, a Newton Republican, said his chamber's stance on special education funding is tied to passing a bill in line with Brownback's

goals. He said House members will continue talks if there's some sign of movement from senators but, "We're waiting."

The governor wants to cut \$38 million in spending from the current budget, hoping to leave cash reserves of about \$35 million when the new fiscal year begins July 1. Both the savings and the reserves would roll over, helping reduce a \$493 million shortfall projected for the next fiscal year.

The House now proposes to cover the extra special education costs before July 1 by diverting money from the state's contributions to pensions for teachers and government workers. Then, as soon as the fiscal year begins July 1, the same amount would be diverted into the pension system from school districts' base aid.

Base aid would drop \$40 per student, in addition to a cut of \$232 per student Brownback already has proposed because of the state's financial problems. The base aid figure would decline from \$4,012 to \$3,740, a drop of almost 7 percent.

"The Senate will not go with that," said Sen. Laura Kelly, a Topeka Democrat and one of her chamber's negotiators.

Copper thieves stealing from irrigation systems

WICHITA (AP) - Sedgwick County officers are searching for thieves who are damaging large crop irrigation systems to get to the copper.

Sheriff Sgt. Gary Hargus says three of the systems have been damaged this week in northwest Sedgwick County, costing farmers tens of thousands of dollars for repairs.

The thieves sell the scrap copper to recyclers.

Hargus says the irrigation systems are a prime target because they contain several metals and are in remote places.

KAKE-TV reports that farmers can help watch out for each other by using a web site set up by the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department. The site, called C-A-L-I-N, allows farmers and businessmen to communicate with each other through an Internet message board.

City buys dishwasher for community building

From "CITY," Page 1

Engineering, for design and construction engineering on Willow Avenue. This increased the cost from \$140,000 to \$155,000. Council President Jim Brown said the council made a verbal agreement about three meetings ago with Jerol DeBoer of Penco. He said DeBoer laid out for them what his company was go-

ing to do at that time and said he would come back with a price at a later date.

Councilman Pat Mallory said the council asked DeBoer to have Penco re-engineer the road on Willow Avenue that runs to Bosselman's truck stop. The extra \$15,000 reflects the extra inspection, engineering and design costs that went into making the change, Brown said.

RAILE BALANCER/GELBVIEH St. Francis, KS. Annual Bull Sale! Thursday March 10th, 2011 12:30 PM MST. Burlington Livestock Exchange: 719-346-8900. 40 Spring Yearling Balancers, 5 Fall Yearling Balancers, 1 Purebred Yearling Gelbvieh. Performance tested with balanced traits for calving ease, growth, milk and carcass traits.

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Rawlins County Health Center

RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

707 Grant Atwood, KS 67730 (785) 626-3211

Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community

March 2011

Calendar table with columns for Sun through Sat. Includes appointments for mammograms, cardiac rehab, and other medical services.

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A VISITING PHYSICIAN, PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211 Cheryl Banister, RN Specialty Clinic Director. Happy St. Patrick's Day.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Monday Evening March 7, 2011. TV listings table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and program titles. Includes channels like KAKE/ABC, ESPN, and HBO.

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