

Weather Corner



National Weather Service Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 48. Breezy, with a southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 66. Breezy, with a northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph. Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 34. Breezy, with a northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph. Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 60. Breezy, with a north wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph. Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around 30. Thursday: Sunny and breezy, with a high near 57. Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59. Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32. Saturday: Partly sunny and breezy, with a high near 56. Friday: High, 59; Low 35 Saturday: High, 67; Low 39 Sunday: High, 73; Low 43 Precip: Friday None Saturday None Sunday Trace Month: 0.44 inches Year: 0.87 inches Normal: 2.11 inches (K-State Experiment Station) Sunrise and Sunset Tuesday 7:45 a.m. 7:58 p.m. Wednesday 7:43 a.m. 7:59 p.m. (U.S. Naval Observatory)

Republicans pick new attorney

From "LAWYER," Page 1

to be tough, but practical." Mahoney said that while plea bargains and diversions are good options, some cases really need to go before a jury. "You have to ask, what is the most just outcome?" she said.

Another delegate asked if the candidates would consider moving to Thomas County if elected. Mahoney said she is currently renting in Oakley, and would consider moving to Thomas County. Berans said he had a wife, children and a horse operation in Cheyenne County, which would make it harder to move.

"I wouldn't rule it out," he said. One delegate asked what the candidates felt about noxious weed and prairie dog control. Berans said the county needs to look at what's best for its farmers and ranchers and that he would support their con-

rol efforts. Mahoney said she would make sure the county abided by state law when dealing with weed and animal control.

Both were asked if they would run in the November 2012 election when Flipse's term expires. Mahoney said she had already been planning to when the vacancy came up. Berans said if he was chosen at the meeting and the job worked out for him and his family, he would run again.

Delegate Mike Baughn, the mayor of Brewster, nominated Mahoney, saying he has observed her in court and she has developed a good rapport with court services and law enforcement. Delegate Steve Ziegelmeier, former party chairman, nominated Berans, saying that he is widely known as an intelligent man and tenacious in the courtroom.

Faber ended the meeting after the balloting. He said he thought the party has done a good job with the two replacement conventions they have had in the last four months.

Coalition gathers health information

From "COALITION," Page 1

vironment and policies, as did the health care industry. In the businesses surveyed, Spencer found that while they encouraged things like nutrition and physical activity, there were few policies to require good behavior. However, the businesses had good policies on tobacco use in the workplace.

Spencer said overall, he found a lack of written policies on healthy activities.

"A lot of people said, 'We just don't worry about it that much,'" he said.

Many other rural communities are finding the same thing in their surveys, he added.

Spencer said the coalition can use the data in applying for grants and assessments or to develop a "community action plan" to help improve our health over time.

"We're not comparing ourselves to other cities," he said. "This is just an assessment within ourselves."

Spencer and the coalition were recognized for their ef-

orts by Dr. Candace Ayars, a section director at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, who gave them the director's award. Ayars said the coalition has become a respected mentor to groups in other communities using the tool.

While doing his surveys, Spencer said, he found an error in the spreadsheets that he reported to the Centers for Disease Control. He said this was part of the reason he and the coalition got the award.

"Not only did this community's earlier work on the CHANGE tool result in uncovering several flaws in the initial programming design," Ayars said, "it was responsible for making suggestions that ultimately improved the tool in its second iteration. The effects of their work have been felt as far away as South Carolina."

Spencer said he may do more rounds of surveys later this year, and he can do them by request if any business or organization wants to see how its environment and policies stack up.

Legislature approves tax incentive

From "PLAN," Page 1

as counties with small populations or that are relatively poor.

The bill specifies that people won't qualify for the tax break or the student loan relief unless they've lived in another state for at least five years before coming to Kansas.

Some legislators and local officials have been skeptical that Brownback's plan will work, suggesting people won't move to rural areas unless they can find jobs.

Also, Rep. Nile Dillmore, a Wichita Democrat, questioned the provisions in the bill that allow counties to join with the state in buying off up to \$15,000 worth of a new resident's student loans over five years. Supporters believe it will attract professionals, including doctors, but Dillmore said it gives Kansans an incentive to leave the state to attend college, then return later.

"I think that's a bit of a perverse incentive," he said. But most House members didn't share his skepticism, because the measure advanced without much other debate.

And House Speaker Mike O'Neal, a Hutchinson Republican, said he believes the new policies will be especially valuable in

luring doctors and other medical personnel to underserved areas.

"I do think it will work," he said.

The other measure pushed by Brownback would boost the income tax deduction that companies and partnerships can take each year for the decline in the value of their machinery. The goal is to help a wide range of businesses, and the bill offsets the cost to the state by narrowing income tax credits used by large firms.

The House passed it, 105-17.

Meanwhile, House members had a lengthy debate on the bill that would "buy down" the state's corporate and income tax rates each year total state revenues grow. Their final vote was 73-47.

Under the bill, after each fiscal year ends June 30, the state would calculate the percentage growth in its major tax sources. Then, it would cut individual and corporate income tax rates by that percentage. The top corporate income tax rate could drop over time from 7 percent to 3.5 percent, but individual income taxes could eventually be phased out.

Each year's cuts would become permanent, but if the state's revenues were flat or declined, there'd be no reductions for the following year.

State officials defend death penalty

From "PENALTY," Page 1

due within five days of a motion's filing, although parties are not required to file responses. Keefover, the media liaison for the Great Bend case, acknowledged that in the Longoria case the judge specifically ordered prosecutors to file written responses to all defense motions.

Braden disputed that there was any such five-day response requirement, insisting he could have hand-carried his written motions to court on Tuesday had he wanted to.

The death penalty case against Longoria was filed by former Attorney General Steve Six, who person-

ally prosecuted it until losing his election bid. He was assisted by former Deputy Attorney General Barry Disney, who left the office during the transition.

Six has since been nominated by President Barack Obama for a seat on the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, and Disney has accepted a job with the U.S. attorney's office.

Court filings show that when Six was handling the case, prosecutors responded in writing within days to defense motions.

Barton County Attorney Doug Mathews said in an e-mail that he has "every confidence" in Braden as well as the new attorney general and his staff to handle the prosecution.

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Table of Tuesday Evening listings for March 22, 2011. Columns include time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, etc.) listing programs like 'No Ordinary Family', 'NCIS', 'The Good Wife', etc.

Table of Wednesday Evening listings for March 23, 2011. Columns include time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, etc.) listing programs like 'Middle', 'Family', 'Sunshine', etc.

'American Profile' advertisement with the slogan 'We Celebrate Hometown Life' and 'Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.' Includes a grid of hometown profiles with columns for location and a featured story.