

Weather Corner



National Weather Service Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 30.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 74. Breezy, with a west wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 40. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 66. North wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 64.

Thursday Night: A slight chance of showers. Mostly clear, with a low around 39.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 66.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Cloudy, with a high near 58.

Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 52.

Friday: High, 68; Low 32 Saturday: High, 83; Low 50 Sunday: High, 71; Low 27 Precip: Friday None Saturday None Sunday Trace

Exchange students enjoying stay in Brewster

From "STUDENTS," Page 1

village of 3,600 is not good for what wants to study.

Kosteckova's school days are much different. At home, she said, she attends school only once a month, and does home study the rest of the time.

"It is too far to a good school in the capital city of Czech Republic," she says.

The girls both said there are lots of schools, and some offer higher degrees of education than others, but no school buses. If you want to go to school, you find a way to go on your own.

"I have horrible class here," Kosteckova said. "My classes were already chosen when I got here, and the horrible class is strength training, and I don't like it. I want to go to Winona Prom, and teacher says, 'You will fail if you don't do power lifting,' and I say, 'I don't care, I don't care!'"

She says she thinks there are more opportunities in America and she wants to live here. She said her country has been a

parliamentary democracy since 1993, with a government similar to the U.S. However, there are many parties, and when they vote, they vote for a party and not a person.

Matusova says she hopes to travel to Japan, France and England and then maybe she'll be satisfied to stay in her homeland. She says she likes Kansas, but she can see why people say, "as flat as Kansas."

"My friends say when I finally get home, they will chain me in the town square so I can't leave again," she said.

Both girls agreed the food is completely different here.

"You have so much frying here, and hamburgers," Kosteckova said. "Peanut butter and celery is awful, and french fries and shakes are terrible together, and everything sweet, like pancake and syrup. Now that's just wrong!"

Matusova says she likes the food in her homeland much better, but does like our spaghetti. Kosteckova admitted to loving ramen noodles.

At home, Matusova said, she likes tarhona, a pasta-like product with vegetables and

meat, originally from Hungary. Kosteckova says she likes dumplings and svickova (beef). Yes, it's typical "cow food," she said.

Matusova marvels that Americans have such a sense of pride in their country.

"Even little children are proud to be Americans," she said. "Our country is young as an independent country, many teenagers don't even know the national anthem. Our country is laid back, and (people) don't realize how good they are doing."

"Our students dress better," both girls agreed. "We can't stand seeing boys with their shirts tucked inside their trousers. It looks awful! Maybe for Grandpa, but not for school boys! And those big buckles! They're awful!"

Matusova said her mother is a mortgage banker and her father is a truck driver, making deliveries for a coffee company. Kosteckova said her father is a businessman who owns several gift stores. Her mother is a fashion designer and tailor. She said her parents plan to meet her in the United States to visit several states before return-

ing to the Czech Republic.

Matusova's mother plans to meet her on the East Coast. They will visit relatives in Pennsylvania and then drive to California before heading back to Slovakia in June.

Both the Jorgenson and House families say the exchange experience has been a fun and exciting time. It is the third time the Houses have housed a student, and they are making plans to do it again next year. Their 12-year-old daughter is learning the Slovak language, and they hope to continue it with a student from that area next year.

Host mom Jackie Jorgenson is a nurse practitioner. She said she wasn't sure she'd have time to properly sponsor an exchange student, but it has worked out fine.

She said she didn't tell her husband she had agreed to have a student, and when she did, he said "no." But now, he's been thrilled with the experience and gets Matusova where she needs to go.

"When I start things," she said with a chuckle, "he finishes them."

Republicans trying to keep their budget promises

From "BUDGET," Page 1

tighten its belt. I don't believe that's the case," said Kinzer, an Olathe Republican. "This budget is not acceptable to the voters who sent us here. It's time to get a handle on spending."

Some legislators suggested that if it wasn't the voters who sent them to the Statehouse to govern; it was a higher calling. They argued that was their source of strength to make the decision to cut state spending by an additional \$50 million to \$100 million.

"I personally believe we were called here by my Creator," said Rep. Anthony Brown, a Eudora Republican. "I wasn't called to be mediocre. I was called to be great."

House Assistant Minority Leader Tom Burroughs, a Kansas City Democrat, said he was called by "his Creator" to defend the interests of vulnerable Kansans, including the elderly and disabled.

"I believe we are here for a reason," he said. "We owe our citizens a responsive, respective government."

Others relied on their experiences from running a business or their household finances, saying thousands of Kansans had been forced to cut their spending as the economy struggled to find its footing.

"In your own home, if you don't have the money, what do you do?"

said freshman Rep. Leslie Osterman, a Wichita Republican. "You cut your spending."

The debate, while highlighting the differences between those who want to cut and those who wanted to protect services, also showed the division among urban and rural legislators, even among the GOP caucus when it came to making sweeping cuts to state agencies.

Several noted that further cuts to the Department of Agriculture could likely lead to fewer employees who assist the state's largest industry by providing inspections for grain, animals and products, while also giving technical assistance.

"This is wrong, wrong, wrong," said Rep. Sharon Schwartz, a Washington Republican and former House Appropriations Committee chair.

Democrats fought back by suggesting the budget had been cut far enough, even resorting to eliminating spending for bottled water and office supplies to fund services for the developmentally disabled. Going deeper would reach beyond state employees and into the private sector.

"This \$100 million cut will mean the loss of jobs for thousands of Kansans," said Rep. Ann Mah of Topeka. "I thought we were here to create jobs."

Legislators are beginning a three-week recess. On April 15,

they will receive a new state revenue forecast predicting how much money Kansas will collect through June 30 for the current fiscal year and all of 2012. The budget debate then shifts from 125 House and 40 Senate members to a conference

committee of three from each chamber who will broker the final bill in the interim.

The next vote for legislators will be an all-or-nothing proposition: Accept the spending cuts and savings the negotiators assembled

or send it back for revisions.

There is no limit to how many times they can try to get it right. There's just a limit on the resources they have available.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, etc.) listing programs.

Table for Wednesday Evening listings (April 6, 2011) with columns for time slots and channels.

American Profile: We Celebrate Hometown Life. Section with text and a grid of program listings.

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