

State looks for way to pay medical bills, keep all benefits

From "MEDICAID," Page 1

limits to fit our needs, we will," Moser said.

The Brownback administration said without reforms, Kansas could be facing budget deficits of close to \$1 billion by 2016. Since the state by law must have a balanced budget, Colyer said, Medicaid expenditures must be balanced with the needs of public schools and the state employee retirement system.

"We're not looking at a single fix," Moser added.

State Democratic leaders issued a news release saying they believe the Republican governor wants to cut Medicaid spending so that the state can cut taxes.

"The people of Kansas are compassionate. We value living in a state where we care for those in need," said Democratic Party Chairwoman Joan Wagon, a former legislator and secretary of revenue under Democratic Govs. Kathleen Sebelius and Mark Parkinson.

Wagon was skeptical that Brownback and Colyer were serious about reforms to improve the system, noting that Brownback voted to cut Medicaid funding during his time in the U.S. Senate.

Colyer, while not responding directly to Wagon's comments, tried to assure the crowd that the administration didn't already have a plan in mind that it was going to force on service providers and Kansas residents.

"We're all involved. This affects all of us," he said. "We want to work with people and not come up with a top-down program."

More forums are planned in Wichita and Dodge City. The administration has been collecting suggestions and visiting with consultants since February.

Wade Horn, of Deloitte Consulting and a former HHS assistant secretary, said Kansas wasn't alone in its struggles with Medicaid and that states across the country were looking at reducing costs as state funding remained tight.

Horn said federal Medicaid funding would change July 1 with the end of a program under the stimulus package that sent states additional dollars. States receive a federal match based on poverty, ranging from 50 percent of costs to 80 percent. Kansas gets about 60 percent.

He said states have been forced to reduce spending for other programs, such as schools and social services, to comply with federal regulations.

Weather Corner



National Weather Service Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. East wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 89. North wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 97. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 65.

Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 86.

Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 65.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 90.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 66.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 100.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 66.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 96.

Thursday: High, 88; Low 63
Precip: Thursday None
Month: 1.95 inches
Year: 7.12 inches
Normal: 9.84 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Saturday 6:19 a.m. 9:15 p.m.
Sunday 6:19 a.m. 9:15 p.m.
Monday 6:19 a.m. 9:15 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)
Colby Water Use
Thursday 1,953,000 gal.

A new floor to dance on



TOMI MILLER/Colby Free Press

A worker from Northwest Kansas Decorating Center started to install a new stage floor at the Community Building on Friday. The city has been saving up for the project for years, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong, and it was approved by the City Council a few months ago. The total cost is \$28,477. A problem arose when workers found holes in the foundation under the old floor, Armstrong said, but new matting was used to fix the problem.

College board gets report on online course progress

From "GRANT," Page 1

has a welcome message, and the site should be ready for demonstration by August and be available for fall students, Ellison said. It will have links for financial aid, online library services, how to pay online, enrollment and many other services.

Next, she reported the computer center is assuming responsibility for "scheduled actions" such as e-mails going out potential students, President Stephen Vacik's welcome letter and other related communications.

Finally, Ellison said, technology upgrades are scheduled at the college farm in July. This will give the horse farm, the beef farm and the maintenance buildings Internet and wireless access.

In other business, the board:

- Gave parting member Mark Winger a plaque honoring his five years on the board.

- Heard reports from administrators, including Barry Kaaz, dean of external affairs, who said that the High Plains Small Wind Test Center is preparing requests for proposals on foundation work for wind turbines. Nick Wells from the Endowment Foundation reported that the wrestling team raised \$12,000 from its golf tournament, and that the college gave out a total of \$277,000 in scholarships this past year.

- Approved disposition of surplus television equipment to make money to help with remodeling of the television area.

- Approved two changes to the policies manual.

- Approved the resignations Rebecca Johnson, night nursing instructor, and Janice Cates in accounts payable.

- Heard a report from the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees about their meeting this month.

- Postponed a planned dinner with the Northwest Kansas Technical College board due to a low number planning to come. The board agreed that Dr. Vacik will get in touch with the technical college to reschedule for another date in July.

- Heard a financial report for May from Alan Waites, vice president of business affairs, who mentioned that the college had a cash balance of \$800,000 by the end of the month, with a revenue shortfall of about \$400,000 below

budget. The college is experiencing cash flow challenges that need a solution before November, said Waites.

- Discussed the 2011-2012 budget, also presented by Waites. He said the budget is currently at

\$12.6 million, but the goal is to get it down to \$12.4 million. The board also agreed to let Waites explore ideas for "creative financing" and bring back options at the next meeting.

- Approved the consent agenda,

Graduation may be changed

From "SENIORS," Page 1

"It's not a large savings," she said. "We're just trying to be fair across the board."

The board will be saying goodbye to two long-time members, Stan Molstad and Kevin Taylor, whose terms expire at the end of the month. Mostad has served since 1997, she said, and Taylor since 2003.

They will be replaced by new members Bryce Barton and Angie Gaede, elected this spring, who

will be sworn in at the July meeting.

High school Principal Larry Gabel plans to bring recommendations for changes in the way the district selects valedictorians and salutatorians. Harrison said she didn't want to talk about them until the board had seen the plan.

The board also plans to recognize the high school's state track champions, go over proposed changes in the district handbook, approve out-of-district attendance and transportation requests and

Brown branches overwhelm K-State plant lab

Long-time, popular evergreens started the central U.S. growing season with unusual amounts of yellow-tan needles and even branch dieback.

So, evergreen owners have been flooding the Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab at Kansas State University. Their sad-looking samples are a mix of cedar, pine, spruce and arborvitae. The branches are from all parts of the state, yet the lion's share is from the western half.

"We get some of these every year, but we've almost been overwhelmed since spring," said Judy O'Mara, K-State Research and Extension plant pathologist. "People are anxious about whether their plant has a disease and, if so, whether it could serve as a reser-

voir for spreading that disease. "They're concerned about whether their evergreen can recover. She suspects this year's degree of damage is why so many owners are worried that the injuries might be more than simple winter burn."

Beyond that, the damage was widespread, yet most prevalent across the western part of the state and somehow hit-and-miss within individual plantings. For example, only two trees in a windbreak look as if they're dying; the others seem fine.

In almost every case, the lab's test results have been more and less than owners hoped to hear: What's wrong with their evergreen won't spread. But, it also has no cure.

The problem is a one-two punch

of environmental stress - weather extremes, O'Mara explained. Last fall's weather was unusually to extremely dry across Kansas. Winter brought some low, low temperatures. The combination hit evergreens hardest because evergreens aren't dormant through winter.

"Unfortunately, damaged evergreens don't grow back easily, either," she said. "You can pamper them - particularly by ensuring that they never lack water."

"When the damage is significant, though, your best long-term solution may be to remove and replace the tree."

The affected evergreens typically don't regenerate lost growth, O'Mara said. Most won't even replace individual needles lost to damage or disease - although the

pinus may, if they still have viable buds.

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Monday Evening June 27, 2011

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	The Bachelorette				Extreme Makeover		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live	
KBSL/CBS	How I Met	How I Met	Two Men	Mike	Hawaii Five-0		Local	Late Show	Letterman	Late
KSNK/NBC	America's Got Talent		Law Order: CI		Law & Order: LA		Local	Wimbledon	Tonight Show w/Leno	
KSAS/FOX	MasterChef		MasterChef		Local					

Cable Channels										
A & E	Hoarders		Hoarders		Intervention				Hoarders	
AMC	Shawshank R.								Shawshank R.	
ANIM	River Monsters		River Monsters		River Monsters		River Monsters		River Monsters	
BRAVO	Housewives/NJ		Housewives/NJ		Platinum Hit		Housewives/NJ		Housewives/NJ	Platinum
CMT	The Singing Bee		The Singing Bee		The Singing Bee		The Singing Bee		Smarter	Smarter
CNN	In the Arena		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360				Piers Morgan Tonight	
COMEDY	Good Luck Chuck		Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Daily	Colbert	Entourage	Entourage
DISC	Dual Survival		Dual Survival		Dual Survival		Dual Survival		Dual Survival	
DISN	Good Luck	Shake It	16 Wishes		Good Luck		Vampire	Wizards	Wizards	Wizards
E!	Sex and t	Sex and t	Sex and t	Sex/City	Ice-Coco	Ice-Coco	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Chelsea
ESPN	College Baseball						SportsCenter		Baseball	NFL Live
ESPN2	MLB Baseball				Baseball Tonight		30 for 30		30 for 30	
FAM	Secret-Teen		Switched at Birth		Secret-Teen		The 700 Club		Whose?	Whose?
FOOD	Unwrapped	Candy	Diners	Diners	The Best	Meat	Challenge		Diners	Diners
FX	Superbad						Superbad			
HGTV	My Yard	House H.	HGTV'd	House	Hunters	Hunters	House	House H.	HGTV'd	House
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	American Pickers		Pawn	Pawn	American Pickers		Pawn	Pawn
LIFE	Gone				Vanished, Beth		How I Met	How I Met	Chris	Chris
MTV	Teen Wolf		Teen Wolf		Teen Wolf		Teen Wolf		True Life	
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	Chris	Chris	Lopez	Lopez	'70s Show	'70s Show	The Nanny	The Nanny
SCI	Casino Royale						GoldenEye			
SPIKE	Star Wars-The Phantom Menace		Star Wars-Phantom							
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Conan		Lopez Tonight	
TCM	Stage Fright				I Confess				Dial M for Murder	
TLC	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Kate	Kate	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss
TNT	Law & Order		Law & Order		The Closer		Rizzoli & Isles		Men of a Certain Age	
TOON	Adventure	MAD	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen
TRAV	Off Limits		Off Limits		No Reservation		No Reservation		Off Limits	
TV LAND	All/Fam.	All/Family	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	The Nanny	The Nanny	Divorced	Roseanne
USA	NCIS		WWE Monday Night RAW		Suits				Law-SVU	
VH1	Basketball Wives		Single Ladies		Basketball Wives		Single Ladies		Basketball Wives	
WGN	Chris	Chris	Funniest Home Videos		WGN News at Nine		Scrubs	Scrubs	South Pk	South Pk
Premium Channels										
HBO	Real Time/Bill Maher		Hot Coffee				Going the Distance			Boxing
MAX	Wild Things				Robin Hood					Bikini
SHOW	Twil: Eclipse				Weeds	The Big C	Weeds	The Big C	The Real L Word	

American Legion Riders 363

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