



Weather  
Corner

**Tonight...**Mostly cloudy. Breezy. A 50 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the lower 50s. West winds 15 to 25 mph.

**Friday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 80s. West winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the southwest in the afternoon. Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Saturday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s. Southwest winds around 10 mph shifting to the southeast in the afternoon. Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 60.

**Sunday** through Monday night...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s. Lows in the lower 60s.

**Tuesday** and Tuesday night...Mostly clear. Highs in the mid 90s. Lows in the lower 60s.

**Wednesday ...** Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s. Wednesday's low, high: 60, 83.

## Sherman County cuts fire board position

By Tom Betz  
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The Sherman County commissioners agreed Friday to cut the rural fire board to five members instead of filling a vacancy.

Member Ken Palmgren, who farms near Edson, said that the board would suggest cutting the number to five to make it easier to get a quorum.

He said the board had looked at the list of possible people to fill the vacancy created with the resignation of Marvin Duell, he said, but had a question about a suggestion of putting a fire fighter on the board.

"We had a question about why to have a fire fighter on the board," Palmgren said. "No one on the board had a problem with having a fire fighter on the board, but felt there might be a conflict of interest once in a while ...."

Palmgren said the board gets its information from the chiefs and assistant chiefs, who have the attention of the fire board for the first half-hour of the meetings.

He said they did ask the Goodland assistant chief, Chris Bauman, and Larry Wilkerson, chief in Kanorado, about recommendations for filling the vacancy.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the fire board did have two recommendations if the commissioners decided to fill the vacancy. Palmgren said they had agreed to

send two names.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if the board often had to wait for a member to show up at the meeting to have a quorum.

Palmgren said he thought they could have gone on with the ones they had, but Commissioner Kevin Rasure said with the vacancy they would not have had a quorum without the other person coming to the meeting.

Rasure said the fire board resolution allows the board to be a minimum of three members to a maximum of nine.

"It has to stay at six until we accept Duell's resignation," Rasure pointed out.

Tiede suggested to try cutting the board to five.

Palmgren said even with five, the board would be well represented across the county with a member from Kanorado (Darrell Cloyd), one from Goodland (Tom Rohr), one from Edson (Palmgren), one who lives northwest of town (Dick Allaman) and the fifth who lives northeast of town (Melvin Sieck).

"I feel like the main thing was we felt we could have a quorum if we kept it at five," he said.

Tiede asked the other commissioners what they felt about trying the board at five. Rasure said he felt they ought to try it, and made a motion to accept the resignation, but to cut the board to five members. Tiede seconded.



Contributed photo

Jim Griffin, right, and J. J. Allen, local American Legion members, presented the colors for a new spotlight to illuminate Colby High School's flagpole. The new spotlight was purchased through various money-making projects involving the school's chapter of the National Honor Society (2006-08 members). Those attending the ceremony included members of the Colby High School Student Council; National Honor Society officers Lissa Mazanec (president), Johnna Wiens (vice-president), Kelly Gerstner (secretary) and Kevin Lang (treasurer), Taylor Young, and Brock Wagoner sang "The Star Spangled Banner." U.S. Congressman Jerry Moran of Hays provided an American flag and Kansas Rep. Jim Morrison of Colby the Kansas flags for the ceremony. Both flags have flown over our nation's and state's capitol buildings respectively, said Linda Jones, advisor.

## Oberlin cable TV miss weather emergency

Oberlin Herald

Newer television sets and a missing part means people on the Oberlin cable system weren't able to receive emergency alert system signals during a tornado warning last month.

Patti Skubal, Decatur County emergency management director, said the local cable channel isn't able to transmit the emergency alert to the newer digital television sets, which most people have now.

Since the storms on Thursday, May 22, she said, she's received a lot of calls from people who

couldn't get the alert on their televisions. Mrs. Skubal said people told her the local information channel turned blue or black or had a no signal.

She said she called Eagle Communications of Hays, which owns the system, about the problem and they said they are missing a sync generator to work with the newer sets and would check into fixing it. They didn't make any promises, she said. The older analog televisions, will be phased out in a year, which means more digital sets and fewer people able to get the emergency alert system until the part is installed.

## Bikers head to Oberlin

Oberlin Herald

Eight hundred bicycle riders will start the trek across the state at the end of the week, stopping for lunch Sunday in Oberlin.

Some of the riders in Bike Across Kansas will start at the Colorado state line on Friday, while others will join in St. Francis on Saturday.

On Sunday, the riders and their families, some of whom are following along for support, will pass through Oberlin.

At least three places have made arrangements to help feed the riders, who will be staying in Atwood on Saturday night.

Joyce Hartzog, with the Oberlin Covenant Church, said they were told the riders will be passing through Oberlin anywhere between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday.

The church, she said, will be selling bags of trail mix in two sizes and bottled water at the corner of U.S. 36 and 83. The riders will be traveling east along U.S. 36.

The Last Indian Raid Museum plans a pancake and ham breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m. at the museum and then will switch to bratwursts and porkburgers for lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The two meals will be served for a donation.

The museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for tours at a cost of \$5.

The LandMark Inn will hold a brunch buffet from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., said owner Gary Anderson, and walk-ins are welcome.

Bike Across Kansas started in June 1975 as a recreational ride from the Colorado line to the Missouri border.

This year, all of the riders will travel on U.S. 36 with overnight stays planned in St. Francis, Atwood, Norton, Smith Center, Beloit, Washington, Sabetha, Horton and Atchison. The ride starts on Saturday and ends Saturday, June 14, a week later, at the Missouri

## Tax collections fall short in May

TOPEKA (AP) — New figures on tax collections suggest the state is heading for big budget problems.

Preliminary figures from the Department of Revenue show that the state collected \$51 million less than anticipated in taxes in May. The shortfall between expectations and actual collections was 7.7 percent.

Legislators based their budget decisions on a financial forecast made by state officials and university economists in April. When they adjourned their annual session last month, legislators expected to face financial headaches when they reconvened in January.

But the state could face serious problems before then if the shortfall in May tax collections proves to be a trend. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius could be forced to consider trimming spending from the budget before 2009.

"We're somewhat in a free fall," Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dwayne Umbarger, a Thayer Republican who helped draft the final version of this year's budget legislation, said Wednesday.

The state expected to collect \$664 million in general tax revenues in May but took in only \$613 million, according to the department's figures.

Without a rebound in June, the state will begin its 2009 fiscal

year on July 1 with smaller cash reserves than anticipated. Legislators had believed those reserves would allow the state to sustain spending they approved for the next fiscal year.

As for Sebelius, spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran said, "She's monitoring things closely."

Legislators approved a \$13.6 billion spending plan for the next fiscal year. It increases aid to public schools by 5.5 percent, keeps up with the growing costs of social service programs and gives most state workers a 2.5 percent pay raise. Overall spending will rise about 3 percent, or \$391 million.

When legislators adjourned their session, they expected the state to end its 2009 fiscal year with \$119 million in cash reserves.

"We may have to come back next session and revisit some of those budget items," Umbarger said.

Asked about Sebelius being forced to trim spending before then, Umbarger said: "If the June and July numbers come with the amount of decline that we've seen in May, I think it's a very real possibility."

Such a scenario played out in 2002, with the national economy reeling from the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

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