



Weather
Corner

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. Scattered thunderstorms in the evening...Then isolated thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the upper 60s. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of thunderstorms 40 percent.

Saturday...Partly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the upper 60s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph in the evening becoming light. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the morning. Highs around 101. Northwest winds around 10 mph shifting to the southeast in the afternoon. Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s.

Monday...Partly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s. Monday night and Tuesday...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s. Highs in the lower 90s.

Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s.

Wednesday...Partly sunny in the morning then becoming mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. Wednesday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s.

Thursday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. Thursday's low, high: 98, 77

Water usage
Wednesday
3,650,000 gallons
3 Consecutive Days over 3.5 million will put us in a water watch
3 Consecutive Days over 4.0 million will put us in a water warning
3 Consecutive Days over 4.5 million will put us in a water emergency

A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-8367.

Economy, competition change Kansas casino plans

TOPEKA (AP) — A slumping national economy and potential competition from other states has altered the gambling landscape in Kansas as a state board is preparing to pick developers for each of four resort casinos.

State-owned casinos and slot machines at dog- and horse-racing track are allowed by an expanded gambling law passed last year in hopes of eventually generating \$200 million a year for the state.

But two prospective developers have pulled out of the competition for casino contracts, and a third's position may leave one area, southeast Kansas, without any proposal. Both tracks allowed to have slots failed to negotiate a deal with the Kansas Lottery and neither expects to be operating by next month.

State and industry officials and consultants say they aren't alarmed because developments reflect decisions made by individual developers for various reasons. But the economy underlies them all.

"The economic downturn and the credit crisis is affecting everyone and the casino operators are re-evaluating their proposals," said Nick Danna, senior gaming analyst for Sterne, Agee and Leach Inc., based in Birmingham, Ala.

The Lottery Gaming Facility Review Board began a two-day meeting Thursday to review reports from its consultants and applicants on potential revenues from casinos proposed for Sumner and Cherokee counties. It plans a similar review Sept. 2-3 for casino proposals for Ford and Wyandotte counties.

Penney's catalog store to open

Catalog store owners ask for help

By Tom Betz
ntbetz@nwkansas.com

The owners of a new J.C. Penney catalog store in Goodland asked the Sherman County Economic Development Council on Tuesday if it would consider offering them some of the support proffered to Penney's to keep it's regular retail store here open.

Kendall and Jacque Cooper said they are going to remodel their Hallmark store, at 1124 Main Ave., and would open the catalog store on Monday, Aug. 25, within a few days of when the existing Penney's store will close.

The council discussed how to give money to the Cooper's to help with the project, and decided to table the issue to allow some investigation and to develop some guidelines for this type of business request.

Council members agreed they want to support the project, but want to have a way to handle other requests that may come up. They tabled the action until their meeting on Saturday, Aug. 19.

"We have to do some remodeling to get this done," Jacque Cooper said. "We have to buy furnishings from Penney's. It will be in the back of the store and look like a Penney's store."

"We will take orders and returns and payments on Penney's accounts. We have to hire another person to help with the Penney's part and with the rest of the store."

Kendall Cooper said a lot of merchandise will have to be moved around, estimating the cost to be about \$13,500.

"In past, we were offering money for Penney's to stay in Good-

land," Jacque Cooper said. "We are asking for some money for Penney's to stay as a smaller part inside of my store."

Kendall Cooper said the fixtures are expected to cost \$4,500, \$1,000 for the sign, \$1,000 for a computer and \$7,000 for remodeling, plus hiring a person and moving things around.

"I think it is good you are able to do this," said Don Newell, a council member from S&T Communications. "I like the idea of helping our own. That is my opinion."

Steve West, council vice chairman from Western State Bank, said he was glad that the Cooper's were taking on the catalog store.

"They don't give you anything," Kendall said. "You have to buy everything, but it will be up-to-date Penney's fixtures. It will be chaos for the next month."

Council member Nancy Cole of Klip N Kurl Salon asked if Jacque Cooper had thought about hiring one of the women who work at Penney's.

She said she had talked to a Penney's person and would talk to the women.

Council Chairman Chuck Wilkens of Wilkens Truck and Tractor said the council would discuss the matter and get back to the Coopers.

"I think we would like to help," he said.

Later in the meeting, Wilkens brought the subject back up, asking the council members what they felt the council could do.

West suggested giving the Cooper's \$1,500 to help with the project.

Newell said he thought it had been a good idea to try to keep Penney's, and that it would be

good to help a local business expand.

Larry Keirns, the newest council member and retired president of the Northwest Kansas Technical School, asked if the council had any guidelines for giving out money.

Dave Daniels, a city commissioner and member of the county micro loan committee, said he thought it was something the council should think about, because he can see lots of people coming in for money.

"I know this is not going to be the last time," Newell said. "I think we need to work to help the person in our own community."

Council member Jerry Fairbanks of First National Bank suggested loaning the money and forgiving it over a three-year period.

Wilkens said he felt it was something the council could do it on a case-by-case basis, but Fairbanks suggested setting up some guidelines.

Keirns made a motion to table the request until the Aug. 19 meeting, asking office manager Helen Dobbs to see what other counties are doing about this type of request.

"It is not a bad thing for people to come and ask," Newell said.

By Pat Schiefen
pjschief@nwkansas.com

Jacque's Hallmark will be the home of a J.C. Penney catalog service center starting Monday, Aug. 25, giving shoppers an alternative as the company-owned store at the other end of the block closes the end of August.

The expanded store will offer shop-at-home and online catalog ordering from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. from Monday to Friday at 1124 Main Ave.

The owners, Jacque and Kendall Cooper, asked Sherman County Economic Development Council on Tuesday if they could get some of the support offered to Penneys to keep the retail store open here. The retail store will close on Friday, Aug. 22. It will cost Coopers about \$13,500 to do necessary renovations.

"The ... center will provide the same customer services provided by the catalog desks in our department stores, ranging from processing of credit card payments to the sale of gift cards," said Rob Hubner, catalog merchant coordinator for Penney's.

The service counter will be where the balloons are now, in the back or southwest corner of the store, said owner Jacque Cooper. She said they plan to buy

new fixtures, then remove the old pharmacy and move the balloons there.

Cooper said she plans to go to Ord, Neb., from Monday to Friday, Aug. 11 to 15, for training.

"I have to know every aspect of running the center," she said, adding that the store will take payments for merchandise as well as credit-card payments.

Cooper said she plans to hire someone to help with customer service. The new person plus her present employees will do the service center as well as the Hallmark store, she said.

She said she and her husband Kendall recently bought the building where Homeland Real Estate had been behind the store. Cooper said they had punched a hole between the two for a doorway. The extra space will be used for employee break room and an office.

J.C. Penney is the largest catalog merchant of general merchandise and JCPenney.com is one of the largest apparel and home furnishings sites on the Internet, the company says.

"I have no idea how much business the catalog service center will have," Cooper said. "I hope it stays the same amount as it was at the regular store and hopefully increases."

Kansas group to release bridge inspection plan

TOPEKA (AP) — A task force plans to release recommendations Monday for improving local government inspections of thousands of bridges in Kansas.

The task force's work is a response to the collapse last year of the Interstate 35W bridge in Minnesota, which killed 13 people.

The Kansas Department of Transportation, the Kansas Association of Counties and the League of Kansas Municipalities appointed the 19-member task force.

They plan to have a news conference at 10 a.m. Monday at the Transportation Department's offices in Topeka.

According to the department, more than 80 percent of the 26,000 bridges in Kansas are the responsibility of cities and counties.

And department spokesman Steve Swartz says the task force was a way to redouble efforts to ensure timely inspections.

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and

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Fair Days

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MONDAY, JULY 28TH

Open Class Entries (Non-animal)
4-H Bldg. ~ 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tammy Hall Concert ~ 8 p.m.

Slab Dance w/ Wild Ride
Directly following the concert.

TUESDAY, JULY 29TH

PRCA Rodeo ~ 8 p.m.

Tuesday during rodeo:
Queen/Princess Contest
Sponsored by: Cornerstone Ag

Special Appearance by:
Amy Wilson,
Miss Rodeo America

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30TH

Pedal Tractor Pull
Sponsored by:
Thomas County Farm Bureau
Registration at 4 p.m. by BBQ tent

BBQ
Sponsored by: Dillons of Colby
Starting at 5:30 p.m. at BBQ tent

PRCA Rodeo ~ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 31ST

DEMO DERBY ~ 8 p.m.

Sponsored by:
Roofmasters Roofing

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1ST

4-H SALE ~ 4 p.m.

RACES

E&G Promtions & F&M Insurance
Title Sponsors

Hobby Stock & Modified Qualifier
Hot Laps: 7 p.m.; Races: 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2ND

Parade ~ 10 a.m.

Antique Tractor Show
4-H bld. parking lot ~ 11 a.m.

Old Settlers Day: 4-H bld ~ 12 p.m.

EMS BBQ
12 p.m. ~ Free will offering

Laughing Matters Comedy Act
during BBQ

Kids Rodeo & Muttin Busting
Small Arena ~ 11:30 a.m.

RACES

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\$5000 to Win
also featuring Stock Cars
Hot Laps: 6 p.m.; Races: 7 p.m.

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330 W. 5th St.
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785-460-6921
shawn.carney@mwarep.org

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