

Weather Corner



National Weather Service  
**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 26. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west.  
**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 63. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.  
**Thursday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25. Calm wind becoming northwest between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Friday:** A slight chance of snow and freezing drizzle after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 35. North wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.  
**Friday Night:** A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 13.  
**Saturday:** A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 26.  
**Saturday Night:** A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 12.  
**Sunday:** A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 25.  
**Sunday Night:** A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 10.  
**Monday:** A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 23.  
**Monday Night:** A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 10.  
**Tuesday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 28.  
Friday: High, 57; Low 27  
Saturday: High, 57; Low 28  
Sunday: High, 64; Low 29  
Monday: High, 60; Low 24  
Tuesday: High, 67; Low 24  
Precip: Monday 0.00 inches  
Tuesday 0.00 inches  
Month: 0.09 inches  
Year: 0.09 inches  
Normal: 0.48 inches  
(K-State Experiment Station)

Frahm unpacks after 30 years' work

From "FRAHM," Page 1

leader in Kansas. She said she believed reclassification of business and farm property for tax appraisals, statewide reappraisal and a new highway plan were some of the most outstanding challenges she faced while in the Senate. "And I would include school finance and related litigation in that," she added. Another first for the state was her election as lieutenant governor in Graves' second term. She said it gave her the opportunity to experience the executive branch of state government. "Criticism comes from a lack of knowledge," she said, "and it gave me a much better understanding of how decisions are made ... and with that, came a greater understanding of school finance, and how and why the bigger courts make their decisions." Near the end of her term as lieutenant governor came another change. "The appointment to Bob Dole's U.S. Senate seat came as a complete surprise," she said, "there was no advance notice ... but you can't always anticipate, or know, when to accept an opportunity, to just stick your neck out and try. It's a real risk, it's painful for the family and it's costly. "When Sen. Dole decided to run for the presidency, he called the governor and told him he was going to resign his seat in just a few minutes, and that is when Gov.

Graves called me while I was attending an out-of-town meeting and asked me to accept the appointment. It was a whirlwind transition from there to the Washington swearing in." She was sworn in by Vice President Al Gore, since the vice president is president of the Senate. Since no one except Congress is allowed on the floor, her family watched from the Senate gallery. As an appointee, she filled a six-month period remaining in Dole's seat. There was little time to prepare for a statewide campaign, and she lost in the Republican primary to Sen. Sam Brownback, the former state secretary of agriculture, who drew on a strong conservative base. Frahm said while she was lieutenant governor, she had the opportunity to travel to Russia, Australia and Japan to meet with elected leaders and discuss agricultural policies. "There are no regrets ... and I wouldn't trade it for anything," she said, "because there is just no way to trade the experiences I've had, and the people I've met along the way." She said among her greatest experiences, was the privilege to serve with Sen. Nancy Landon Kassebaum. Frahm said her advice to young people is to above all be an informed voter. "I encourage kids to get involved, to respond to public needs, to be a mentor and to grow a desire to give back," she said.



Ken and Sheila Frahm said they hope to be able to spend more time with their grandchildren, twins Reagan and Colin Geihlsler.

Her latest and longest-running job in public service has been to serve the state's two-year colleges by heading up the Kansas Association of Community Colleges, a post she was named to on her return from Washington in 1997. And although she is retiring from that job after 12 years, she will remain as a member of the state's Post Secondary Technical Education Authority. The authority was created by the Legislature to come up with a plan for work force training for Kansas. "More and more, there is a huge need for trained workers," Frahm said, "and statistics show 60 percent of jobs in Kansas need a skill and not a college degree. The pic-

ture is changing rapidly, and there needs to be a different mindset among the business people to let the powers that be, know what is needed. "Seventy-five percent of trained workers are trained at community colleges and 25 percent are trained by technical colleges, and it's always a scramble to find funding." Now, she's unpacking all the belonging from her Topeka apartment and trying to settle back in to life Colby. Ken farms and was until this fall cochairman of the Kansas Energy Council, which was disbanded. He is active in agricultural groups. Their girls are Pam Geihlsler, who lives with her husband Ed,

and twins Reagan and Colin, in Colby; Amy Bertrand, a lawyer in Lawrence; and Krissie Frahm, a student at Washburn University. "Being a farm girl from Thomas County turned out to be pretty exciting," Frahm said, "and it speaks well for Colby, for Fort Hays State University, for my family and for self determination." "I know every hole in Interstate 70 between Topeka and Colby, and although I will miss all the wonderful people I've been associated with over the past 30 years, I'm looking forward to going to the farm with Ken, riding the four-wheeler and spending time with the grandkids."

Once-guaranteed school budgets now in danger

From "SCHOOLS," Page 1

fiscal year, but with costs rising in places and shifting in others, the state would redistribute \$22 per student in general aid. In fiscal year 2010, her budget would cut total state dollars to public schools by about \$24 million. That's only 0.6 percent, but it would force another redistribution of \$66 per student in general aid. "Do schools face a cut? Yes," said Mark Tallman, a lobbyist for the Kansas Association of School

Boards. "Is it less than what most agencies are taking? Absolutely." Chuck Schmidt, Independence's superintendent, said schools can live with the governor's recommendations. "We understand that the economy is in a tough time," he said. "We don't want to be cut, but we also understand that we have to give some, too." Critics of Sebelius' budget proposals note other parts of the budget are being hit significantly harder. For example, the higher

education system would be required to reduce operating budgets by almost \$25 million during the current fiscal year — and an additional \$56 million during fiscal 2010. They'd lose 9 percent of their state tax dollars. Rep. Terrie Huntington, a Fairway Republican who is chairwoman of the House Higher Education Committee, said universities, community colleges and technical schools face cuts first because the perception is that they can raise tuition. But, she said, the

economic downturn will make it more difficult for parents and students to pay those higher rates. "This is one of the last budgets that should be cut, because our Kansas economy depends on our college graduates for our work force," she said. There's also the issue of how well public schools have fared in recent years, when legislators have added millions to the budget. Political Writer John Hanna has covered state government and politics since 1987.

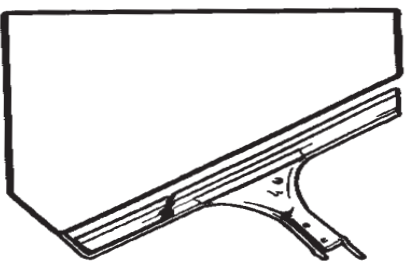
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