Weather Corner



National Weather Service **Tonight**: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m., then isolated thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, low around 55. East wind 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy, high near 83. Calm wind becoming southeast 5 and 10 mph.

Tuesday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 89. South wind around 10 mph becoming west. Wednesday Night: Partly

cloudy, with a low around 56. Thursday: Mostly sunny, with

a high near 79. Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51.

Friday: Sunny, high near 84. Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 59.

Friday: High, 92; Low 64 Saturday: High, 90; Low 59 Sunday: High, 79; Low 55 Precip: Friday 0.66 inches 0.06 inches Saturday Sunday 0.38 inches Month: 2.25 inches 19.09 inches Year: Normal: 16.41 inches

Sunrise and Sunset 7:00 a.m. 8:35 p.m. Wednesday 7:01 a.m. 8:34 p.m. Colby Water Use Average Friday - Sunday 1,740,000 gal. (Colby Public Works)

(K-State Experiment Station)

Revenue secretary favors eliminating tax exemptions

TOPEKA (AP) — More than \$4 billion in revenue boost, but many Republican lawmakers see any changes as a kind of tax increase which would be off limits.

she thinks it's time to take a look at some of those exemptions — such as one for a Kansas City, Mo., animal shelter when it does business in Kansas — and repeal the ones that don't make sense.

"It needs to be repealed," she said. "If you had all the money in the world, I guess it's OK to exempt a Missouri humane society. We don't have all the money in the world.'

There are much bigger exemptions, like one on Kansas Lottery tickets that cuts \$13 million annually from state revenues. In all, \$23.5 million in sales tax exemptions are held by charitable, religious or benevolent organizations. There are \$479 million in exemptions to government units, \$119 million for business equipment, \$86 million for health care and \$52 million for agriculture.

had to at least look at them every so often.

"We've been concerned for a while about sales tax exemptions is out of reach of gov- the erosion of the base," Wagnon said. "If we ernment officials in Kansas who badly need a had a three-year sunset on any of these sales tax exemptions, that would be helpful."

But some lawmakers, such as House Majority Leader Ray Merrick, a Stilwell Republi-Secretary of Revenue Joan Wagnon says can, see a repeal of tax exemptions as a tax increase that is "out of the question."

> Wagnon knows how politically tough it would be to pull back the popular incentives, but insists something needs to be done to get some of that money into the state's coffers.

The Kansas Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, which Wagnon chairs, is studying things that keep potential revenue off the state's books. Among them are sales tax exemptions, income tax credits and property tax exceptions.

Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, a Topeka Democrat, said there could be value in regularly evaluating cost-benefit ratios of state policies that shield groups or categories from tax liability.

Wagnon said the commission has two objectives in pressing the exemption issue with Wagnon would be happy if the Legislature lawmakers when they convene in January.

Man aims to sell prehistoric fish

TOPEKA (AP) — A noted it would use its wide jaws as a fossil hunter since 1986, someone to buy and display the remains of a 17-foot-long prehistoric fish that he unyears after it died — in western Kansas.

Alan Detrich found the and Oakley in 2007. He calls it the Kansas King Fish and fish it had recently eaten.

Researchers refer to the fish lived in. Xiphactinus as a sea monster

fossil hunter is looking for to swallow six-foot-long fish whole.

"It was a bully," Detrich said, referring to the fierceearthed - likely 88 million ness of the Xiphactinus. "It killed anything that moved when it was hungry.'

He says the fossil also in-Xiphactinus protruding from cluded soft tissue, which he a hillside between Scott City plans to send to a University of Kansas graduate student for additional study. The tishas spent the past two years sue will help researchers assembling the fossil, which learn details including the age includes the fossil of a large of the fish and the composition of the Cretaceous sea the the public.

Detrich has been associated because of its size and how with the University of Kansas minds," he said.

and is noted for unearthing a Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton in South Dakota in 1991.

Detrich said the Xiphactinus is probably the largest Cretaceous Period fish specimen ever assembled. The Xiphactinus has only been found in Kansas and New York, he said.

Detrich said he hopes to sell his Xiphactinus fossil to a museum for display, preferably in Kansas. He said he wants the fossil available to

"I'd like to see it go some place it has an effect on young

City council votes to put sales tax on ballot

From "COUNCIL," Page 1

said, it will go into effect in 2011.

The fire station is being financed by \$2,140,000 in temporary notes and a \$360,000 "0-interest" loan from Midwest Energy under a federal program. The bond issue to replace the temposaid Armstrong. The fire station costs includes the money spent on construction, architects and other costs.

The fire department had to move after the roof collapsed on two bays at City Hall more than two years ago. The department was able to keep trucks at enough money to pay for the fire stathe National Guard Armory until a new station was built.

No concrete plan has been laid out for building a new pool. Armstrong said a committee made up of council members Patrick Mallory, Jim Brown and Tim Hutfles and citizens interested in getting a new pool has spoken to architects. Members of the public involved with the committee include Jennifer Burr, Sherrie Wiedeman, Melinda Olson, Sandra Finley, Holly Lynn, Mandy Lanning, Kris Lemman had already spoken to one architect making the estimate look fairly conand they will be meeting with another servative.

one at a meeting at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Farmer's and Merchant's Bank. For inthe public votes for the measure, she formation about the meeting, call Burr at (785) 460-0438.

The city's current sales tax rate is fairly low when compared to other area towns, Armstrong said. Atwood, Garden City, Goodland, Hays, Oakley, Salina and WaKeeney all have rary notes will be put together later, higher sales tax rates, she said, but if the vote is successful, Colby's would exceed the rates in Atwood (7.05), Garden City (7.2), Oakley (7.05) and WaKeeney (6.8).

> If the tax is approved, the manager said, the city believes it will raise tion and a new swimming pool in 10 years. If the city gets a \$7,500,000 loan at a 5 percent interest, the revenue generated from the increased sales tax would pay off the loan in 10 years. The sales tax would have to generate \$971,284 per year to do that. The loan would begin on March 15.

The current one-fourth-cent sales tax has raised \$182,922 for economic development in the city during the first six months of 2009, Armstrong said. If the sales tax would had been 1 cent, and Kami Booi. Burr said the group the city would have raised \$548,765,

University of Kansas sets up new alcohol course

LAWRENCE (AP) - The University effects on the body and behavior, is deof Kansas is requiring new students ages 22 and younger to complete a two-hour online course teaching them the dangers of drinking.

Students will have to finish the first part by Sept. 24 and the second by Nov. 1. Both must be completed for the student to enroll in the spring semester.

The course, which will detail alcohol's

signed to reduce irresponsible drinking.

University officials have begun several initiatives to deal with drinking following two alcohol-related deaths of university students this spring. In May, the university announced it would begin notifying parents about alcohol or drug violations involving students 21 or younger.

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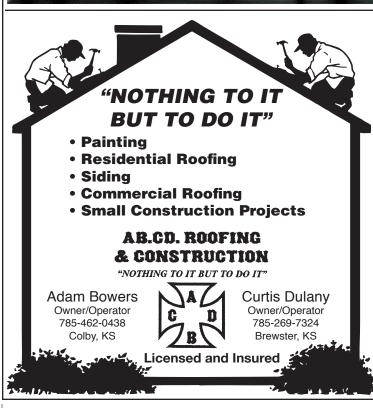
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