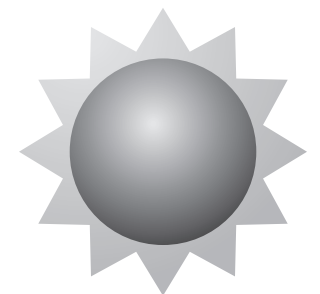


Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Partly cloudy, low around 54. Breezy, south wind 15 to 20 mph, gusts as high as 30 mph.
Tuesday: Sunny, high near 85. South wind 10 to 15 mph.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56. Southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 85. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 58.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.
Friday Night: Isolated thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Friday: High, 86; Low 51
Saturday: High, 73; Low 54
Sunday: High, 66; Low 54
Precip: Friday 0.00 inches
Saturday 0.07 inches
Sunday 0.10 inches
Month: 3.33 inches
Year: 20.17 inches
Normal: 16.41 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Tuesday 7:13 a.m. 8:15 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)
Colby Water Use
Friday – Sunday 1,635,000 gal.
(Colby Public Works)

Technical college starts green renovation project

From "COLLEGE," Page 1

a new house each year, which then was sold to recoup the costs of construction. The renovated house also will go on the market; college officials say they hope the project will be the first of many to give practical experience to students in the building trades.

Mills joked that he knows the project will be done right because it will have about 5,000 supervisors with the whole town watching the project.

The president; Robert Loftin, chairman of the area college board; and Tom Betz, editor of *The Goodland Star-News*, who suggested the renovation, were the first to take the shovels and put them into the dirt in the front yard. Others, including Mayor Josh Dechant and City Manager Doug Gerber, took their turn, as did the college instructors who will be in charge of the renovation.

Bill Finley, college foundation executive director, said he was proud of the changes Mills has brought to the college. He said

he feels there is more support being shown by the community than has been in several years.

Following the ceremony, people toured the inside of the house, and students and instructors explained some of what will be changed inside.

The carpentry students said they were excited to begin the project. Plans for the conversion have been laid out to redo the house with a modern efficient kitchen and living room.

Father Hal Lycett of St. Paul's Episcopal

Church, who lives in the rectory next door, said he is excited about the project. He said he had been able to get an energy-efficient "on demand" water heater donated for the house. It was delivered to the college last week.

Mills said the heater was a great donation, adding that he will be looking for others to help the project. He said he plans to ask the city to donate the electricity used during the rehabilitation and the county commissioners to waive transfer station fees for the construction and demolition material.

Delegation stands firm on health care

From "HEALTH," Page 1

tion in Republican-leaning Kansas. President Barack Obama was a relatively popular Democratic candidate here in 2008, but still received less than 42 percent of the state's vote. After several people at a town hall meeting in Ottawa advocated a public option, Jenkins reached a not-so-surprising conclusion.

"We're just going to agree to disagree about the public option," she said.

The audience Jenkins faced in Ottawa was different than one she faced in Topeka at the start of her listening tour in mid-August, though both often seemed restless.

The Topeka crowd vented frustration at Obama and other Democrats, their health care proposals and an America that seemed to many to have lost its good, conservative moorings. The same seemed true the next day, when Rep. Todd Tiahrt, a veteran Republican who represents the 4th District in south-central Kansas, had an event at Topeka's public library.

But in Ottawa, the crowd seemed more evenly divided, and some questioners directed their frustration at Jenkins.

One was Elizabeth Smith, a 27-year-old Ottawa waitress, who wanted to know what was wrong with a government-run plan for Americans who are now uninsured. Smith's 2 1/2-year-old son Jonah sat on a nearby table, swinging his legs, as his mother questioned the congresswoman.

Jenkins had explained part of her opposition already. She fears a government-run plan will draw people from the private insurance market, dilute competitive forces that drive down costs and lead to more government control of health care. She told Smith she'd rather give subsidies to families to allow them to buy private insurance.

Afterward, Smith said her son hasn't been to a doctor in 21 months, except for emergency room visits for ear infections, because she can't afford either insurance or a doctor's visit.

"I am frustrated," she said. "In a functioning, civil society, people take care of each other."

Dennis Schlotzhauer, a 66-year-old retired railroad shop worker from Ottawa, was skeptical of Jenkins' argument that the private market is the best way to help the uninsured.

"If private insurance is working, why are we here?" he asked.

Jenkins said she's not saying insurance companies or pharmaceutical manufacturers shouldn't be "cleaned up," but there are alternatives to Democratic proposals, including an expansion of health savings accounts and protecting doctors from unwarranted lawsuits.

Tiahrt also has listed proposals to decrease paperwork within the health care system and prohibit people from being denied coverage for preexisting medical conditions.

Sen. Sam Brownback responded to new projections for the federal deficit last week by arguing that Congress should approve only "incremental" changes in health care. Rep. Jerry Moran, who represents the 1st District that includes western Kansas, also expressed concern about health care reform's effect on the deficit.

And when the Senate health committee passed a Democratic overhaul, Sen. Pat Roberts voted against it, predicting, among other things, that it would lead to higher taxes. Jenkins heard the same concern from her audience, too, despite some members' preference for the public option.

Of course, at that point, she already considered the debate over health care largely settled.

Revenue department to release tax figures

TOPEKA (AP) — State officials will learn soon how strong revenue collections were for Kansas in August.

The Department of Revenue is expected to release preliminary figures showing how much the state collected in income, sales and other statewide taxes. Final number won't be released for several days as the agency

adjusts the totals to account for various other factors.

Last week, the House Appropriations Committee began a series of meetings leading up to the start of the January 2010 session. They are looking at ways to trim state spending to close what some predict could be a budget deficit of close to \$500 million.

Colby school enrollment down

From "SCHOOL," Page 1

education, they are counted as full time.

The numbers often change as the school year goes on.

DeYoung said she doesn't concentrate on the equivalency number until Sept. 20, the day the final number is calculated to be sent to the state. Before then, she said, she monitors changes in enrollment to make sure the numbers are ready.

This year, a few things will be different, DeYoung said. Transportation numbers will drop from 650-700 students to about 250 with the elimination of busing in-town students. DeYoung estimated the district's Full Time Equivalency at about 928, but said she expected the number to come down before Sept. 20. Last year's number was 926.4 in September, and DeYoung said the final equivalency would likely hold steady with last year.

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