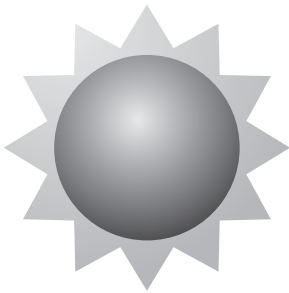


Weather Corner



National Weather Service

**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 57. Breezy, with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 92. Breezy, with a south wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 62. Breezy, with a south wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 93. Breezy, with a south wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy and breezy, with a low around 62.

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 92.

**Monday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.

**Tuesday:** Partly cloudy, with a high near 90.

**Tuesday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 57.

**Wednesday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 87.

**Wednesday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.

**Thursday:** Partly cloudy, with a high near 85.

Thursday: High, 85; Low 49  
Precip: Thursday 0.00 inches  
Month: 2.51 inches  
Year: 17.01 inches  
Normal: 16.41 inches  
(K-State Experiment Station)

**Sunrise and Sunset**  
Saturday 7:09 a.m. 8:21p.m.  
Sunday 7:10 a.m. 8:20 p.m.  
Monday 7:11 a.m. 8:18 p.m.  
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

**Colby Water Use**  
Thursday 2,692,000 gal.  
(Colby Public Works)

Wind firm meets with landowners here

From "WIND," Page 1

Thomas County, and she will devote full time to the project.

When completed, the Solomon Forks project will produce 108 megawatts of power with 72, 1.5 megawatt turbines. Construction is expected to begin in 2011. The project should be in operation by the end of 2011 at an estimated \$300 million dollar capital cost.

Expected time of construction is nine months, after a power purchase agreement is signed between Acciona and a power purchaser. Tower height will be 267 feet, with 120 foot long blades for a total height of 387 feet.

Kennon clarified that equipment is not sitting and waiting to be put into place. He said his company prefers the equipment be put into use soon after they've been manufactured, but that as soon as they have a power purchaser, they will put in the order for towers, propellers and the turbines, and

they will be on site when they need to be.

Placement of the towers has already been micro-sighted and the cultural resource studies are complete. Solomon Forks anticipates approval from the Kansas State Historical Preservation Office.

She said wind has become a viable industry in the past decade, and Thomas County is considered an ideal location for energy production from wind farms.

However, the biggest hurdle yet to come is finding a customer to buy the energy.

"Acciona has been looking for a power purchaser for Solomon Forks for the past two years," Thompson said, "and now the project has the advantage of maturity in development which should be attractive to buyers. Aerial photos for site surveys have been taken, meteorological towers have been measuring wind, transmission line easements have been in place since 2006, and title work for the land owners is mostly complete, with minimal title clean up left."

She said the county commissioners are

making sure the right measures are taken to take care of county roads.

Bert Stramel, land owner in the Solomon Forks Wind Farm site, asked about township roads, particularly some that seem to be only trails now, also questioning who would pay for the upgrades.

"Generally, what happens is that the counties and townships end up with better roads after we're finished, than when we started," Kennon said, "We have vehicles filming the roads before construction begins, to ensure good records of road conditions."

Kennon said that the company pays for all the road upgrades, and in some instances makes the intersections bigger than normal to accommodate turning radii of oversized equipment, but put it back to original state, or better at the project's completion."

He noted another thing in favor of the project is that Kansas is a state that requires a certain portion of the energy used by Kansas power companies to come from renewable sources. Most bidders for energy

don't want to come down to the wire without reaching that requirement, he said, and then have to scramble at the last minute to meet it.

He also said Kansas is a part of the Southwest Power Pool and can sell to other states in the pool. So there may be instances that if those states haven't met their requirements, they will be able to buy power from renewable resources in Kansas.

"Google and Walmart also buy directly from renewable power sources," Kennon said. "Acciona is also exploring the opportunity to sell to smaller municipal utilities if need be."

Thompson said that as soon as a power purchase agreement is in place, the project would pretty much be on a slippery slope, meaning it would go fairly fast to reach completion and get energy on the grid.

Both Kennon and Thompson had a positive outlook, and suggested that if the land owners were praying people, a prayer for a purchase agreement soon wouldn't hurt.

Highway work begins Monday

From "HIGHWAY," Page 1

"Please slow down, and pay attention to the workers and signs within a construction zone."

The total estimated cost of construction for both projects is \$2.7 million. Work should be completed, weather permitting, by the end of October.

Shears Division will also be re-paving the Interstate 70 ramps at Country Club Drive (Exit 54) at

Colby. The tentative plan is to close both westbound ramps at Exit 54 on Wednesday. The eastbound ramps will then close Thursday.

"The ramps will only be closed during daylight hours," said Area Engineer Eric Oelschlager.

For more information regarding this project or any other project, please contact Oelschlager at (785) 626-3258 or erico@ksot.org in Atwood or Brands at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org in Norton.

Agency says computer issues resolved

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Kansas residents still may have to wait up to four weeks to get copies of birth certificates and other records, but the state Department of Health and Environment said Thursday that it has resolved recent computer problems.

Secretary Rod Bremby said the department has restored its electronic data, including 20 million copies of birth, death and marriage certificates and other vital statistics records. But its vital statistics records system is still being tested and won't be back online until at least Monday.

Meanwhile, Bremby said, the department faces a backlog of 8,000 requests for records from its vital statistics office and plans to temporarily double the staff processing them. He also said the department's private computer vendor has agreed to eat more than \$750,000 in costs associated with resolving the problems.

The hardware for the depart-

ment's electronic records storage crashed Aug. 5, taking down 85 percent of its servers and cutting off access to electronic records. The problems came as some parents were seeking copies of birth certificates needed to enroll children in school.

The department has prided itself on handling records requests relatively quickly, often the same day for someone seeking a copy of a birth certificate in person at the agency's Topeka offices.

Jenni Stauffer came from Auburn, outside Topeka, to get a copy of the birth certificate for her 6-week-old son, Deacon, so they can fly to California next week to visit family. She left the vital statistics office without a copy, wondering whether the airline will instead accept a letter from the hospital in which he was born.

"It being the only place in the state to get it, they could have a backup," she said, acknowledging she "told off" office workers.

The department has trucked in 120,000 paper copies of records from storage in salt mines

near Hutchinson, in south-central Kansas, but many were birth certificates and related documents for children aged 4 through 6, who'd potentially be entering school.

Bremby said about 50 employees from other parts of the department will be diverted to processing requests for vital statistics records, starting Monday.

"We'll try to mow through that backlog as quickly as we can," Bremby said. "We think this is the highest priority within the agency now, and we're reassigning staff to make sure that we address these concerns."

Both Bremby and the department's vendor, Xiotech Corp., based in Eden Prairie, Minn., described the crash as unprecedented, something unlikely to reoccur now that the storage hardware has been replaced.

Department officials have emphasized that it didn't lose any data, despite the crash. Bremby said the department has a new backup storage device for its vital statistics records.

Demand, budget cuts straining mental hospitals

TOPEKA (AP) — An increasing demand for mental health services is putting a strain on Kansas' mental hospitals whose funding has been clipped due to a state budget crisis.

A legislative committee heard Thursday that the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services has been forced to stop taking voluntary admissions at state hospitals.

In the past year, three Kansas hospitals were over capacity at least one-third of the time. The Larned State Hospital was over capacity for 302 days.

The state halted new admissions for a week in May and four days last month. People seeking treatment were put on waiting lists. The state is legally obligated to place individuals ordered to re-

ceive treatment by the courts.

"At a certain point, it really becomes a matter of safety and the limitations of the physical space in the hospital," said SRS Secretary Don Jordan. "Sometimes there's just no more place to put another person."

The Kansas City Star reports that mental hospital administrators say they are left with few options. Reductions in state spending means they have been forced to leave staff positions open, limiting their ability to provide services.

Johnson County Mental Health Center treated nearly 11,000 outpatient clients in 2009, compared with 6,500 in 2000. Its director, David Wiebe, said the center gets 50 to 60 new patients each week whose illness is related to the economic stress of debt, job loss or

lack of insurance. The center has lost \$1.7 million in state funds because of budget shortfalls.

"We are currently operating with 32 vacant positions," Wiebe said. "At the same time, we're seeing this unprecedented increase in demand. We saw an increase of nearly 1,000 patients from 2008 to 2009. We have a very stressed system."

Legislators said Thursday there were no quick fixes and state revenues leave little room for improvement.

"We've got to readjust our priorities to give the mental health system some relief," said Senate Vice President John Vratil, a Leawood Republican. "We can't allow this to continue and turn a blind eye."

Advocates said a bottleneck

could develop if the state doesn't find resources for services. Those who can't get into a state hospital will turn to local centers faced with their own budget problems.

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LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Monday Evening											August 30, 2010			
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30				
KAKE/ABC	Bachelor Pad				Dating in the Dark		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live					
KBSL/CBS	How I Met   Rules		Two Men	Big Bang	CSI: Miami		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late					
KSNK/NBC	America's Got Talent				Dateline NBC		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late					
KSAS/FOX	House		Lie to Me		Local									
Cable Channels														
A & E	Intervention		Intervention		Hoarders		Obsessed		Intervention					
AMC	For Love of the Game							Rubicon		Mad Men				
ANIM	Gnt Anaconda		River Monsters		River Monsters		River Monsters		River Monsters					
BRAVO	Housewives/NJ		Housewives/NJ		Housewives/NJ		Housewives/NJ		Housewives/NJ					
CMT	Extreme Makeover		Footloose					The Singing Bee	Smarter					
CNN	Rick's List		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360				Larry King Live					
COMEDY	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Daily	Colbert	Tosh.0	Futurama				
DISC	Ulti. Car Build-Off		Ulti. Car Build-Off		Moose Attack!		Ulti. Car Build-Off		Ulti. Car Build-Off					
DISN	Starstruck		Deck	Sonny	Sonny				Hannah	Hannah				
E!	The Spin	The Spin	Kardas	Kardas	Fashion Police		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Fashion				
ESPN	MLB Baseball				Baseball Tonight		SportsCenter		Baseball	NFL Live				
ESPN2	Tennis						Basketball							
FAM	Secret-Teen		Huge		Secret-Teen		The 700 Club		Whose?	Whose?				
FOOD	Unwrapped Unwrapped		The Best	The Best	Diners	Diners	Good Eats  Unwrapped		The Best	The Best				
FX	X-Men: Last						Lost in Space							
HGTV	Property	Property	House	Designed	House	House	My First	First	House	Designed				
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	American Pickers		Pawn	Pawn	Decoding the Past		Pawn	Pawn				
LIFE	Reba	Reba	The Pregnancy Pact				Drop Dead Diva		Drop Dead Diva					
MTV	Jersey Shore		Fantasy	Fantasy	Fantasy	Warren th	Fantasy	Fantasy	Jersey Shore					
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez				
SCI	Ghost Whisperer		Ghost Whisperer		Ghost Whisperer		Monster		Gundam	Gundam				
SPIKE	Deadliest Warrior		Platoon				Scrappers		Knockout	Sports				
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Lopez Tonight		Earl	Earl				
TCM	Monkey Business			Horse Feathers			Another	Chickens Come Home	DevilsBro					
TLC	Kate Plus 8		Kate Plus 8		Quints: 16 Mon		Kate Plus 8		Kate Plus 8					
TNT	The Closer		The Closer		Rizzoli & Isles		The Closer		Rizzoli & Isles					
TOON	Adventure  Flapjack		Total	Scooby	King-Hill	King-Hill	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Aqua Teen					
TRAV	No Reservation		No Reservation		No Reservation		No Reservation		No Reservation					
TV LAND	The Nanny	The Nanny	Raymond	Raymond	Three Men and a Baby				Roseanne	Roseanne				
USA	NCIS		WWE Monday Night RAW				Covert Affairs		Psych					
VH1	Ochocinco: Ult		Money Hungry		Scream Queens		Money Hungry		Scream Queens					
WGN	MLB Baseball				WGN News at Nine		Scrubs	Scrubs	South Pk	South Pk				
Premium Channels														
HBO	Hard Knocks		Transformers				REAL Sports Gumbel		Drag Me					
MAX	The Last Samurai				Post Grad				The Hangover					
SHOW	Killshot		Punisher: War Zone		Weeds	The Big C	Weeds		The Big C	Maze				