

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 4 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 59. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 79. Windy, with a north wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 45. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 80. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 90.

Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 55.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 94.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 65.

Labor Day: Sunny, with a high near 92.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 89.

Monday: High, 90; Low 59
Tuesday: High, 88; Low 61
Precip: Monday 0.04 inches
Tuesday 0.00 inches
August: 2.55 inches
Year: 17.05 inches
Normal: 16.41 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Thursday 7:14 a.m. 8:13 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)
Colby Water Use
Monday 2,321,000 gal.
Tuesday 3,044,000 gal.
(Colby Public Works)

Tame thunderstorm intensifies

From "REVENUE," Page 1

higher air to become even more dense and descend rapidly in a microburst of wind.

Winds were clocked at 59 mph at 3 p.m. at the McCook airport east of town, Mentzer said, but microbursts can blow as fast as 90 mph. The McCook burst seems to have been only the size of one or two city blocks and lasted only minutes.

Mentzer said the storm continued to move north. Areas near Ainsworth, Neb., experienced similar building damage. The service issued what it calls a "Significant Weather Alert," warning people that dangerous conditions could form.

"Microbursts are notoriously hard to forecast for

and warn for," he said, adding that the winds don't show up on radar.

Before the thunderstorms, northwest Kansas had about two weeks of winds from 25 to 40 mph. Mentzer said this was due to a low-pressure system in eastern Colorado. The winds happen each year in the fall, he said, but usually start later.

An entirely different set of high winds are expected Thursday from a cold front moving through the area, he added.

The service is predicting a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms tonight. Besides more wind, the rest of the week is expected to be sunny and clear with high temperatures returning to the low 90s on the weekend.

Highway chiefs say they need money

By Chuck Bartels
Associated Press Writer

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The U.S. must expand and improve rural highways because its inadequate system can't support the trade and tourism that helps drive the nation's economy, a group of state highway department directors said Monday.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials released a report in Little Rock and in Wichita, Kan., saying freight shipped by tractor-trailers is projected to grow rapidly in the coming couple of decades and much of that travel will be on rural roads.

Marvin Childers, director of The Poultry Federation, noted that Arkansas is the No. 2 chicken producer, churning out 30 million broilers per week. The birds are shipped by truck, as is their feed, often over two-lane roads.

Legislation that has given states federal money for highway work is to expire Dec. 31. Association director John Horsley said that, in the short term, Congress needs to extend the funding at present levels until a new bill can be crafted.

Horsley and other speakers said \$600 billion would be enough to expand roads' capacity and make them safer.

When most people think about highway work, they think of urban congestion and orange barrels on the road, speakers at an association news conference said. But the

60 million people who live in rural America equal the population of the nation's largest 100 cities.

"Too often what we found, the needs of rural America ... are not understood," Horsley said.

Good roads serve industry and create jobs, just as good schools enhance a community's vitality, Mississippi highways chief Larry "Butch" Brown said.

"It's time to provide (rural motorists) with a better system," Brown said.

The South and West are expected to undergo the greatest population growth in the years ahead, and roads and transit systems need to be able to keep up. Brown noted that in Idaho, for instance, major highways are far apart.

"To give you some idea of the scale of these distances, for a farmer to move his grain harvest in Idaho, he would have to cross the width of the entire state of Massachusetts to get from one major highway to the other," Brown said.

The report notes that 66 U.S. cities with a population of 50,000 or more do not have direct access to interstate highways. The list includes Jefferson City, Mo., which is a state capitol. In Arkansas, Hot Springs and Jonesboro are on the list, although the state has the 12th largest highway system in the U.S., Arkansas highways director Dan Flowers said.

California has 19 cities on the list, Texas has seven and Georgia and Wisconsin have three each.

State says tax revenue collection up in August

From "STORM," Page 1

show great progress, and I remain optimistic for our bright future."

But even Parkinson acknowledged that revenues still might fluctuate in coming months, and other officials said Kansas shouldn't read too much into the August figures.

Alan Conroy, director of the Legislative Research Department, said September collections will include quarterly individual income tax payments, as well as the last sales taxes collected on back-to-school purchases.

"We certainly don't have the recession solved yet, but at least the numbers are a step in the right direction," said Senate President Steve Morris, a Hugoton Republican who supported the sales tax increase. "That's such a breath of fresh air after what we've been through."

If the state's month-to-month

tax collections were to fall short of expectations, the state could be forced to revise its \$13.7-billion budget. Last year, revenue shortfalls led Parkinson to impose cuts in July and November while lawmakers were out of session.

Conservative Republicans still believe the sales tax increase will dampen economic activity. But GOP House Majority Leader Ray Merrick, of Stilwell, acknowledged that the August figures could indicate a positive trend.

"Let's just hope it continues," he said.

The state collected almost \$193 million in individual income taxes in August, about 4 percent more than the \$185 million predicted.

Retail sales tax collections were almost \$169 million, compared to a projection of \$143 million. The surplus was \$26 million, or about 18 percent.

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Thursday Evening September 2, 2010. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, etc.)

Friday Evening September 3, 2010. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, etc.)

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