

Weather Corner



National Weather Service Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51. Northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. East wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. Southwest wind around 5 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 58.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 86.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 87.

Sunday Night: Clear, with a low around 63.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 88.

Monday Night: Mostly clear and breezy, with a low around 59.

Tuesday: Sunny and breezy, with a high near 80.

Monday: High, 95; Low 51
 Tuesday: High, 90; Low 59
 Precip: Monday 0.00 inches
 Tuesday 0.42 inches
 Month: 0.42 inches
 Year: 17.47 inches
 Normal: 17.71 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
 Thursday 7:26 a.m. 7:51 p.m.
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

County to get new radio system

From "RADIO," Page 1

The 911 tax funds, collected on each land-line and cellular phone, will pay for the costs.

Commissioner Byron Sowers asked about maintenance on towers. Moses said the towers are owned and maintained by the state Department of Transportation, at no cost to the county.

Commissioner Steele reminded department heads that all radios will need to be put in the annual inventory, and listed with their individual serial numbers.

Later, McMahan told the commissioners that the city of Rexford had Midwest Energy take their tornado siren down so they could send the motor to Ellis to be repaired. When they put it back up, it worked.

She said that since that time, she has received word that the government now has a 75-25 matching grant available for up to \$15,000 for tornado sirens. She said the unreliable siren near the law enforcement center should qualify for the grant, adding that she

would write to see how much the county could get.

She said she'd like to have a siren near the new swimming pool since there are hazardous materials east of that location. She said a new siren could also give a voice warning in case there is ever a need to evacuate the area, since that is quicker than siren activation.

McMahan said she had returned from a meeting of weather and emergency managers across the state, and some "experts" say a siren serves only as part of a warning system. She added that meteorologists are trying to decide when the county needs to use sirens and when not to use them.

"They are saying a high wind also qualifies as a weather hazard, but that people actually need to take some responsibility for themselves by watching the weather," she said. "Even the bigwigs can't agree on when to blow sirens."

In other business, commissioners

- Approved Emergency Medical Services buying Sager Splint Bi-

laterals, a leg-splinting apparatus that minimizes risk when stabilizing a broken femur. They will get one for each ambulance in the county, plus one for training, for a total cost of \$1,871.

- Talked to the county attorney about drafting a resolution regarding the proposed wind farm in the Mingo area.
- Agreed to attend a fall road and bridge meeting in Russell on Oct. 20.
- Heard a request from the county's auditors, Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, for \$22,090 for the 2009 audit and help with preparation for the 2011 budget.
- Heard a report from Schrock that the bridge north of the alcohol plant on County Road 36 (the Campus Road) had been repaired and resealed with new asphalt
- Set Mondays, Oct. 4, 11 and 18 and Friday, Oct. 29, as next month's meeting dates.
- Agreed to send Schrock to Norton on Oct. 12 to attend a meeting on how to perfect the county's interest in road rights of way.

College president resigns Monday

From "RESIGNS," Page 1

Shields said to Kreider. "Want go with me?"

Leiker, in an interview several days after the meeting, said he thought the board should approve all spending until the college gets half the money from a mill levy increase in January. The board approved raising the property tax levy from 32.665 mills to 36.665 at a special meeting on Aug. 9.

Kreider, in a phone conversation a few days after the meeting, said he felt the board had broken the Kansas Open Meetings Act, which makes it illegal for any public group to meet and discuss business without notice to the public. Thomas County Attorney Bruce Flipse, reached by phone a few days after the meeting, said he didn't find anything indicating that the act had been violated.

Kreider took over as president on July 1, 2006, after Dr. Mikael Ary retired in October 2005 after 17 years at the college. Kreider was the fourth president in the college's history.

Kreider earned \$108,500 a year, Anderson said. Glenn "Skip" Sharp, former vice president of student affairs, who retired on June 30, filled in as interim president from October to July before Kreider arrived.

president boiled to the surface during a regular meeting on Aug. 16 at the student union on campus. Though board meetings usually draw only a few college faculty and staff, this one attracted about 60 citizens and faculty members.

At the start of the meeting, the board discussed a resolution that forbid the administration from hiring anyone without its approval. The board also discussed a resolution that would have prohibited the administration from approving any contracts except for routine spending below \$2,500 without board approval. The trustees eventually decided to table both measures near the end of the meeting after a heated debate involving tough rhetoric from both sides.

During the meeting, Krehbiel said he didn't think the administration had always been straight with the board.

"People have not been truthful with us," he said. "We had to put our foot down."

During same meeting, trustee Bill Shields and Kreider exchanged words, with Shields eventually offering to resign if the president would also.

"I can get off the board,"

Judge backs state nomination process

By Roxana Hegeman
 Associated Press Writer

WICHITA — A federal judge has refused to block Kansas from filling a vacancy on its state Supreme Court in a case challenging the constitutionality of its judicial nomination process.

U.S. District Judge Monti Belot rejected on Tuesday an injunction sought in a lawsuit against the lawyer members of the Kansas Supreme Court Nominating Commission. The lawsuit, filed by four Kansas residents, claims the attorneys have too much power because they make up the majority of the commission therefore violating the voting rights of other residents.

works quite well," said Amy Jordan Wooden, Parkinson's spokeswoman. "The current nomination process keeps politics out of the mix, and that's the way it should be. We are pleased that the court decision allows the governor to fulfill his constitutional duty and ensure our Supreme Court is not operating with a vacancy longer than necessary."

An injunction could have affected the selection of all Kansas appellate judges. One vacancy will open in January on the announced retirement of Court of Appeals Judge Gary Rulon, and the Legislature has created an additional position on the Court of Appeals.

"Over 50 years ago, Kansas voters approved a constitutional amendment on filling court vacancies that has served the state well," Attorney General Steve Six said in a statement. "I will continue to vigorously defend the constitutionality of judicial selection against politically driven lawsuits."

the defendants. Belot also agreed with the defendants that it was in the public's interest to maintain a selection process that was enacted in 1958.

Belot said he would rule on an anticipated defense motion to dismiss the lawsuit after all sides submit briefs.

The defendants plan to file the motion to dismiss on Friday, said Todd Thompson, one of the defendants' attorneys.

In recent years, judicial selection has been an issue mainly for conservative Republicans upset with Kansas Supreme Court decisions on abortion and education funding. They contend a lawyer-dominated selection process results in liberal-leaning justices.

Kansas voters decide every six years whether a Supreme Court justice is retained. Since that process began in 1960, no member of the state's highest court has failed to get a two-thirds majority.

Secretary candidate seeks citizenship change

TOPEKA (AP) — A Republican candidate for Kansas secretary of state opposes automatically granting American citizenship to the children born in the U.S. to illegal immigrants.

Kris Kobach said he supports a congressional proposal to require that at least one parent be a citizen or be a permanent legal resident.

Kobach also said he doesn't think the U.S. needs to revise its constitution to make such a

change.

The University of Missouri-Kansas City law professor has received national attention for advising cities and states, including Arizona, on cracking down on illegal immigration.

He's trying to unseat Democratic Secretary of State Chris Biggs in the Nov. 2. general election. Biggs and fellow Democrats have tried to paint Kobach as a conservative extremist.

Gas thieves get burned

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — A couple siphoning gas from a Salvation Army van caught fire when it suddenly erupted in flames in Washington state.

A witness told police two people were trying to siphon gas last week in a Tacoma church parking lot. As the witness approached and startled the suspects, the fire broke out.

Police spokesman Mark Fulghum told *The News Tribune* both suspects, the van and a nearby vehicle caught fire. The man was able to put out his own flames and fled before police arrived.

The witness used a garden hose to douse the woman. She was taken to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle and is expected to recover.

"While the court agrees that determining the constitutionality of the selection process is a public concern, it does not outweigh the public interest in preventing indefinite vacancies on the Kansas appellate courts," Belot wrote.

An injunction would have barred the state from filling a vacancy created when Chief Justice Robert Davis retired on Aug. 3, a day before he died.

Judicial selection has become a key issue for conservatives because Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson will fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court before leaving office in January.

Nine lower-court judges and four lawyers have applied to fill the spot. With Tuesday's ruling now clearing the way, the nine-member nominating commission plans to interview them Sept. 27 and 28 and send the three finalists to Parkinson.

"The governor believes our system of selecting justices in Kansas

James Bopp, an Indiana lawyer who filed the case on behalf of the Kansas residents, was traveling and did not immediately respond to messages left on his cell phone and e-mail.

In his ruling, Belot found the plaintiffs failed to meet all factors that plaintiffs were required to show in order for the court to grant the "extraordinary remedy" of a preliminary injunction.

He found that they failed to show they were likely to win their case. The judge also said they did not show that they would be irreparably harmed if they did not get the injunction, nor did they show that their interests outweighed those of

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NORTHWEST TECH
 NORTHWEST KANSAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

The Northwest Tech Area Board of Control is seeking proposals for the purchase of the property formerly known as the Buffalo Inn Motel (two-story, 69 rooms) and Restaurant located on 830 W Hwy 24 in Goodland, KS. The Board will strongly consider 'community friendly' proposals that demonstrate enhancement to the quality of life for the community of Goodland and surrounding area. Proposals will be accepted through 2:00 pm MT on Friday, September 24, 2010, and must include a letter of credit from a financial institution. For more information contact the president's office at 1-785-890-3641. The college reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

Applications for funding are being accepted for two grant opportunities at the Thomas County Community Foundation. Non-profit organizations, schools, and government agencies in Thomas County are encouraged to apply by September 30, 2010.

• Kids Can Do! Fund is a \$200 grant that provides funding for classroom and service-learning projects.

• James & Betty G. Secest Fund supports fine arts, literacy, education, and the professional development of educators.

785-460-9152
 tcfcf@st-tel.net

Go to www.ThomasCountyCommunityFoundation.com for grant applications and guidelines.

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