

Weather

Kansas schools expect less money

Briefly

From "SCHOOLS," Page 1

More students are completing high school than ever before and Kansas schools have the highest college prep test scores and participation rates on record.

"As a solution, three goals have been identified as 2012 priorities," said Harrison. "They are improving education, suitable finance and local leadership."

Actions to improve education include a new accountability system as part of the "No Child Left Behind" waiver requested by the state, she said, a new bill to be passed outlining goals for college and career preparation, a focus on individual students and strengthened teacher evaluations.

The association, she said, hopes to get more money with the first increase in base state aid since 2009, more equity in local funding, maintain the budget for at-risk students and pushing for a tax policy to support high quality education and other needs.

She said Tallman reported that Legislature has stopped many expensive new mandates, private school tax credits were rejected in the House and charter schools were kept under accountable to school boards.

"If the governor's plan doesn't work, then the projected drop in tax revenue for the 2013-14

school year is 11.2 percent," said Harrison. "This equals \$575 of the base state aid for Colby Schools."

This projection is \$743 million below the available revenue for fiscal year 2013, Tallman reported. The drop is caused by expiration of the 1 percent sales tax increase enacted under the previous governor, and the income tax cut signed by Gov. Sam Brownback. To counter the major cuts, there are two options, Harrison said. Schools either have to cut 11 percent of spending all at once or spread the cuts over two years using their reserve balances.

"It's important to know that next year, we are fine," Harrison said, "but the cuts will take effect after next year and we must be very careful with balances because we just don't know what is going to happen in three years."

"Thank goodness we have had mill levies in place and the high school will be paid off next year. We must also be very thankful for capital outlay. We promised the public that we wouldn't raise the mill levy to 5 mills until the school was paid off, and I want to keep that promise."

In other business, the board: • Approved \$207,000 in year-end transfers. Business Manager Jo DeYoung explained the additional revenue received was above the budget authority and is not earmarked for placement.

The board voted to transfer the money to Capital Outlay.

DeYoung reported the school's funds will end the year in the black as expected.

She reported the school district's preliminary cash summary and year-end balance estimates to the school board, saying the general fund's average balance is about \$6.194 million and 2011-12 estimated expenditures are \$6.189 million.

DeYoung added that although her report shows the fund balances are -\$263,000, they are expecting \$406,000 in state aid payments around Tuesday, July 10.

"In supplemental state aid, we were expecting 82 percent of what was allocated," she said. "They came back with about 85 to 86 percent, which was a nice surprise."

• Heard Harrison say some tile is buckling due to expansion from heat and cold. She said someone is coming to look at it, noting that another section had to be replaced last year, too.

• Learned that a contractor will be here at the end of July to work on the track at Dennen Field.

• Appointed John Gatz of Colby as the attorney for the district. Harrison said his fees have stayed the same for the last four years, which is appreciated.

• Approved at agreement with the Kansas Department of Education's Child Nutrition and Wellness program for 2013. It is signed every year, said Harrison.

• Heard Harrison report that there are many new requirements for the lunch program. She said the district is below the state average for prices. The board decided to increase breakfast and lunch prices by 10 cents

each. Milk prices will stay the same.

• Decided that activity fees and textbook fees for the 2012-13 school year will remain the same. Harrison said they were both increased last year.

• Agreed to a request from Jarrod Spencer on behalf of the Thomas County Ministerial Alliance to move the date for Baccalaureate next year to May 5, a week before graduation. He said graduation weekend is hectic for many families already. The school board agreed to try the new date for at least next year.

• Held a lengthy discussion on the district handbook. Board member Angie Gaede, who was not present, said before the meeting that she thinks some of the rules are too conservative. They discussed allowing students to wear studs and some body piercing and changing the length of shorts. However, no changes were made.

• Heard that a new substitute teacher handbook will be developed. Rogers reported some substitutes have used their cell phones during class, which is prohibited unless permission is given for an emergency.

• Heard that when students miss seven days of school, they must get a note from their doctor to be excused for medical reasons. Students can be excused by the school's nurse if they cannot make it to a doctor. State regulations force the school to require doctor notes, Harrison said.

Firm collecting for victims of Colorado fire

Toni Lindberg and HomeLand Realty and Auction are taking nonperishable donations for families affected by the Waldo Canyon Fire in Colorado Springs. A trailer will be stopping in Colby early Wednesday morning to collect supplies and deliver them to the victims. She asks for items to be brought to the HomeLand office in Colby, 1055 S. Range, by 5 p.m. Tuesday. For information, call Lindberg at (785) 443-4032.

Hospital here plans childbirth ed classes

Citizens Medical Center will hold a four-week series of childbirth education classes at 7 p.m. Thursdays from this week through July 26 in the hospital's conference room. This class is for women due to deliver before November and their labor support partners. For information or to register, contact Jeanene Brown at (785) 460-4850. The next series of classes will begin Oct. 4.

'Flying Debris Show' coming to library

The Pioneer Memorial Library plans have author Richard Holmgren do his "Flying Debris Show" at 8 p.m. Thursday on the east lawn. Bring chairs, blankets and sunglasses. This is for individuals, couples or the whole family. Come experience comedy, zany stunts and lots of audience participation. For information, call Melany Wilks at 460-4470; she says she's not sure what to expect except zany.

Methodist Church plans Bible school

The Colby United Methodist Church will hold a Bible School from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. from next Monday to Friday, July 13. Call Kim Chain at the church office, 460-2761, for information or to register.

All veterans invited to be grand marshals

All Thomas County veterans are invited to serve as Grand Marshals for the fair parade on Tuesday, July 31, riding on a float leading the lineup. Veterans will meet at the Senior Progress Center at 4:45 p.m., hopefully wearing military uniforms or hats. Call Holly Whitaker at the Chamber office, 460-3401, for information or to get on the list.

Chamber, college plan student block party

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber, Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau and Colby Community College will be holding a Community Campus Block Party from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 21, on the lawn on the north side of the student union. Businesses, churches and organizations are encouraged to set up a display booth or table, and the college will serve a barbecue lunch. For information, call Holly Whitaker at the Chamber office, 460-3401.

Activities still on tap for July holiday

From "HOLIDAY," Page 1

better," he said. "The show will be the same size. We asked them (the supplier) to keep the fireworks for us."

Even if the county had made an exception for the public show, he added, it would have

been hard to put it on without the help of the fire department, since the members usually set off the pieces. And chances of the firemen being on a call are pretty high right now, he added.

"But we're not cancelling it," he said. "We just going to postpone it."

The club has been collecting money to pay for the display, he added, and still could use some contributions. People can send checks to the club at Box 501, Colby, Kan., 67701, he said.

At least 18 dead after storms cut power in East

From "STORMS," Page 1

hard-hit Montgomery County outside the nation's capital, according to the state Highway Administration. There were 100 signal outages in northern Virginia late Sunday afternoon, and 65 roads were closed, although most were secondary roads.

Some drivers resorted to ingenuity to get to work. On a residential street in suburban Falls Church, Va., just outside Washington, downed trees blocked the road on either side. Neighbors used chain saws to cut a makeshift path on one side, but

the other remained completely blocked by a massive oak tree.

"They kind of forgot about us out here," resident Eric Nesson said.

Still, residents took the aggravation with good humor. Posted on the oak tree was a sign saying: "Free firewood you haul." The tree lay across a smashed Ford pickup, with a sign reading: "For SALE. Recently lowered."

Meanwhile, Coast Guard officials say they have suspended the search for a man who disappeared early Saturday while boating during the storm off

Maryland.

On Sunday night in North Carolina, a 77-year-old man was killed when strong winds collapsed a Pitt County barn where he was parking an all-terrain vehicle, authorities said. In neighboring Beaufort County, a couple was killed when a tree fell on the golf cart they were driving. Officials said trees fell onto dozens of houses, and two hangars were destroyed at an airport in Beaufort County.

The damage was mostly blamed on straight-line winds, which are strong gusts pushed ahead of fast-moving thunder-

storms like a wall of wind.

Elsewhere, at least six of the dead were killed in Virginia, including a 90-year-old woman asleep in her bed when a tree slammed into her home. Two young cousins in New Jersey were killed when a tree fell on their tent while camping. Two were killed in Maryland, one in Ohio, one in Kentucky and one in Washington.

In West Virginia, authorities said one person died early Sunday when the all-terrain vehicle they were riding hit a tree that had fallen over a road.

National Weather Service Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Tuesday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 100. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Independence Day: Sunny and hot, with a high near 100. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 72.

Thursday: Sunny and hot and breezy, with a high near 100.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 72.

Friday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 99.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 71.

Saturday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 100.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 70.

Sunday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 100.

Friday: High, 101; Low 69
Saturday: High, 102; Low 63
Sunday: High, 95; Low 68
Precip: Friday Trace

Saturday 0.09 inches
Sunday None
June: 0.78 inches
July: 0.09 inches
Year: 6.16 inches
Normal: 13.61 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
Tuesday 6:22 a.m. 9:15 p.m.
Full Moon at 1:53 p.m.

Wednesday 6:23 a.m. 9:14 p.m.
Moon: waning, 99 percent
Thursday 6:23 a.m. 9:14 p.m.
Moon: waning, 95 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Colby Water Use
Friday to Sunday 3,031,000 gal.
(average)
(Colby Public Works)

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table with columns for Tuesday Evening (July 3, 2012) and Wednesday Evening (July 4, 2012). Rows list channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, etc.) and program titles (Wipeout, NCIS, etc.)

American Profile: We Celebrate Hometown Life. Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper. Includes a grid of program listings for Wednesday Evening.