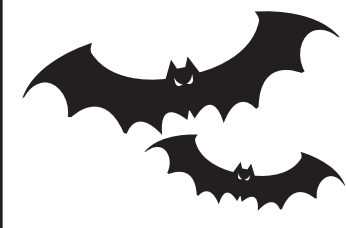


Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: Clear, with a low around 36. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 74. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north.
Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 38.
Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 62.
Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 34.
Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 62.
Tuesday Night: Clear, with a low around 37.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 74.
Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around 39.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 68.

Thursday: High, 64; Low 24
Precip: Thursday 0.00 inches
Month: 0.22 inches
Year: 17.88 inches
Normal: 19.19 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Saturday 8:10 a.m. 6:45 p.m.
Last quarter moon at 7:46 a.m.
Sunday 8:11 a.m. 6:44 p.m.
Monday 8:12 a.m. 6:43 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

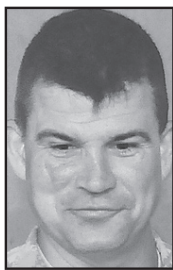
Combat engineer helps rebuild

From "ENGINEER," Page 1

"I don't speak any of those languages quite well," he said. "We have interpreters, but even then there's some English words that there's no direct translation for."

As a combat engineer Brogan said he helped clear roads of obstacles and bombs. He said he took his new assignment with mixed feelings.

"When you're a combat engineer you get used to being with the soldiers, to taking care of your troops," he said. "But this is just as important. You get to see the improvements made. You get to help the ANA build a sustainable system."



R. Brogan

Brogan said he's had to learn to interact with the Afghan army and the police since his job helps improve the stability of their forces. The U.S. and NATO forces are in the process of handing over some of the responsibility for security to the Afghans, he said, and better facilities reduce the number of desertions.

"It's been a slow transition in some areas," he said, "but they're doing quite well."

Brogan also volunteers a few hours a week teaching conversational English at a nearby school. He also helps raise money for school supplies.

"They teach us Dari, which is the local language," he said. "It's pretty entertaining sometimes."

Brogan said the children, aged 8 to 15, are always excited to see him.

"It's great to have an impact on the younger generation," he said. "They're very honest and sincere. It's refreshing to experience that."

Brogan is a Colby native and graduate of Colby High School.

His mother, brothers and cousins live in Colby and his sister lives in Oberlin. Brogan said communication with his family is easier now than in previous wars. He has regular access to phones and the Internet, and it only takes about 10 days to get mail from the U.S. This is his first tour in Afghanistan. He has been deployed for seven months and has five months left on his tour.

Mazar-i-Sharif is situated on a dry, flat plain with high mountains to the south. Temperatures can regularly get above 100 degrees in the summer and below freezing in the winter.

"It's going into fall now so it's hot in the day and cold at night," he said.

Brogan said he recently spent a few days out away from the camp and the temperature at night was below freezing. Thankfully, he had along a good sleeping bag.

"My feet are my thermostat, so I knew it was cold," he said, "but the rest of me was all right."

While there's always the threat of violence, the Mazar-i-Sharif area is not as dangerous as the southern provinces, where most of the current fighting is taking place. The city was taken over by Afghan militia forces supported by U.S. Air Force Special Forces in 2001 in the first major offensive of the war.

"It's a fairly calm area," he said.

Moral among American soldiers is high, Brogan said, because they are seeing positive results from their work.

"It's every soldier's ambition to do their job well and come home," he said.

Churches, acrobats offer holiday events

From "HALLOWEEN," Page 1

Children should be particularly careful around cars and when crossing the street. Cross streets at corners with stop signs or lights. Make sure someone in the group has a working cell phone.

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends parents buy or make costumes that are bright enough to be easily seen by drivers at night. The commission also recommends costume material that is flame resistant. While

this doesn't mean the material won't catch fire, it will resist burning and be easily extinguished.

The Centers for Disease Control recommends that kids only eat factory-wrapped candy. Homemade treats should be avoided unless you know the cook. Don't forget to remove makeup at the end of the night.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reminds drivers to pay attention to pedestrians crossing the street. Drivers should slow down in residential areas after dark on Sun-

day.

The patrol is also reminding people who plan to consume alcohol to line up designated drivers and to always fasten seat belts.

If you see a drunk driver on the road, call local law enforcement, or if you are on the highway, dial *47 from a cell phone to get the highway patrol dispatcher.

State race heats up with four days left

From "ELECTION," Page 1

three from his parents. It alleges six contributions violated a law against named donors giving more than \$100 in cash and nine violate a law against anonymous donations of cash above \$10.

Biggs said later that the complaint and Kobach's "shotgun approach" on election fraud issues demonstrate that the Republican is unfit for the office.

"He misrepresents statistics," Biggs said. "He jumps to conclusions. He's not careful about details."

Kobach said he's confident none of his donors exceeded the legal contribution limit, adding that Democrats either are misreading his report or, possibly, finding typographical errors. He called their allegations "laughably trivial."

As far as the registration rolls, he said anyone who checks them can see they need to be "cleaned up."

During his news conference, Kobach said six counties - Cherokee, Graham, Hodgeman, Nemaha, Rawlins and Smith - have more registered voters than residents 18 and older. The Associated Press compared preliminary registration figures for Oct. 1 with census population estimates from 2009 to verify the claim.

Election officials in several counties said they check for obituaries and death certificates regularly and use Social Security data as verification, but confirmation can be slow if someone dies out of state. Also, they said, federal law limits the purg-

ing of inactive voters' names.

In Smith County, the number of registered voters, 3,325, is 9 percent higher than the census estimate for the voting-age population, the greatest disparity. But County Clerk Sharon Wolters noted that more than 300 voters are inactive and many will be dropped from the rolls after the election.

She also said the census figures may underestimate the population in rural areas.

Wolters, a Republican, said a candidate for secretary of state should have checked on such issues before having a news conference, adding, "I was a little disappointed."

Also during his news conference, Kobach cited a ballot in the August primary from Alfred K. Brewer, of Wichita, as potentially questionable. He noted a person by that name died in 1996. But Bill Gale, Sedgwick County's election commissioner, said the vote was cast by the deceased man's son, now in his 70s. He said registration records automatically listed the voter's date of birth as Jan. 1, 1900 because only ages, not dates, were required when he first registered in 1964.

Brewer, a registered Republican, did not return a telephone message.

In Johnson County, a deceased resident was credited with voting in November 2008. But Election Commissioner Brian Newby said another voter simply signed the wrong line in a poll book, and the records have since been corrected.

High school senior gets experience

From "EXPERIENCE," Page 1

we worked on, and it is so cool. It's from a mouse so it isn't any threat to people."

She said some of the different departments she got to visit during her three day opportunity, which ran from Oct. 7 through 9, were plastic surgery, cardiology, nursing, and pediatrics. She said loved pediatrics, especially the robot newborn that looked like a

real baby.

Gerstner said the opportunity to spend time at the medical center reinforced her desire for a medical career, but didn't give her a definite idea of which field she wants to pursue.

"I liked it all," she said. "It's a good thing I love school because I'm going to be in school for a really long time."

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Monday Evening

November 1, 2010

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