From "SMOG," Page 1

torically high 9.1 percent.

debt ceiling.

business growth.

man Michael Steel said.

ducing regulatory burdens and uncertainty

for businesses at a time of rampant uncer-

The announcement came shortly after a

new government report on private sector

employment showed that businesses essen-

tially added no new jobs last month - and

that the jobless rate remained stuck at a his-

The withdrawal of the proposed regula-

tion marks the latest in a string of retreats by

Obama in the face of Republican opposition.

Last December, he shelved, at least until the

end of 2012, his insistence that Bush-era tax

cuts should no longer apply to the wealthy.

Earlier this year he avoided a government

shutdown by agreeing to Republican de-

mands for budget cuts. And this summer he

acceded to more than a \$1 trillion in spend-

ing reductions, with more to come, as the

price for an agreement to raise the nation's

Boehner, R-Ohio, had muted praise for the

White House, saying that withdrawal of the

smog regulation was a good first step to-

ward removing obstacles that are blocking

it comes to stopping Washington Demo-

crats' agenda of tax hikes, more government

'stimulus' spending, and increased regula-

tions, which are all making it harder to cre-

ate more American jobs," Boehner spokes-

Major industry groups had lobbied hard

for the White House to abandon the smog

"But it is only the tip of the iceberg when

A spokesman for House Speaker John

tainty about an unsteady economy.

Area/State

Weather



National Weather Service Tonight: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms before 10 p.m., then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. Northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Saturday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 78. Breezy, with a north wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Saturday Night: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 7 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. Breezy, with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 73. North wind between 10 and 15 mph

Sunday Night: Clear, with a low around 49.

Labor Day: Sunny, with a high near 79. Monday Night: Clear, with a

low around 57. Tuesday: Sunny, with a high

near 85.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 57.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82.

Wednesday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 57.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82.

Thursday: High, 103; Low 66 None Precip: Thursday Month: None Year: 16.05 inches 16.36 inches Normal: (K-State Experiment Station) Sunrise and Sunset Saturday 7:14 a.m. 8:12 p.m.

Moon: waxing crescent 39 percent 7:13 a.m. 8:11 p.m. Sunday First quarter Moon Monday 7:16 a.m. 8:09 p.m. Moon: waxing gibbous 61 percent Tuesday 7:17 a.m. 8:08 p.m. Moon: waxing gibbous /1 percent Wednesday 7:18 a.m. 8:06 p.m. Moon: waxing gibbous 80 percent (U.S. Naval Observatory) Colby Water Use 2,515,000 gal. Thursday (Colby Public Works)

regulation, and applauded Friday's deci-

President withdraws EPA regulation

"The president's decision is good news for the economy and Americans looking for work. EPA's proposal would have prevented the very job creation that President Obama has identified as his top priority," said Jack Gerard, president and CEO of the American Petroleum Institute.

The withdrawal of the proposed EPA rule comes three days after the White House identified seven such regulations that it said would cost private business at least \$1 billion each. The proposed smog standard was estimated to cost anywhere between \$19 billion and \$90 billion, depending on how strict it would be.

Republican lawmakers have blamed what they see as excessive regulations backed by the Obama administration for some of the country's economic woes, and House Republicans pledged this week to try to block four environmental regulations, including the one on some pollution standards, when they return after Labor Day.

But perhaps more than some of the other regulations under attack, the ground-level ozone standard is most closely associated with public health - something the president said he wouldn't compromise in his regulatory review. Ozone is the main ingredient in smog, which is a powerful lung irritant that occasionally forces cancellation of school recesses, and causes asthma and other lung ailments.

Criticism from environmentalists, a core Obama constituency, was swift following the White House announcement.

"The Obama administration is caving to

big polluters at the expense of protecting the air we breathe," said Gene Karpinski, the president of the League of Conservation Voters. "This is a huge win for corporate polluters and huge loss for public health."

In his statement, the president said that withdrawing the regulation did not reflect a weakening of his commitment to protecting public health and the environment.

"I will continue to stand with the hardworking men and women at the EPA as they strive every day to hold polluters accountable and protect our families from harmful pollution," he said.

The decision mirrors one made by Obama's predecessor, President George W. Bush. EPA scientists had recommended a stricter standard to better protect public health. Bush personally intervened after hearing complaints from electric utilities and other affected industries. His EPA set a standard of 75 parts per billion, stricter than one adopted in 1997, but not as strong as federal scientists said was needed to protect public health.

The EPA under Obama proposed in January 2010 a range for the concentration of ground-level ozone allowed in the air – from 60 parts per billion to 70 parts per billion. That's about equal to a single tennis ball in an Olympic-size swimming pool full of tennis balls.

Jackson, Obama's environmental chief, said at the time that "using the best science to strengthen these standards is a long overdue action that will help millions of Americans breathe easier and live healthier."



Pets available at clinic for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has 4- to 5-year-old tan and white female corgi available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

City will get rid of broken branches

The City of Colby will be picking up tree branches brought down from the storm through today. Stack branches at the curb for city crews to pick up. For information, call Public Works at 460-4420.

Lunch book reviews begin again next week

Booked For Lunch begins again at noon Wednesday at Pioneer Memorial Library. This month, Lon Frahm will speak on "Survival of Rural America: Small Victories and Bitter Harvests," by Richard E. Wood. The event is in cooperation with the Max Pickerell Lecture Series held at Colby Community College. The speaker will begin around 12:15 and continue until 1 p.m. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

Coalition to meet for lunch next week

The Thomas County Coalition will have its monthly meeting at noon Thursday at El Dos de Oros. Coalition members will discuss the community garden, walking trail and other projects. First-time visitors eat free. For information, call Sue Evans at 460-8177 or Jarrod Spencer at 443-2403.

Berean Church offers seminars

Colby Berean Church will be offering a 13-week seminar, "Shepherding A Child's Heart" during the Sunday school hour, 9:30 a.m., beginning Sept. 11. A 10-week Crown Financial Ministries class and a 13-week Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University class will also be offered during evening sessions. For information, call the church office during business hours, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, at 460-2763.

Chronic disease support group to meet

Citizens Medical Center is sponsoring a chronic disease support group from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Monday evenings from Sept. 12 to Oct. 17 at the hospital. Participants will discuss ways to reduce pain, deal with fatigue, handle stress and more. For information or to register, call Courtney McCarty at 460-1237.

National economy sees jobs setback

From "SETBACK," Page 1

percent of the economy. "The stagnation in U.S. payroll employment is an ominous

sign," said Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics. "The broad message is that even if the U.S. economy doesn't start to contract again, any expansion is going to be very, very modest and fall well short of what would be needed to drive the still elevated unemployment rate lower."

The economy needs to add roughly 250,000 jobs a month to rapidly bring down the unemabove 9 percent in all but two months since May 2009.

In August, the private sector added 17,000 jobs, the fewest since February 2010. That compares with 156,000 in July and 75,000 in June.

ed 30,000 jobs last month.

The economy expanded at an annual pace of only 0.7 percent in the first six months of the year. That was the slowest six months of growth since the recession officially ended in June 2009.

In August, consumer confidence fell to its lowest level since April 2009, according to the Conference Board.

Most economists forecast that growth may improve to about a 2 percent annual rate in the July-September quarter. But that's not fast enough to generate many jobs.

The Obama administration ployment rate, which has been has estimated that unemployment will average about 9 percent next year, when President Barack Obama will run for reelection. The rate was 7.8 percent when Obama took office.

The White House Office of Management and Budget projects overall growth of only 1.7 percent this year. Next week, Obama will deliver a rare address to a joint sestion companies, retailers, and sion of Congress to introduce a plan for creating jobs and boosting economic growth.

to speak in Oakley From "OAKLEY," Page 1 her own children were forced break-out sessions must be

Civil rights leader

to attend a school that was pre-registered by their teachfar from their home when a ers by next Friday. Teachers very good school was nearby. can register their students by Henderson, the last remaining plaintiff, died in 2008.

Angela Bates of the Nicodemus Historic Site will present a session on how civil rights differed in rural areas compared to cities like Topeka and Little Rock. She will highlight her own experiences as well as historical events in lunch.

Man lights bee hive on fire after sting

LYNDEN, Wash. (AP) - A Lynden chief Gary Baar tells

northwest Kansas. Students attending

the

emailing their names, grades, and schools to lnollette@ nkesc.org. Teachers from the school districts will supervise their own students for the day, including transportation from the Oakley High School Auditorium to the service center. Students need to bring a sack

Hiring fell across many different sectors. Manufacturers cut 3,000 jobs, its first decline since October 2010. Constructransportation firms also cut workers.

The health care industry add-

Washington state fire chief says a man dumped gasoline on a beehive in a tree in retaliation for a bee sting, then ignited the hive, causing an explosion heard throughout his suburban neighborhood just a few miles south of the Canadian border.

the Bellingham Herald (http:// bit.ly/pBBpg0) that the Sunday night fire caused a large "whoosh," singed the tree and killed the bees but no people were hurt.

Baar says the man's friend had been stung earlier in the day.

Register now for class

Smart Start is taking registrations for the Nurturing Families program, a 12-session program on Tuesdays beginning Sept. 13. The program teaches families how to create stronger bonds. For information, call 465-9103.



(there will be no paper Monday, September 5)

We will reopen for normal business hours Tuesday, September 6th



