



**National Weather Service**  
**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 23. West wind around 10 mph.  
**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 55. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 26. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 58. West wind around 5 mph.  
**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 27.  
**M.L.King Day:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 40.  
**Monday Night:** A 20 percent chance of snow. Partly cloudy, with a low around 16.  
**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 34.  
**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 19.  
**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 48.  
**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 28.  
**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 52.

Thursday: High, 38; Low 10  
Precip: Thursday None  
Month: None  
Year: None  
Normal: 0.42 inches  
(K-State Experiment Station)  
**Sunrise and Sunset**  
Saturday 8:03 a.m. 5:44 p.m.  
Moon: waning, percent  
Sunday 8:03 a.m. 5:45 p.m.  
Moon: waning, 57 percent  
Monday 8:02 a.m. 5:46 p.m.  
Last quarter Moon at 3:09 a.m.  
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

# Obama wants to reorganize

By Ben Feller  
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama took aim today at his government’s own messy bureaucracy, prodding Congress to give him greater power to merge agencies and promising he would start by collapsing six major economic departments into one. Pressing Republicans on one of their own political issues, Obama said it was time for an “effective, lean government.”

Obama wants the type of reorganizational authority last held by a president when Ronald Reagan was in office. Obama’s version would be a so-called consolidation authority allowing him to propose only mergers that promise to save money and shrink government. The deal would help Obama considerably by entitling him to an up-or-down vote from Congress in 90 days.

Still, final say would remain with lawmakers, both on whether to grant Obama this fast-track authority and then in deciding whether to approve any of his specific ideas.

“We can do this better,” Obama declared in an event with business owners at the White House, even presenting slides to help make his case.

“So much of the argument out there all the time is up at 40,000 feet, these abstract arguments about who’s conservative or who’s liberal,” Obama said. “Most Americans – and certainly most small business owners – you guys are just trying to figure out how do we make things work, how do we apply common sense. And that’s what this is about.”

In an election year and a political atmosphere of tighter spending, Obama’s move is about

more than improving a giant bureaucracy. He is attempting to directly counter Republican arguments that he has presided over the kind of government regulation, spending and debt that can undermine the economy – a dominant theme of the emerging presidential campaign.

Republicans have often aligned themselves with smaller government. So politically, Obama is trying to put the onus on Republicans in the House and Senate to show why they would be against the pursuit of leaner government.

From Capitol Hill, a spokesman for Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the top Republican in the Senate, pledged Obama’s plan would get a careful review.

But the spokesman, Don Stewart, also said: “After presiding over one of the largest expansions of government in history, and a year after raising the issue in his last State of the Union, it’s interesting to see the president finally acknowledge that Washington is out of control.”

Obama has an imperative to deliver. He made the promise to come up with a smart reorganization of the government in his last State of the Union speech last January.

At the time, Obama grabbed attention by pointing out the absurdity of government inefficiency. In what he called his favorite example, Obama said: “The Interior Department is in charge of salmon while they’re in fresh water, but the Commerce Department handles them when they’re in saltwater. And I hear it gets even more compli-

cated once they’re smoked.”

The White House said the problem is serious for consumers who turn to their government for help and often do not know where to begin.

Not in decades has the government undergone a sustained reorganization of itself. Presidents have tried from time to time, but each part of the bureaucracy has its own defenders inside and outside the government, which can make merger ideas politically impossible. That’s particularly true because “efficiency” is often another way of saying people will lose their jobs.

Obama hopes to enhance his chances by getting Congress to give him the assurance of a clean, relatively speedy vote on any of his proposals.

There is no clear sign that Obama would get that cooperation. He spent much of 2011 in utter gridlock with Republicans in Congress.

In the meantime, Obama announced that Karen Mills, the administrator of the Small Business Administration, would be elevated to Cabinet-level rank. But her job would essentially disappear if Obama has his way.

If he gets the new fast-track power to propose legislation, Obama’s first project would be to combine six major operations of the government that focus on business and trade.

They are: the Commerce Department’s core business and trade functions; the Small Business Administration; the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative; the Export-Import Bank;

the Overseas Private Investment Corporation; and the Trade and Development Agency. The goal would be one agency designed to help businesses thrive.

The White House says 1,000 to 2,000 jobs would be cut, but the administration would do so through attrition; that is, as people routinely leave their jobs over time.

The administration said the merger would save \$3 billion over 10 years by getting rid of duplicative overhead costs, human resources divisions and programs.

The name and potential secretary of the new agency have not been determined.

The point, the White House says, is not just making the government smaller but better by saving people time and eliminating bureaucratic nightmares. The idea for the consolidated business agency grew out of discussions with hundreds of business leaders and agency heads over the last several months.

Brendan Buck, a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said streamlining government was always a potentially good idea but expressed wariness about whether Obama’s plan would really help business.

“American small businesses are more concerned about this administration’s policies than from which building in Washington they originate,” Buck said. “We hope the president isn’t simply proposing new packaging for the same burdensome approach.”

## Briefly

**Conservations awards coming up on Jan. 23**  
The Thomas County Conservation District’s 68th annual meeting and awards banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23, at the Colby United Methodist Church. Conservation poster winners will be recognized and two farm operators will receive the windbreak and conservation awards. Make reservations by Tuesday by calling Debbie Potter at the district office, 462-7482, extension 1303.

**City manager to speak at Chamber’s lunch**  
City Manager Carolyn Armstrong will give the State of the City address at the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce luncheon at noon Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Chamber members will form a nominating committee to start a search for board members. A smothered-steak lunch will be catered by Virginia Umberger with Sunflower Kitchen Bakery. Reservations are needed by Monday at the Chamber office, 460-3401.

**Free help with taxes offered by retire group**  
Free tax preparation will be available from experts trained by the American Association of Retired Persons’ Tax-Aide program, by appointment only, on Wednesdays from Feb. 1 to April 11 at the Colby Community College library. For an appointment, call Earle Rice at 462-2990.

**Massage students to have clinic Jan. 24**  
Students in the therapeutic massage program at Colby Community College will hold a massage clinic Tuesday, Jan. 24. Cost is \$10 for 30 minutes, \$20 for an hour and \$30 for a 90-minute massage. To make an appointment, call program Director Ceena Owens at 460-5427. Money earned will be used for program supplies and and equipment.

**‘Knights of Columbus plan shooting contest**  
The Colby Knights of Columbus will hold its annual free throw contest at 1 p.m. Sunday in the Colby Grade School gym. The contest is open to boys and girls age 10 to 14 as of Jan. 1. Bring proof of age. Doors open at noon and the contest begins at 1 p.m. Winners advance to the district contest. For information, call Dewey Augustine at 443-1548 or 460-2924.

**Sign up now for food; delivery set for Jan. 28**  
Signup for Prairie Land Food is open until Monday at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. Fourth St., with delivery set for Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Sacred Heart School gym, 1150 W. Sixth St. You may also order by e-mailing linda@parairelandfood.com. For questions, call Gene Griffin, 460-3579.

# Dads will learn skills to help them improve

From “DADS” Page 1

Romine’s fourth year and Spencer’s second in facilitating this class.

“A lot of times, private roles like parenting or marriage is not something we, especially as men, share in much,” Spencer said. “Men generally do not like to be less than anyone in any given situation, so to say that they need to learn something when it comes to parenting can be difficult.”

“This program allows a safe, nonjudgmental environment where dads can ask questions and have peer-to-peer learning, along with formal learning. Dads will learn that (by attending the program) they don’t need to be perfect to be a good dad.... They will learn that the little things in a child’s life will make the child feel important and how being involved and hands-on to cause the child to feel closer to the dad.

“Most importantly, they will learn that they have a group of men who they can lean on, who are not perfect but are also working hard at being good dads.”

Spencer said the two-hour class will take place twice a week for six weeks. The class will fo-

cus on discussion, with material to be read ahead of time that can be discussed and shared.

“It seems like an effort, but it goes by quickly,” he said. “However, to put in a few nights of investment over a few weeks will likely pay off big, so that one can avoid years and years of frustration in being a dad.

“The class is free and (men) can expect some light-hearted discussions along the way. This is a class that is geared to help the participant, rather than impart a particular kind of knowledge. If there is something the participant would like some help with, specifically, we can most likely meet that desire.”

Call Campbell at (785) 460-8177 to register or for information.

From “STATE” Page 1

mitment of its tax dollars to social services is rising – by about 2.5 percent overall, to nearly \$1.6 billion – because the federal government is decreasing its share of payments for states’ Medicaid programs.

Kansas doesn’t have a separate “rainy day” fund, as other states do, and uses its reserves as a cushion for emergencies and against bad economic times.

As for the entire budget, “I didn’t really see anything that was something that’s going to be totally unpalatable,” said Sen. Carolyn McGinn, chairwoman of the budget-writing Ways and Means Committee.

Brownback already has outlined a proposal for overhauling how the state distributes more than \$3.1 billion in aid to its 286 school districts, but the changes wouldn’t take effect until the fiscal year that begins in July 2013. His budget would keep the state’s general aid per pupil at \$3,780, after several years of cuts.

Some educators and Demo-

cratic legislators contend that with the state’s finances improving it ought to reverse some of the cuts.

“To say that all school districts would get no less than what they’ve gotten before doesn’t really answer the question of, what about those districts that need more money?” said Rep. Barbara Ballard, a Lawrence Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee.

Brownback’s proposed budget allocates about \$39 million in tobacco settlement funds to programs such as early childhood education. That’s down 32

percent from the nearly \$58 million in this year’s budget.

The budget assumes only \$40 million in tobacco funds in the next fiscal year, and the administration says it reflects uncertainties about the amount and timing due the state.

But a state advisory group that monitors the spending projected that Kansas will receive \$56 million in tobacco funds during the next fiscal year. And Shannon Cotsoradis, president and chief executive officer of Kansas Action for Children, said the change could hurt thousands of children.

## Old grenade not really a dud

OWENSBORO, Ky. (AP) – A police bomb squad has removed a World War II grenade from a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in western Kentucky after someone brought the device.

Police told the *Messenger-In-*

*quirer* that the grenade was kept outside the post in Owensboro until officers arrived (<http://bit.ly/vz7f5e>). A bomb technician determined it was a live grenade and removed it from the premises.

## ‘Bear spray’ clears a church

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) – Authorities in Alaska say a church congregation in Anchorage evacuated Sunday morning services because of a carbon monoxide scare that turned out to be bear spray someone shot off in the basement.

KTUU reports (<http://bit.ly/>

AzN6Y2) 200 people fled Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church due to the strange smell and irritated throats.

Firefighters ventilated the church with fans. Anchorage police are investigating.



Monday Evening										January 16, 2012	
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	The Bachelor				Castle		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live		
KBSL/CBS	How I Met	2 Broke G	Two Men	Mike	Hawaii Five-0		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late		
KSNN/NBC	Betty White's 90th Birthday			Betty	Rock Center		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late		
KSAS/FOX	Alcatraz				Local						
Cable Channels											
A & E	Hoarders		Hoarders		Intervention			Intervention		Hoarders	
AMC	Die Hard							Die Hard			
ANIM	Finding Bigfoot		Finding Bigfoot		Finding Bigfoot			Finding Bigfoot		Finding Bigfoot	
BRAVO	Real Housewives		Real Housewives/Beverly		Brad World			Watch What Happens: Live			
CMT	Trading Spouses		Trading Spouses		Trading Spouses			Trading Spouses		Trading Spouses	
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360			E. B. OutFront		Piers Morgan Tonight	
COMEDY	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny		Daily	Colbert	South Pk	South Pk
DISC	Gold Rush		First Week In		Mobster	Mobster		First Week In		Mobster	Mobster
DISN	Random	Wizards-Place		ANT Farm	Jessie	Wizards		Phineas	Phineas	Wizards	Wizards
E!	Kourtney and Kim	Fashion Police		Scouted				Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Chelsea
ESPN	College Basketball		College Basketball							SportsCenter	
ESPN2	Wm. Basketball		Australian Open								
FAM	Pretty Little Liars		The Lying Game		Pretty Little Liars			The 700 Club		The Lying Game	
FOOD	Heat See.	Heat See.	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners		Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FX	Armageddon							Armageddon			
HGTV	Love It or List It		House	House	House	House		My House	First	House	House
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	American Pickers		Pawn	Pawn		Cajun Pwn	Cajun Pwn	Pawn	Pawn
LIFE	King's Bag of Bones									King's Bag of Bones	
MTV	Jersey Shore		Jersey Shore		Caged			Caged		Teen Mom 2	
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	70s Show	70s Show	George	G. Lopez		Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SCI	Being Human				Lost Girl			Being Human		Lost Girl	
SPIKE	Kill Switch		Born to Raise Hell					On Deadly Ground			
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy		Conan		Office	Office
TCM	My Brother's Wedding		The Learning Tree							Black Girl	
TLC	Cake Boss:Next		Cake Boss:Next		DC Cupcakes: One Ton			Cake Boss:Next		Cake Boss:Next	
TNT	NBA Basketball					NBA Basketball					
TOON	Regular	MAD	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad		Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Unit
TRAV	The Layover		The Layover		No Reservation			No Reservation		The Layover	
TV LAND	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond		Raymond	King	King	King
USA	NCIS		WWE Monday Night RAW					Indiana Jones			
VH1	Love & Hip Hop		T.I.-Tiny	Love & Hip Hop		T.I.-Tiny		Love & Hip Hop		T.I.-Tiny	Hip Hop
WGN	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		WGN News at Nine			30 Rock	Scrubs	Scrubs	Sunny
Premium Channels											
HBO	Real Time/Bill Maher		Red Riding Hood					The Eagle			
MAX	Do the Right Thing				Jungle Fever						Clockers
SHOW	Homeland		Californ.	Lies	Shameless			Lies	Californ.	Shameless	

**Rawlins County Health Center**

**OPEN HOUSE**

**Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**

**4 - 6 p.m.**

**All Welcome!**

**Guided Tours Available!**

**Come see our new Emergency Room and Patient Wing!**

**707 Grant Street, Atwood, KS 67730 • 785-626-3211**