



Governor comes here to sign bill

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Gov. Sam Brownback will sign a bill amending the Groundwater Management District Act to allow creation of Local Enhanced Management Area to encourage farmers and other water users to work together to conserve water.

The law extends the state's water plan policy to conserve and extend the Ogallala Aquifer, on which much of western Kansas and the High Plains depend for well water.

The signing will be at the Colby Community College farm, 2000 County Road 23, at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The farm is three miles east of Colby on U.S. 24 and one mile north. There is a green directional sign at the turn.

After the signing, Gov. Brownback will go to Goodland to tour the Northwest Kansas Technical College and meet with college leaders and students. Aids said he hopes to meet with one of the

people drawn to rural Kansas by the Rural Opportunity Zones law, which provides tax breaks for people who move to rural counties from out of state.

With the governor will be Dave Barfield, chief engineer of the state Division of Water Resources, and Tracy Streeter, director of the Kansas Water Office. Joining him for the signing will be state Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell, who represents northwest Kansas, and Wayne Bossert, manager, and possibly board members from Groundwater Management District No. 4 based in Colby.

Bossert and the district were instrumental in helping get the bill put together and passed.

The governor's plane should arrive at 12:45 p.m. and he is set to sign the bill at 1:30 p.m. outside the horse barn at the college farm.

Bossert said Monday this law only applies in a groundwater management district. He said it allows people to take a proactive

See "GOVERNOR," Page 2

Firm plans to build \$20 million dairy plant

HUGOTON (AP) — Kansas Dairy Ingredients plans to construct a new production facility in southwestern Kansas, investing \$20 million and creating 60 jobs within two years.

Officials with the company announced their plans today during an event in Hugoton, where the plant will be built. The project will also create about 150 temporary construction jobs.

The plant will process some 1

million pounds of milk per day to produce dairy products when it opens later this year. It will expand to 2.5 million pounds by the end of 2013. Expansion at the plant will allow for cheese production and other dry milk ingredients.

Kansas Dairy Ingredients is based in Missouri but intends to move its business operations to Kansas City, Kansas. State officials said the plant would boost the state's dairy industry.



Look at that now!

Teacher Liz Stover (above, left), Dr. Jeff Morrison of Vision Source and (from left) John Arizemendis, Guy Tubbs, Logan Nolan and Jayden Miller of the morning group at Puddle Duck Preschool posed with silly glasses on Friday at Vision Source. The kids got the glasses in a goody bag and learned about eye care during a tour. Jace Haper (left photo) and teacher Heather Dixon watched an eyeglasses lens being cut to go in a frame.

KATHRYN BALLARD
Colby Free Press

Senator bent by district's shape on new map

By Steve Haynes
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Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer is plenty riled about what the latest redistricting map would do to his district, already the largest in the state.

The district needs to add about 4,000 people, and the map, known as Ad Astra, would grow it from 18 counties to 20 and

a half, fully one-fifth of the 105 Kansas counties.

Worse yet, the district would stretch from being nearly square — today, Rooks County sticks out to the east like a nose — to more of a salamander shape. On the east, it'd stretch into eastern Kansas by adding Phillips and Smith counties, plus Jewell, which the senator points out, actually is in the eastern half of the state.

And to the south, it'd add the north

half of Hamilton, two-thirds of the way to Oklahoma.

"I hope the leadership isn't mad at me," Ostmeyer joked during a talk in Oberlin last Tuesday.

Out of frustration, he said, he drew up his own map.

"I tried to show everyone you could have a good-looking map," he said. "I didn't gerrymander out anyone."

And that's one of the problems with

the current maps, he said; members have tried to draw anyone who presents a threat to run against them out of their districts. That results in some funny shapes, he said.

Sen. Ostmeyer said he isn't sure why his district got so stretched out. To meet redistricting guidelines laid down by the federal courts, he said, all he needs is to add Phillips County to his 18.

"We just need to be within 4 percent of

the ideal," he said.

That's unlike the congressional districts, which the courts hold to "zero tolerance."

The way things are going, he added, western Kansas could lose another district, as it lost the 37th. The 37th went to fast-growing Johnson County, he said, and the 36th could wind up there, too.

See "SENATOR," Page 2



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

What he first thought was a snag turned out to be a 6 pound, 6 ounce saugeye for Landon Reilly, 12, of Colby on Saturday. Landon caught the 26-inch fish on a Rattle Trap Shad lure with a little help from his dad, Derek, while trolling at Antelope Lake in Sheridan County.

Scouts to kick off fund drive

By Christina Beringer
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The Buffalo Bill District of the Boy Scouts of America, Coronado Area Council, will kick off a Friends of Scouting Campaign to raise money for Scout units in a six-county area at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Meadow Lake Golf Club in Colby.

Now more than ever, our communities' youth needs the values of Scouting in their lives, said campaign chairman

Darvin Strutt of Colby. Area Boy Scout leaders are hoping citizens can make a monetary donation to ensure it continues serving our youth.

He said anyone who wants to be a Friend of Scouting, people who feel Scouting is important and want to contribute to its success are invited to attend the event. Strutt said the drive will support Scouts in Cheyenne, Rawlins, Sherman, Thomas, Wallace and Logan counties.

Light refreshments will be served and a representative from the area council

office in Salina will be present to field questions and discuss why donations are needed.

Reservations are not required, but officials say it would help to have a head count. Contact Shannon Williams at the Coronado Area Council at (785) 827-4461 or shannon.williams@scouting.org.

"Scouting's values are more important for our youth than ever before," said Strutt. "With an increase of crime

See "SCOUTS," Page 2

People heeded dire warnings on storm

THURMAN, Iowa (AP)—Concerned that Midwesterners might be complacent after repeated tornado warnings came to nothing, forecasters issued a sternly worded alert, well in advance, that weekend storms could prove fatal.

The warnings caught Larry Hill's attention.

The 72-year-old kept an eye on television weather reports and was bar-

ricaded inside a closet by the time a tornado ripped the roof off his home in this southwest Iowa town.

"We'd been on the lookout for it for three days," he said Sunday morning as he sifted through the remains of his home. "We were as ready as we could have been."

That twister was one of dozens that strafed the region on Saturday and Sun-

day. The National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., which specializes in tornado forecasting, had warned more than 24 hours ahead of a possible "high-end,"

See "PEOPLE," Page 2

