

Weather



National Weather Service
Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 44. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 70. Northeast wind around 10 mph becoming east in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 43. Southeast wind around 10 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 73. Breezy, with a south wind 10 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 49.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 80.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56.

Wednesday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 76.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Thursday: High, 84; Low 41

Precip: Thursday None

Month: 0.61 inches

Year: 10.78 inches

Normal: 17.78 inches

(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset

Saturday 7:32 a.m. 7:40 p.m.

First quarter moon at 2:41 p.m.

Sunday 7:33 a.m. 7:39 p.m.

Moon: waxing, 60 percent

Monday 7:34 a.m. 7:37 p.m.

Moon: waxing, 70 percent

(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Big Brothers Big Sisters plan event

From "EVENT," Page 1

"My goal is to find some Bigs who want to get matched with a Little," she said, "and to talk to people who are interested or curious about the program.

"The Bigs program helps kids realize their true potential. Many of the kids in the program are considered at-risk or come from a single-parent home and need a little stability in their life. By being matched with an adult mentor called a Big, they are able to form a fun, healthy relationship that gives such a positive influence on their life as well as the Bigs.

"Many of the Littles who are now grown have gone on to college and say they've achieved a higher level of success than they ever thought, just because of the little things

they were able to experience with their Big."

Romine explained that being a Big doesn't take a lot of time or money. Just hanging out with a Little once a week and talking to them is a big help. Bigs can do anything from shooting hoops after school and helping with homework, to taking them out to eat or even taking their Little on a fishing trip.

She said there are many ways for people to get involved to make a difference in a kid's life.

"You can be a Big Brother or Big Sister," she said. "You can be a Big Couple or a Big Family. Plus, we are also starting the Bigs in School program. We like to match boys with boys and girls with girls, or a Little can be matched to a couple or a family."

Romine said her Littles can be boys or girls from age 6 to 18, however, right now she has six boys 6 to 13 waiting for a match.

"Our youngest boy is 6 and he's very outgoing," said Romine. "He loves to be outdoors and likes learning about farm stuff. And, he is so helpful. He really just enjoys helping people do things."

Romine said she hopes people will come to the Awareness Day to learn about the program and become a Big mentor. She and program board members will be there to talk to people and answer questions.

To become a Big and to learn about other ways to get involved, contact Romine at (785) 460-9125 or oromine@kansasbigs.org, or go to www.kansasbigs.org.

Kansas labor secretary abruptly fired

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback abruptly replaced his labor secretary Thursday, a week after his administration touted her efforts to streamline her department and had her touring the state with other high-ranking officials to promote his economic policies.

Former Secretary Karen Brownlee said the Republican governor removed her from the top job at the Department of Labor and she suggested they disagreed over how well the agency was running. She has touted her efforts to cut administrative costs and staff - saying they haven't hurt services - but Democrats and union organizations have seen her as anti-labor.

Brownback's office announced Brownlee's departure in a short statement without giving a reason and said Rep. Lana Gordon of Topeka would serve as interim secretary. The statement did not thank Brownlee for her service or highlight accomplishments, something common when even controversial appointees leave voluntarily.

Brownlee told The Associated Press her departure wasn't voluntary and that she didn't sign a resignation letter. She said Caleb Stegall, the governor's chief counsel, told her she was expected to step down.

"I think the governor and I measure performance in different ways," Brownlee said. "It's hard to understand."

Brownback spokeswoman Sherriene Jones-Sontag declined to discuss the reasons for Brownlee's departure, adding, "It's a personnel matter."

The Department of Labor's most visible jobs are determining when out-of-work Kansans are eligible for unemployment benefits, distributing those benefits to them and ensuring that they are actively seeking new jobs. The agency also releases monthly reports on unemployment and the state's labor market, and settles disputes between injured workers and employers over medical care and other benefits.

Brownback and Brownlee are both conservative Republicans, and she had served in his administration since he became governor in January 2011. Even last week, the administration issued a statement praising Brownlee's management of her department and quoting her as saying that agencies could improve services without more money.

The statement highlighted a seven-city tour with Brownback's secretaries of revenue and commerce, in part to counter criticism of massive in-

come tax cuts enacted this year. Brownback and other supporters believe the cuts will stimulate the economy, but critics believe they'll produce big budget shortfalls.

Since mid-2011, the Department of Labor has cut its overall staffing nearly 20 percent, shedding almost 150 positions. More than half were outside the civil service system.

The department's total operating budget for the current fiscal year, at \$492 million, is less than half of what it was two years ago - though much of that reflects a decline in benefits.

Brownlee also has touted the department's work to reduce a backlog of several thousand appeals of decisions about whether workers were entitled to unemployment decisions.

"I was very, very pleased with what we were able to accomplish," she said. "The governor would have to comment on why he felt it was best that I not continue."

Labor groups and other Brownlee critics contend the staffing cuts hindered the department's handling of unemploy-

ment issues and even described her as "anti-worker."

"It's safe to say this should be seen as a welcome move, as far as labor is concerned," said Andy Sanchez, a lobbyist for the Kansas AFL-CIO.

But even Sanchez and other Brownlee critics were surprised Thursday night by her departure.

The governor's statement came hours after Brownlee announced that she had appointed Olathe Mayor Michael Copeland to serve as a deputy secretary, starting in October, to replace retiring Deputy Secretary Kathy Sparks.

"I assumed the way she was running that agency was the directive that she had," said State Democratic Party Chairwoman Joan Wagnon. "Maybe that wasn't the case."

Brownlee, 57, had served in the Senate for 14 years when Brownback, then the incoming governor, named her to be his labor secretary. First elected to the Senate in 1996, she was chairwoman of its Commerce Committee before her appointment to the Cabinet.

City reached peak water use in June

From "WATER," Page 1

said. "Gardens are about done and lawns will start to go dormant, and of course, the temperature will start to go down."

He added that he was sure that the city would not over-pump its water right.

Wayne Bossert, manager for Groundwater Management District No. 4 in Colby, said that the city's water rights allow it to pump 2,183.11 acre feet, or

711,310,000 gallons, per year. Statistics show that the city used 529 million gallons last year, and has used about 516 million gallons so far this year.

While users that over-pump a water right can get a warning letter or be fined by the state, Bossert said, he feels the city keeps close track of its rights, and even changed one slightly several years ago to avoid over-pumping.

Briefly

State officials to explain health plans here

State officials will be in Colby for a meeting to explain KanCare on Monday, one of eight to be held across the state to provide details about the transition from the old Medicaid program and HealthWave. The session for clients will begin at 6 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College. For information, call Miranda Steele at (785) 296-5795.

Commodities to be given out here Monday

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center in Fike Park. Distribution is first come, first-served, but you may send a signed permission slip with another person. Bring a sack or box. For questions, call the office at 462-6744.

Flu clinic will be offered at 4-H Building Tuesday

Flu shots will be given for anyone who wants one from 2 to 5:45 p.m. Tuesday in the Thomas County 4-H Building on Olive Street. Cost is \$25; bring cash, a check or a copy of your insurance card. Everyone will need to complete and print an online consent form, found at thomascountysks.com. Help on that will be available during the clinic. For information, call the flu line at 460-4599 or Angie Gaede at 460-4596.

City to hold welcome reception for manager

The City of Colby will hold a welcome reception for the new city manager, Tyson McGreer, from 3 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Law Enforcement Training Center, 360 N. Franklin. For information, call the city office at 460-4410.

Grammy nominated artist coming to Oakley

Dove Award winner Matthew West and his Into the Light Tour will appear at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Oakley High School Auditorium. Joining him will be Mikeschair, Lindsay McCaul and Everfound. For details, go to www.kgcr.org or call David Kumer or James Claassen at KGCR Radio, (785) 694-2877.

Wesleyan Church marks 25 years in its building

The Colby Wesleyan Church will celebrate 25 years in its current building with a Homecoming Celebration at 10 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 7. Everyone who has ever attended the church is invited to come. Former pastor (1971-1992) Rich McLean's family (Helen, Melody and Mark) plan to attend. Former pastor (1992-2000) Rob Stewart and his wife Barb, will attend and Pastor Stewart will give the morning message. A fellowship dinner will follow service. For information, call Joy Rothfuss at 462-8391.

Modern Woodmen to provide concessions

The Colby Chapter of Modern Woodmen has arranged for the national organization to match concession stand profits next week to benefit Colby High School football.

The group will match money earned from the concessions from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. next Friday during the varsity football game against Holcomb at Dennen Field.

Concessions prices, including hamburgers and hot dogs, will be posted. All proceeds from this project will be matched by the home office of the Modern Woodmen, up to \$2,000.

The money will go to the football team for the Dennen Field project which involves building new locker rooms for the field.

For information, call Shawn Carney, activities coordinator for the group, at (785) 443-2442.

College to show documentary film

From "COLLEGE," Page 1

ity, looking for a copy of the movie, but was told that generally only Native Americans have access to it.

"They acted a little surprised," he said. "They were really interested in why we want to show it."

In a proposal to the charity, Hale said, he wrote that he works for a rural community college with a lot of minority runners on the cross country team.

"I think kids in general like to watch themselves, watch their peers," he said of the high school athletes invited to see the movie.

He said he thinks this is one of the few times that the movie will be seen by the general public outside of film festivals.

"It's the classic story of struggle," he said. "It also brings awareness of what's

going on on the reservation. There are a lot of levels, the personal athletic struggle, the personal struggle of the characters."

Reservation life is characterized in the documentary by poor roads and utilities, substandard housing and education, problems with addiction and the gradual loss of the Indian culture. On the other hand, endurance running is seen as a key spiritual element of the Navajo culture, a means by which people can demonstrate strength and resilience.

"Those who attend," Hale said, "will be astounded by the socioeconomic and psychological obstacles these athletes overcome in hopes of using running to avoid the pitfalls of reservation life and the opportunities an athletic scholarship can offer."

For information, contact Hale at (888) 634-9350 or ryan.hale@colbycc.edu.

Former Colby College student chosen for prestigious scholarship

Raymond Velazquez, a former student at Colby Community College, is one of 10 students to receive Phi Theta Kappa's 2012 Hites Transfer Scholarship, at \$7,500, the society's largest.

The Hites program, made possible by the Hites Family Community College Scholarship Foundation and the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, recognizes outstanding academic achievement by Phi Theta Kappa members.

Judges scored more than 2,300 applications from graduating associate degree students worldwide for academic rigor, engagement and leadership. Each winner will receive a medallion during the 2013 annual convention.

Velazquez, a San Antonio, Texas, native, is the first of his family to attend college. While excelling in the classroom at Colby, he was a member of the Trojan cross country and track squads. He was named as a member of the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference All-Academic Team. He now attends Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. "It is powerful to see the difference a Colby

College education can play in the lives of our students," said college President Dr. Steve Vacik. "Raymond was an outstanding student-athlete who demonstrated that with hard work and determination, the Ivy League - or any destination - is within reach."

The scholarship foundation was established by Robert Hites, an executive with Ralston-Purina in St. Louis who, after his retirement, fulfilled a lifelong dream and became an instructor at St. Louis Community College.

Phi Theta Kappa, headquartered in Jackson, Miss., is the largest honor society in American higher education with 1,275 chapters on two-year campuses in all 50 states, Canada, Germany, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands, the United Arab Emirates and U.S. territorial possessions. More than 2.5 million students have been inducted since its founding in 1918, about 125,000 a year.

LOCAL TV Listings. Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS. Monday Evening September 24, 2012. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for various channels and programs.