

Weather
Corner

National Weather Service
Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 56. East wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Sunday Night: Partly cloudy and breezy, with low around 59.
Labor Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 88.
Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.
Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, high near 89.
Tuesday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Wednesday: High, 76; Low 55
Thursday: High, 86; Low 58
Precip: Wed. 0.00 inches
Thursday 0.00 inches
Month: 0.00 inches
Year: 20.53 inches
Normal: 17.71 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Saturday 7:16 a.m. 8:08 p.m.
Sunday 7:17 a.m. 8:07 p.m.
Monday 7:18 a.m. 8:05 p.m.
Tuesday 7:19 a.m. 8:04 p.m.
Wednesday 7:20 a.m. 8:02 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

SR-71 pilot to visit museum

Visitors to the Cosmosphere are greeted by an SR-71 “Blackbird” hanging overhead in the lobby. Saturday and Sunday, former SR-71 pilot, “Buz” Carpenter will be at the Cosmosphere to talk about the famous plane. Carpenter flew the Blackbird now housed at the Cosmosphere.

At 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Carpenter will offer a presentation that’s free and open to the public, during which he will discuss the Blackbird and his experiences as a pilot. After Sunday’s presentation at the Cosmosphere, Carpenter will talk with people about the plane and its features.

Carpenter flew Blackbirds as an aircraft commander and later as an instructor pilot, with over 60 operational missions. He also flew in the C-141, RF-4C, and T-38 planes, flying 150 combat hours in Vietnam. He worked in the Pentagon and served as Wing commander at Ramstein Air Base in German during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

He retired as a Colonel after serving as the 2nd Air Force Vice Commander, responsible for all the USAF Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance flying assets. He is currently a docent for the National Air and Space Museum.

Only 32 Blackbirds were ever made, and they were in service from 1964-1998. None of the planes were lost due to enemy fire, though 12 were destroyed in accidents. The plane was designed to be one of the first planes not detectable by radar. Unfortunately, radar technology outpaced that particular design feature.

The great defensive ability of the plane was its high speed and altitude. Standard evasive action was just to accelerate, which made it almost invulnerable to the attack technologies of the time. The top speed of the plane was mach 3.3 (2,200 miles/hour or 26 miles/minute). In 1990, during a speed test, an SR-71 flew from LA to Dulles Airport in 64 minutes. They flew faster than a bullet from a standard 30.06 hunting rifle.

The Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing patrons’ knowledge of space exploration. For information, go to www.cosmo.org.

Drive-by digging

MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Jeff Jay and Fred Britt with S&T Communications removed the cover on a fiber-optic vault on Fifth Street on Thursday morning. Jay said truck traffic was crushing the concrete cover and it needed to be replaced.

School staff begins program review

From “SCHOOL,” Page 1

“Teachers are a big part of this process,” she said. “The whole staff works on this.”

After the staff decides on what subjects to focus on, Harrison said, they examine how other schools have tackled similar issues. They use successful programs to develop new procedures to try and boost student performance. The district has teacher work days planned in September, October and November for this purpose.

They will also look at what new procedures that were developed during the last cycle worked, which to keep and which to forget. During the last cycle, Harrison said, several successful procedures were developed, including cooperative learning, a more intensive version of group projects that teaches social skills and good teamwork habits. Another is “thinking maps,” which teaches students how to decide what solution will be best for a problem.

“You don’t just drop everything from the last cycle,” the superintendent said.

Successful techniques can be implemented for the whole district, one building or even one classroom.

All of it has to be determined by Jan. 12 so the district can begin deciding what kind of staff training will be needed. The staff will need to decide if outside experts will be needed and how ideas that have worked in other schools can be adapted here. Harrison said they also have to decide when to implement each new idea.

“You can’t change everything all at once,” she said.

After that, Harrison said, the district will decide how to keep track of the new procedures so they can know whether or not they are working. This will take place throughout each year of the cycle as the district monitors how its students are doing.

The improvement program will take nearly a year to develop and implement, Harrison said. The district will also be going through AdvanCED’s accreditation progress report at the same time.

Former political rivals to team up for campaign

From “BROWNBACK,” Page 1

himself,” Johnston said. “No matter how many endorsements he gets, Kansas voters won’t forget his extreme record.”

Thornburgh’s endorsement is the second from a prominent, moderate Republican in the past two weeks for Brownback. Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger gave her support to Brownback’s campaign on Aug. 28. Praeger is seeking her third term as insurance commissioner after serving in the Kansas Senate.

Thornburgh said Republicans are uniting as a party for the first time in more than 30 years. He said the support Brownback enjoys is something few have received, even the popular moderate Gov. Bill Graves, who was challenged by conservatives in 1998 as he sought a second term.

“And he was the incumbent,” Thornburgh said.

Brownback and Thornburgh said economic, not social issues, would be the focus heading into 2010, noting that the state’s unemployment rate is approaching historic levels.

Unemployment in Kansas jumped to 7.7 percent in July, the seventh consecutive month in which the total number of non-farm jobs was lower than during the previous year.

“We must grow to get jobs for our citizens in this state,” Brownback said.

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