

Weather



National Weather Service

Tonight: A slight chance of snow before 1 a.m. Cloudy during the early evening, then gradual clearing, with a low around 25. North wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 50. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 25. West wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 58. West wind around 5 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 32.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 62.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 38.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 60.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 36.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 66.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 40.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 67.

Monday: High, 81; Low 39

Tuesday: High, 66; Low 35

Precip: Monday None

Tuesday 0.06 inches

Month: 2.78 inches

Year: 19.25 inches

Normal: 17.78 inches

(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset

Thursday 8:07 a.m. 6:49 p.m.

Moon: waxing, 1 percent

(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Area Hospice to hold auction

From "HOSPICE," Page 1

"We provide care for about 15 people in the county per year," said Executive Director Sandy Kuhlman. "Hospice is for people who are facing the end of their life. We ease their journey and are not about prolonging death, but help with issues that are important to the patient and the family during the most vulnerable time in a person's life."

Through a family-centered approach that includes a team of doctors, nurses, social workers, pastors and trained volunteers, Hospice focuses on needs of their patients

to keep the person as pain-free as possible. Kuhlman said that Hospice services are covered under most insurance plans and care is never refused based on inability to pay. She said the non-profit organization is funded through insurance reimbursement, donations and is dependent on fund raisers such as the annual Hospice auction in Colby to provide care.

"November is also National Hospice and Palliative Care Month," explained Kuhlman. "This year our focus is to partner with the veteran's administration in an effort to provide care and support. Many people do

not know that right now, one in four Americans dying is a veteran."

A part-time office is located at 438 N. Franklin in Colby. Kuhlman said it is staffed intermittently and is available by appointment by calling (785) 462-6710 or by contacting her at the main office in Phillipsburg at (800) 315-5122 or hospice@ruraltel.net.

Contact Downing or Soehner for information about making a donation to Thomas County services, contributing to the auction or purchasing a ticket for the Saturday, Nov. 5, City of Lights event.

Colby a winner in energy challenge

From "WINNER," Page 1

Fittingly, the last major event of the challenge was also a pancake breakfast, this time with the Colby Fire Department doing the cooking. That event drew more than 1,000 people.

The committee was given a \$25,000 grant, which it used to put on the events and buy materials to give away. Armstrong said the committee bought 3,000 compact fluorescent bulbs, 1,800 power

strips and 100 programmable thermostats. The committee also got a \$1,000 donation from Walmart and an \$800 donation from the Climate and Energy Project.

"We spent every dime of it," Armstrong said.

Midwest Energy donated outlet insulation kits, which reduce heat loss around electric outlets. The kits were given away at the Home and Garden Show and various other events.

Northern lights seen across Kentucky

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) - Several reports of strange but beautiful lights across Kentucky ended up having a colorful explanation - the Aurora Borealis.

WKYT-TV says it received calls and e-mails from several residents in central Kentucky counties including Woodford,

Garrard and Madison about lights in the sky.

The station's chief meteorologist, T.G. Shuck, said it's rare that the "northern lights" can be seen this far south, but that conditions were right Monday night (http://bit.ly/tpMtcO).

Secretary to take private sector job

From "SECRETARY," Page 1

"I would very much have liked to have been on the other end of the shovel when it was time to break ground for the South Lawrence Trafficway," she said. "I would like to be holding a pair of scissors when it's time to clip the ribbon at the new intermodal facility."

Brownback spokeswoman Sherriene Jones-Sontag said the governor has no time table for naming a permanent replacement. The secretary manages one of the state's largest agencies, with a current budget of \$1.4 billion and 2,900 employees.

Brownback praised Miller's service to the state, which has included 20 years with the Department of Transportation and a hand in the development of the state's previous transportation plans, in 1989 and 1999. Miller said she and Brownback had no policy disagreements.

Her career at KDOT started as a special assistant to the secretary in 1984. She left the agency in 1997 to work for an architectural and engineering firm and returned in 2003 as secretary un-

der Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. She stayed on to work for Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson when Sebelius resigned to become U.S. health and human services secretary.

Miller enjoyed widespread respect among legislators of both parties. State Sen. Kelly Kuttala, of Kansas City, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Transportation Committee, described Miller in a Facebook posting as "absolutely phenomenal" as secretary.

And Julie Lorenz, chief executive of Economic Lifelines, a group that lobbied for all three transportation programs, said Miller worked collaboratively with communities and groups, and "we've all benefited from her approach."

Miller said she thought one of her major accomplishments as secretary was improving the department's collaboration with communities.

"When I first came to this job, whether it was fair or not, KDOT had a reputation as being a rigid organization that was very quick to say no," she said. "I think KDOT really is a very different organization today."

Governor delays rollout of Medicaid overhaul program

By John Hanna

The Associated Press

TOPEKA - Gov. Sam Brownback's administration is delaying the release of its plan for overhauling the Medicaid program in Kansas until next month so that it has the most current state revenue projections possible, his spokeswoman said Tuesday.

State officials, legislative researchers and university economists are scheduled to meet Nov. 4 to draft a new fiscal forecast that will project tax collections and other revenues through June 2013. The state's current projections go only through June 2012, and Brownback's spokeswoman Sherriene Jones-Sontag noted that the governor and legislators will use the new

numbers in budgeting next year.

Administration officials had said they expected to release a plan by the end of this month for overhauling Medicaid, which covers medical services for the needy, with total annual spending in Kansas approaching \$2.8 billion. Brownback has said his goal is to decrease costs while improving services.

Any proposed changes are likely to have budget implications, and Jones-Sontag said administration officials decided they didn't want to make a plan public before they had up-to-date revenue projections.

"It would be - what is that phrase? - an exercise in futility," Jones-Sontag told The Associated Press. "The numbers wouldn't be accurate."

Brownback also is working on a plan to revise the state's tax code, with an eye toward reducing or eliminating state individual and corporate income taxes. That plan also was supposed to be released by the end of October, but the administration has pushed back an announcement until after the new fiscal forecast as well.

The administration's effort to draft a Medicaid plan is led by Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, a surgeon and former state senator. Critics have worried Brownback's administration will try to make it tougher for Kansans to qualify for Medicaid coverage or reduce the payments to doctors, clinics and hospitals that provide services to program participants.

Colyer has said any payment reduction to health care providers is "a last resort"

and it wouldn't be close to the temporary 10 percent reduction in payments ordered by Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson in 2009 to ease the state's budget problems. Colyer also has said the plan won't narrow eligibility requirements to reduce the number of people covered.

The state's Medicaid program covered about 332,000 people as of September, almost 16 percent more than in September 2010, and the program's costs have increased 48 percent during the past eight years, stressing the state's budget. The federal government, which oversees states' programs and typically provides about 60 percent of the funds, would have to approve some major changes.

LOCAL TV Listings sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Thursday Evening October 27, 2011

Table with 10 columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSAS/FOX, Cable Channels.

Table with 10 columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for A & E, AMC, ANIM, BRAVO, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISC, DISN, E!, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FOOD, FX, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, MTV, NICK, SCI, SPIKE, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TOON, TRAV, TV LAND, USA, VH1, WGN, Premium Channels, HBO, MAX, SHOW.



Friday Evening October 28, 2011

Table with 10 columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSAS/FOX, Cable Channels.

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American Profile: We Celebrate Hometown Life. Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper. Table with 10 columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for HIST, LIFE, MTV, NICK, SCI, SPIKE, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TOON, TRAV, TV LAND, USA, VH1, WGN, Premium Channels, HBO, MAX, SHOW.