### Weather Corner



Today: Sunny. Highs in the upper 70s. North winds around 10

Tonight: Increasing clouds. Lows in the lower 40s. East winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light.

Thursday: Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny. Highs around 80. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows around 50. Saturday. Saturday Night:

Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. Lows in the lower 50s. Sunday: Partly sunny with a 20

percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s. Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly

Monday to Tuesday: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. Lows in the mid 40s.

cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.

## McCain pushes for bailout bill

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (AP) Republican presidential candidate John McCain said today the resurrected financial bailout bill isn't perfect but warned that the nation's financial crisis will become a full-fledged disaster if the

In an economic speech today at the Truman Library and Museum, McCain said the original proposal that failed in the House was flawed because it did not contain taxpayer protections, limitations losses and higher unemployment on executive compensation and through the end of 2008, but it sufficient protections for people's could vary significantly across the bank accounts.

"I am pleased that these are being added to improve the original bill," he said.

If the revised version, up for a vote in the Senate later today, were to fail, students won't be able to get college loans and families will have trouble buying new homes, he said. Car sales will take a hit and businesses will have difficulty paying employees and securing credit for operations, he said.

"If we fail to act, the gears of our economy will grind to a halt," McCain said.

Washington to vote on the bill, which adds substantial tax cuts when it reaches the House.

The modest changes include an increase on Federal Deposit economy to be as weak as survey Insurance Corp. caps for bank accounts from a limit of \$100,000 to \$250,000.

that McCain and rival Democrat Barack Obama both called for on tion," Goss said. Tuesday.

# More troops needed in Afghanistan?

Afghanistan said today that he needs more troops and other aid "as quickly as possible" in a counworse before it gets better.

Gen. David McKiernan said it will take more than adding troops to stabilize Afghanistan - including efforts to strengthen the Afghan government, improve the economy and build its military and police forces.

Speaking to Pentagon reporters, the head of NATO forces in Afghanistan said there has been police. a significant increase in foreign

top U.S. military commander in ing Pakistan this year - including Chechens, Uzbeks, Saudis and Europeans. And he said he needs the more than 10,000 additional terinsurgency battle that could get forces he has requested, in part, to increase his military campaigns in the south and east where violence have been. has escalated.

> "The additional military capabilities that have been asked for are needed as quickly as possible," he said, adding that he is hoping to get units that will be able to both fight the insurgents and serve as trainers for the Afghan Army and

McKiernan, who is scheduled

The import index also fell, to

The other components of Sep-

• new orders at 46.6, down from

• production at 51.5, down from

• inventories at 52.3, down from

• and delivery lead time at 54.3,

The Creighton Economic Fore-

The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing

Management Association, began

to survey its membership in 1931

to gauge business conditions. The Creighton Economic Forecasting

as the national survey.

casting Group has conducted the monthly survey since 1994.

down from August's 56.8.

43.8 in September from August's

tember's overall index were:

August's 48.9;

WASHINGTON (AP) - The fighters coming in from neighbor- to meet with President Bush late border," said McKiernan. If it's have died in Afghanistan already today, said he was encouraged by recent Pakistani military operations against insurgents waging cross-border attacks into Afghanistan. But he also said that it is too soon to tell how effective they

He also endorsed the recent suggestion by Afghan Defense Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak to try to create a joint force of Afghan, Pakistani and U.S. forces to secure what is a porous, mountainous, ungoverned border region.

"I think in the future I would combined patrolling along that eral years and more U.S. soldiers ers have increased in 2008.

believes the Pakistanis would go along with the plan.

"There are mutual border security concerns that both the Afghans and the Pakistanis have," he said. "So the more we can work together to approach those concerns, the better off we all are."

Officials have said that violence in Afghanistan is up about 30 percent this year compared with 2007. The Taliban and associated militant groups like the terrorist network al-Qaida have steadily certainly support the idea of stepped up attacks in the last sev-

handled the right way, he said he this year than in any year since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

"We're in a very tough fight," McKiernan said. "The idea that it might get worse before it gets bet-

ter is certainly a possibility." Defense Secretary Robert Gates said last week that he may be able to send thousands more combat troops to Afghanistan starting next spring.

The general's assessment coincides with a fresh report on the situation by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who expressed dismay that attacks against aid work-

# Prices, job losses hurt area economy

OMAHA (AP) — Inflation and August's 54.3. job losses are weighing on the economy in nine Midwest and Plains states, according to a new survey of business executives released today.

The report also suggested the region's economy won't be growing in the coming months. The overall economic index for the 53.0; region fell to 49.6 in September from August's 51.4.

Any score below 50 on the index, which ranges between 0 and 100, indicates a contracting economy over the next three to six months.

Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss said business leaders remain pessimistic about their prospects because of problems in the national economy, inflation and job losses.

"There is no way that this part Group uses the same methodology of the country can continue to avoid the fallout from the national housing downturn and related mortgage issues," said Goss, who oversees the survey. "Banks in this part of the country, while not engaging in the reckless activity seen elsewhere in the country, will bear some of the costs in the months ahead."

The report covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Goss said he expects more job region. The employment index slipped to a weak 47 in September from 47.5 in August and 41.4 in July.

The prices-paid index, which tracks the cost of raw materials and supplies, decreased in September but still remained high at 84. That was slightly lower than August's 86.7 and July's record high of 93.9.

Goss said declines in commodity prices helped reduce the pricespaid index, but inflation continues to be a problem in the region.

The supply managers and busi-McCain planned to return to ness leaders surveyed are not optimistic about the economy. The confidence index plummeted to meant to appeal to Republicans 38.4 in September from August's

"While I don't expect the participants do, it is clear that we are entering a period of unhealthy economic growth, combined with The FDIC change was a move job losses and elevated inflation clearly not a good combina-

> After increasing for seven months, the export orders index slipped to 50.6 in September from

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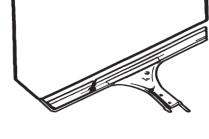
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