

Weather Corner



National Weather Service Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. South wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. North wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 1 a.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 38. East wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday: Patchy fog before 1 p.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 55. Northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33.

Monday: High, 58; Low 19
Tuesday: High, 61; Low 26
Precip: Monday None
Tuesday None
Month: 0.44 inches
Year: 0.87 inches
Normal: 2.11 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Thursday 7:53 a.m. 7:53 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

City council awards contract for Willow intersection project

From "WILLOW," Page 1

Councilman Omar Weber said he would like to see a more exact quote and the council tabled the issue.

• Signed off on an agreement to place the county's 800 megahertz radio repeater on the city tower on Adams Street. The repeater is a backup for radio towers at Edson and Halford.

• Approved an agreement with the county for a backup paging system for the ambulance service. Armstrong said the city has always provided a backup pager, but felt there should be an agreement that spells it out. City Attorney John Gatz drew up the language and it had already been approved by the commissioners.

• Decided not to solicit bids for floor covering and bleachers at the Community Building. Councilman Dave Voss said he thought the water coming out of the basketball court through the west door was a more immediate problem.

• Authorized Armstrong to sign a hosted software and service agreement with the Active Network for software at the new pool. Armstrong said the city has looked at several types of software from Vermont Systems and Gateway, but the Active Network's was the best choice. Technology Director Mike Albers said the software is easier to use, and can do things like make instant reports on how many people are in the pool at any time.

Committee chairman not giving up on tough immigration reform bill

From "BILL," Page 1

Leawood Republican, has been critical of the measure. She told The Kansas City Star that the bill could still resurface, but that it needs to be more narrowly written.

"I think there's serious constitutional problems with it," Colloton said. "I absolutely think that the police stopping people on reasonable suspicion is an invitation to racial profiling."

Rep. John Ruben, a Shawnee

Republican, tried to amend the bill so it would require police to have "probable cause" to run a background check, but he failed to muster enough support to move the bill along, the newspaper reported.

Rubin also wanted to exclude traffic stops and city ordinance violations as instances when police would have to check immigration status.

"I don't think local law enforcement should even be involved in those situations. I think it's bad

public policy," Ruben said.

Rubin said he also has reservations about provisions requiring businesses to pay damages - in addition to not being able to do business with the state - if they violated the law.

Forensics qualifier here this weekend

From "SPEECH," Page 1

said. Open only to freshmen and sophomores.

• Dramatic interpretation, an acting event for one person that features both serious and humorous pieces.

• Duo interpretation, similar to Duet Acting, but perhaps more challenging, because students are not allowed to directly look at each other or touch each other while delivering the piece. These rules make for some creative acting.

• Extemporaneous speaking, including both domestic and international topics.

• Oral interpretation of literature, which combines delivery of both prose and poetry. One round, the student presents a prose selection, and then the next round, he or she presents a poetry selection.

• Lincoln/Douglas debate, which focuses on a value or ethical choice. The topic students

will debate for this tournament will be "Resolved: The United States Military is justified in using private military firms abroad to pursue its military objectives."

The tournament is open to the public and people may come and watch competitors perform, Rundel said. On Friday, round one of the debate will be at 2:30 p.m.; round one of speech and interpretation events at 3:30 p.m.; round two of the speeches at 5 p.m., and round two of the debate at 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday, round three of the debate will be at 8 a.m.; round three of the speeches at 9 a.m.; round four of the debate at 10:45 a.m.; and round four of the speeches at 11:45 a.m.

The debate quarter finals will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday; speech and interpretation semi-finals at 2:30 p.m.; debate semi-finals at 4 p.m.; and speech finals at 5 p.m.

Officials still searching for thousands after earthquake, tsunami in Japan

By Jay Alabaster

The Associated Press

NATORI, Japan - Line after line, a list on the wall of city hall reveals the dead. Some are named. Others are identified only by a short description.

Female. About 50. Peanuts in left chest pocket. Large mole. Seiko watch.

Male. 70-80 years old. Wearing an apron that says "Rentacom."

One set catches the eye of Hideki Kano, a man who appears to be in his 30s.

"I think that's my mom!" he says. He rushes out into the snow, headed for a makeshift morgue.

The list in Natori, and others along Japan's northeast coast, will only get longer.

Five days after the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami, the official death toll is more than 4,300. More than 8,000 people are still missing, and hundreds of national and international rescue teams are looking for them.

In the industrial town of Kamaiishi, 70 British firefighters in bright orange uniforms clamber over piles of upturned cars to search a narrow row of pulverized homes. They wear personal radiation detectors amid fears of leaks from damaged nuclear plants far to the south.

One woman's body is found wedged beneath a refrigerator in a home pushed onto its side.

"Today and tomorrow there is still hope that we will find survivors," says Pete Stevenson, head of the British rescue crews.

Those seeking loved ones have posted hopeful notes in temporary shelters and other public places. They cover the front windows of Natori City Hall, blocking the view inside:

"I'm looking for an old man, 75 years old, please call if you find him."

"Kento Shibayama is in the health center in front of the public gym."

"To Miyuki Nakayama: Everyone in your family is OK! We can't use our mobile phones, so you can't call us, but we're all here. If you can come home, please come! We're praying for you."

City officials have posted a list of 5,000 people staying at shelters. Yu Sato, 28, snapped photos of the names.

In Otsuchi town, Reiko Miura conducts her own search.

She's looking for a 50-year-old nephew who couldn't flee the tsunami because of a work injury that had physically disabled him. His mother - Miura's sister - asked her to look for her son.

But for the 68-year-old woman, it is a struggle just to recognize the neighborhood, now a sea of mud punctuated by tossed cars and mounds of debris.

"I'm pretty sure that my family home is here. It was a big house," she says upon reaching a pile of rubble in a location that feels familiar.

But there's no sign of her nephew, and she trudges back across the mud, unsure what to tell her sister.

The devastation is of such magnitude that it is hard to imagine some of the communities ever being rebuilt. Town after town has been wiped away.

Each curve in the road opens onto a new scene of destruction - a van balanced precariously on the railing of a Buddhist temple, a handbag inside an overturned washing machine.

Kesen is virtually a ghost town. Miyuki Kanno, who lives a few miles (kilometers) away, rode his bicycle down a mud- and water-choked section of road looking for information about missing relatives. He guessed it would take 20 years for Kesen to come back.

In Kesenuma, another coastal city, Kayoko Watabe arrives at a shelter after trudging through mud and thick snow. The 58-year-old woman is wearing the same clothes she had on when the tsunami struck.

She is staying with relatives who lack electricity, heat and water, and she's come to the shelter - a junior high school - to get food and other necessities. There, she finds survivors living in classrooms. Most lie on the floor, wrapped in blankets. The stench of unflushed urinals fills the hallway.

"We've never seen or experienced suffering like this," she says. "All I can think about is where to get food and stay warm."

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Thursday Evening March 17, 2011. Grid showing TV listings for various channels from 7:00 to 11:30.

Friday Evening March 18, 2011. Grid showing TV listings for various channels from 7:00 to 11:30.

GREAT BULL GIVEAWAY advertisement for Crooked Creek Angus. Includes details about the prize package and registration information.

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