

Weather



National Weather Service
Tonight: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 1 a.m. Areas of fog after 1 a.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. East wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Areas of fog before 1 p.m. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 78. East wind around 5 mph.

Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 1 a.m. Patchy fog after 1 a.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 54. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. North wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82.

Monday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 52.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 80.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82.

Thursday: High, 48; Low 38
 Precip: Thursday 0.05 inches
 Month: 0.28 inches
 Year: 16.26 inches
 Normal: 16.36 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
 Saturday 7:27 a.m. 7:50 p.m.
 Moon: waning, 76 percent
 Sunday 7:28 a.m. 7:48 p.m.
 Moon: waning, 68 percent
 Monday 7:29 a.m. 7:46 p.m.
 Moon: waning, 59 percent
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

President signs new patent law

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — President Barack Obama signed into law Friday a major overhaul of the nation's patent system, a measure designed to ease the way for inventors to bring their products to market. "We can't afford to drag our feet any longer," the president said.

Passed in a rare display of congressional bipartisanship, the America Invents Act is the first significant change in patent law since 1952. It has been hailed as a milestone that would spur innovation and create jobs.

The bill is meant to ensure that the patent office, now facing a backlog of 1.2 million pending patents, has the money to expedite

the application process. It now takes an average of three years to get a patent approved. More than 700,000 applications have yet to be reviewed.

"Somewhere in that stack of applications could be the next technological breakthrough, the next miracle drug," Obama said. "We should be making it easier and faster to turn new ideas into jobs."

The president signed the bill after touring Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, where he examined students' work, including a wheelchair that responds to brain waves. Obama at one point had to step aside as he admired

the technological displays. "I don't want to get run over by a robot," he said.

The law aims to streamline the patent process and reduce costly legal battles. It was backed by companies including Google and Apple as well as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Small-scale inventors are divided on the legislation, with some arguing that it gives an advantage to big corporations.

Obama was joined at the signing ceremony by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and House Judiciary Chairman Lamar Smith, R-Texas, the two main sponsors of the legislation.

Briefly

Saturday trail ride to benefit St. Jude's

There will be a trail ride to raise money for the St. Jude's Children's Hospital at 2 p.m. Saturday on the nature conservancy 1 1/2 miles south of Monument. Donations will be accepted to go to the hospital. For information, call Marshall Rhea at (785) 672-2538.

Swim for free Sunday

The Take Charge Challenge committee is offering a free swim day from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday at the Colby Aquatic Park. Admission to the pool is free, and the first 300 people get \$5 off at the concession stand. Every person there is counted toward the Challenge. For information, call the city at 460-4410.

Church plans dinner to help pastor and family

The Brewster United Methodist Church will hold a "Potatoes for the Pastor" fund raiser from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the church, 202 Nebraska in Brewster. Baked potatoes and toppings will be served along with dessert. Donations will be accepted to help Pastor Dorine and Lorry Chambers with medical expenses. For information, call Nadine Kammer at (785) 694-2456.

College pool to close next week for upgrades

The Colby Community College swimming pool will be closed Monday to Friday, Sept. 19 to 23, to allow workers to install new boilers to heat the water and building. A new ventilation system and an automatic pool cover will also be installed later. For information, contact Kipp Nelson at 460-5476 or Athletic Director Ryan Sturdy at 5548.

American Red Cross plans blood drive

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, and 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29, at the Colby Community Building. For information, call Vaughn, Red Cross blood drive coordinator, at 462-3861 or 443-1467.

Health department to hold flu clinic

The Thomas County Health Department will hold a Mass Flu Clinic from 3 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 5, at the Thomas County 4-H building. No appointments are necessary. Pick up paperwork prior to the clinic at the health department. We will be accepting cash, check and insurance (be sure to bring a copy of your card). Cost is \$25 per shot or mist. For information, call the Flu Information Line at 460-4599.

Oakley corn cook-off set for Friday, Oct. 7

Show off your corn cooking skills at the Open Class Corn Cook-Off from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, at The Cave in Oakley. Bring a favorite recipe to be judged in one of three classes: side and main dish; breads and baked goods; or snacks, candies and desserts. The dish must have some form of corn in it. For information, call Judith at (785) 671-4525 or Rosa at (785) 671-3608.

Mail heads to Salina; more changes possible

From "MAIL," Page 1

mail to Wichita to be sorted.

The release said the study won't be completed until early next year, and if the service decides to move processing once again, it will hold a public meeting here for input.

Along with processing changes people in Kanorado and Edson may face the closure of their post office under a closure plan for up to 3,700 post offices the service announced in July. In Kansas 134 post offices including the two in Sherman County are being studied for closure.

Kanorado citizens have been told a public hearing will be held on the possible closing of the post office, and is planned to be held at the Kanorado Senior Center. A date for that meeting has not been announced. A similar meeting will be held for Edson, but the location and date have not been announced.

Among the Kansas post offices on the list are several in the northwest, however, Brewster, Rexford and Colby are not on the list.

Goodland Star-News Editor Tom Betz. Contributed to this story.

Levee damage will cost about \$2 billion to fix

From "REPAIR," Page 1

and Missouri. Record high water levels also created havoc along the lower Mississippi River from Missouri to Louisiana.

"I'm really nervous about it," said Tom Waters, chairman of the Missouri Levee and Drainage District Association. "I think the corps is real nervous about it, too."

The Senate is considering a \$7 billion emergency disaster relief bill, but only \$1.3 billion of that would go to the corps. A competing House bill would allocate \$3.7 billion to overall disaster aid, \$226 million of it to the corps, although Congress could provide more money in future legislation.

Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin said he is working with senators in neighboring states to urge support for the emergency relief.

"I have seen firsthand some of the devastation along these rivers and local communities need financial assistance to recover," Harkin said.

Sensing it might not get all the money it needs, the corps is racing to repair the most essential damaged flood barriers before the spring runoff. Priority is being given to repairing damaged infrastructure that if left unfixed, would put lives at risk when the snows start melting and the 2012 flood season begins. Repairs only meant to safeguard property from future damage would get second billing.

"We are trying to rack and stack them and see which projects need to be done quickly and which ones can be delayed for some time," said Jud Kneuvean, emergency management chief for the corps' Kansas City district. "And honestly some of them can't be delayed. There is a high likelihood for failure. The

consequences associated with failure are high."

Crews have been bulldozing earth back into place along the Mississippi River's damaged floodwalls, but repairs along much of the Missouri River will have to wait until the water level fully recedes, likely by October. A dry winter would allow repair work to continue, but ice and snow could force them to shut down temporarily.

"We've got to be ready to roll when the water recedes because time is our enemy," said Jud Kneuvean, emergency management chief for the corps' Kansas City district. "I will cross my fingers that it will be dry through the winter and spring."

In northwest Missouri's Holt County, more than 30 levee breaks inundated more than 230 square miles. Presiding commissioner Mark Sitherwood, whose own corn and soybean crops were ruined, said the levee damage will be in the millions.

"A lot of these little levee districts are sitting here with \$20,000 in the bank," Sitherwood said. "They don't have that kind of money and the county certainly doesn't have the kind of money it's going to take to fix this. So Congress is going to have to step up."

Waters that overflowed their banks from coast to coast will make 2011 among the costliest years of flooding in U.S. history, yet will still fall far short of the damage caused by other large-scale events, such as Hurricane Katrina.

But the floods came in a year packed with disaster. In Missouri alone, historic flooding along the Mississippi River forced the intentional break of a levee that protected thousands of acres of prime farmland. In May, a monster tornado blamed for 162

College to offer online vet program

From "PROGRAM," Page 1

lege to educate students across the nation with an interest in this high demand field. Veterinary technician students are taught skills such as animal restraint and handling, anesthesia, radiology, surgical nursing, and clinical laboratory techniques.

"Graduates of the CCC Veterinary Technology Program have abundant employment opportunities," said Dr. Jennifer Martin, program director. "The majority of our graduates are employed by veterinarians in private practice, but some find employment in zoos, humane societies, colleges and universities, labora-

tories, pet food companies, and race tracks."

In addition to Dr. Martin, instructors in the on-campus program include veterinarian Dr. Cathy McMullin and registered veterinary technician Sadie Kenney. The Veterinary Technology faculty has over 41 years of combined teaching experience.

"The college is currently waiting on approval for the distance learning programs from the Higher Learning Commission," Vacik said. "We are expecting to receive that approval in October."

The online program is anticipated to start in January.

deaths wiped away much of Joplin. Storms also devastated parts of the South, and Irene and Lee caused heavy flooding in parts of the Northeast.

"This year, as far as weather anomalies, has been unlike anything we've seen in a while," said corps spokeswoman Monique Farmer. "There is only so much money available to be spent on repairs from damages from all of the disasters that have taken place this year."

Kneuvean, who supervises a span of the Missouri River from Rulo, Neb., to St. Charles, Mo., has identified 53 repair projects, mostly levees, that need to be completed to restore the river to its pre-flood condition. He estimates it would cost \$35 million to complete the projects, which is a quarter of the money the corps currently has for repairs.

The corps estimates it would cost \$460 million to repair the damage along the entire Missouri River, and rivers in the Pacific Northwest, including the Columbia, that overflowed their banks this spring.

Kneuvean said the potential funding shortfall could force branches of the corps that oversee different parts of the country

to compete with each other for money.

Steve Wright, a corps spokesman, cautioned that Missouri River damage estimates are extremely preliminary and won't be complete until the water recedes to normal levels along the entire river.

Along the Mississippi, where floodwaters receded months ago and estimates are more solid, the preliminary repair total is about \$780 million, including nearly \$328 million for levee repair. The corps also must fix damage on smaller rivers including the Souris in North Dakota, which rose so high this year that it temporarily pushed 11,000 people from their homes and damaged hundreds of businesses.

Steve Ellwein, owner of an ice making company in Pierre, S.D., said he is confident the corps will find money to make the necessary repairs. The 61-year-old was forced to move back to his parents' home this summer as he waited to see if sandbags and pumps would keep water out of his house on the riverbank upstream from Fort Pierre.

"If they don't fix it - they're not that stupid. You would think they're not that stupid," he said.

TV
Listings

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Monday Evening										September 19, 2011				
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30				
KAKE/ABC	Dancing With Stars				Castle		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live					
KBSL/CBS	How I Met	How I Met	Two Men	2 Broke G	Hawaii Five-0		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late					
KSNK/NBC	The Sing-Off				The Playboy Club		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late					
KSAS/FOX	Hell's Kitchen				Local									
Cable Channels														
A & E	Hoarders		Hoarders		Intervention		Intervention		Hoarders					
AMC	No Country						No Country							
ANIM	I'm Alive		I'm Alive		I'm Alive		I'm Alive		I'm Alive					
BRAVO	Real Housewives		Real Housewives		Most Eligible Dallas		Happens	Real Housewives	Real					
CMT	Truck	Truck	Truck	Truck	Truck		Escape From Alcatraz							
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360		John King, USA		Piers Morgan Tonight					
COMEDY	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0		The Comedy Central Roast		The Comedy Central Roast		The Comedy Central Roast					
DISC	American Chopper		American Chopper		Brothers		American Chopper	Brothers	Brothers					
DISN	Random	Lemonade Mouth			Shake It Up!		Random	Wizards	Wizards					
E!	Sex-City	Sex-City	E! Special		Emmy		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea					
ESPN	Countdown	NFL Football						SportsCenter						
ESPN2	WNBA Basketball				WNBA Basketball			Baseball Tonight						
FAM	The Lying Game		Bring It On				The 700 Club	Whose?	Whose?					
FOOD	Crave	Crave	Diners	Diners	The Best	Sugar Hig	Challenge	Diners	Diners					
FX	Wild Hogs				Wild Hogs									
HGTV	House	Hunters	Showhouse Showdown		House	Hunters	House Hunters-Esc.	Showhouse Showdown						
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	American Pickers		Pawn	Pawn	Top Shot	Pawn	Pawn					
LIFE	Fried Green Tomatoes		The Bucket List				The Protector	The Bucket List						
MTV	Jersey Shore		Fantasy	Fantasy	Ridic.	Death	Cuff'd	Ridic.	Death	Cuff'd				
NICK	Family	My Wife	George	George	Friends	Friends	'70s Show	'70s Show	George	George				
SCI	Eureka		Warehouse 13		Alphas		Eureka	Warehouse 13						
SPIKE	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	War	Ways Die	Ways Die				
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Conan	Office	Office					
TCM	Dr. Coppelius				The Red Shoes									
TLC	Gypsy Wedding		My Big Fat Gypsy Wed		Boss: Buddy		Gypsy Wedding	My Big Fat Gypsy Wed						
TNT	The Closer		Law & Order		Law & Order		CSI: NY	CSI: NY						
TOON	Adventure	MAD	King-Hill	King-Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen				
TRAV	No Reservation		No Reservation		No Reservation		No Reservation	No Reservation						
TV LAND	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	The Nanny	The Nanny	Roseanne	Roseanne				
USA	NCIS		WWE Monday Night RAW				The Bourne Ultimatum							
VH1	Basketball Wives LA		La La	T.O. Show	Basketball Wives LA		La La	T.O. Show	Basketball Wives LA					
WGN	30 Rock	30 Rock	30 Rock	30 Rock	WGN News at Nine		30 Rock	Scrubs	Scrubs	Sunny				
Premium Channels														
HBO	Real Time/Bill Maher		Public Enemies				24/7	Don't Ask						
MAX	Catch Me if You Can				Inception									Sexual
SHOW	Youth Rev	Piranha			Weeds	The Big C	Weeds	The Big C	Love's Kitchen					

Social workers taking buyouts

HUTCHINSON (AP) — About 300 employees have accepted a buyout offer from the state's Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Secretary Robert Siedlecki says the state has extended the voluntary retirement package until Oct. 14.

About 4,000 state employees are eligible for the buyout, including 1,200 who work for the SRs.

The Hutchinson News reports (http://bit.ly/orMrwC) that Siedlecki says the employees who are leaving are a mix of supervisory and rank-and-file workers.

He said his goal is to have about 25 percent of the eligible employees take the buyout.

Siedlecki also said some of the positions being vacated will be filled, with top priority given to the five state hospitals.



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