

Weather



National Weather Service
Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 47. East wind around 5 mph becoming north.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. Calm wind.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 49. North wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 86. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 53.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 74.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 44.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 73.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 80.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 53.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 80.

Friday: High, 85; Low 38

Saturday: High, 85; Low 40

Sunday: High, 80; Low 44

Precip: Friday None
Saturday None
Sunday None

Month: 0.43 inches

Year: 16.41 inches

Normal: 16.36 inches

(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset

Tuesday 7:36 a.m. 7:33 p.m.

New Moon at 6:09 a.m.

Wednesday 7:37 a.m. 7:32 p.m.

Moon: waxing 3 percent

(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Kansas to seek education waiver

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"This is really going to change things because it really does put responsibility squarely on the states," said Amy Wilkins, a vice president at Education Trust, a nonprofit that seeks to raise achievement standards in schools.

Officials from Kentucky, Idaho, Wisconsin and Colorado were among those expressing support for the president's plan on Friday.

"I look forward to the federal government narrowing its role in education and allowing Tennessee the flexibility to abide by its own rigorous standards," Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam, a Republican, said at the White House event.

But Rep. John Kline, R-Minn., who chairs the House Education Committee, wrote in an editorial Friday published in The Washington Examiner that the plan "could mean less transparency, new federal regulations and greater uncertainty for students, teachers, and state and local officials."

Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., the ranking member on the Senate committee that oversees education, said the president's action

"clearly politicizes education policy, which traditionally has been a bipartisan issue that attracts support from both parties."

The president's plan is likely to feed the story line by Republicans that Obama is aggressively expanding the presidential footprint, particularly since some people might view it as unconstitutional to go around Congress to get around the law, said Frederick Hess, director of education policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute.

"In pushing this way, the administration makes it likely that education is going to be much more of a partisan divide leading up to the 2012 election," Hess said.

During Thursday night's campaign debate in Orlando, Fla., the Republican presidential candidates echoed a common refrain about the federal government's role in education. Mitt Romney said, "One, education has to be held at the local and state level, not at the federal level." Said Rick Perry, "The federal government has no business telling the states how to educate our children."

Despite allowing states to do away with the approaching 2014

deadline, Obama insisted he was not weakening the law but rather helping states set higher standards. He said that the current law was forcing educators to teach to the test, give short shrift to subjects such as history and science and lower standards as a way of avoiding penalties and stigmas.

In delivering his remarks, the president took a shot at Congress, saying his executive action was needed only because lawmakers have not stepped in to improve the law.

"Congress hasn't been able to do it. So I will," Obama said. "Our kids only get one shot at a decent education."

Education Secretary Arne Duncan has said the plan would not undermine efforts in Congress because the waivers could serve as a bridge until Congress acts.

The law was approved with strong bipartisan support nearly a decade ago. But its popularity sank as disputes over money divided Congress, schools complained they were being labeled "failures" and questions arose over the testing and teacher-quality provisions.

"Higher standards are the right goal. Accountability is the

right goal. Closing the achievement gap is the right goal. And we've got to stay focused on those goals," Obama said. "But experience has taught us that in its implementation, No Child Left Behind had some serious flaws that are hurting our children instead of helping them."

Critics say the law placed too much emphasis on standardized tests, raising the stakes so high for school districts that it may have driven some school officials to cheat.

Duncan has warned that 82 percent of schools next year could fail to reach proficiency requirements and thus be labeled failures, although some experts questioned the figure.

The law has been due for a rewrite since 2007. Obama and Duncan had asked Congress to overhaul it by the start of this school year but a growing ideological divide in Congress has complicated efforts to do so.

The GOP-led House Education Committee has forwarded three bills that would revamp aspects of the law but has yet to fully tackle some of the more contentious issues such as teacher effectiveness and accountability.

Boeing to deliver new jet this weekend

By Joshua Freed

AP Business Writer

Boeing delivers its first 787 jet on Sunday. It's been a long time coming.

The new jet, which was supposed to be flying passengers three years ago, has been delayed by production and design problems. But now it's here, and airlines expect it to offer travelers much more comfort, open up new routes and provide fuel savings.

The first one goes to Japan's All Nippon Airways, which has been printing the 787 logo and "We Fly 1st" on its business cards for years.

Airlines love the jet, which Boeing calls the Dreamliner. They've ordered more than 800, well above levels for previous new jets.

"A lot of carriers are betting that this is going to be a winner," says George Hamlin, president of Hamlin Transportation Consulting in Fairfax, Va.

Instead of the usual aluminum skin, most of the 787 is covered in carbon fiber, basically a high-tech plastic that is strong but lightweight. Military planes and portions of other jetliners have used that material for years, but this is the first time so much has been used on an airliner.

The new material brings improvements that passengers should notice. Its strength allows windows to be bigger and higher, so passengers don't have to hunch over to see the horizon. Electronic dimming replaces pull-down shades. That should mean you'll no longer be blinded when the guy next to you falls asleep with the shade up.

It's also not clear when the 787 will make money. Boeing already took a \$2.5 billion charge in 2009 on the program, and it owes additional money to customers for the late deliveries. Boeing executives have said they will announce when the jet will be profitable after the first one is delivered.

Dryland corn harvest looking dismal in some Kansas regions

HUTCHINSON (AP) - Extreme heat and a severe water shortage have chopped this year's corn crop drastically across Kansas, especially for dryland corn.

This time of year usually is hectic across the state as grain trucks line up to dump harvested corn at grain elevators. But those trucks are only trickling in as farmers come to grips with a grim harvest they hope is only a one-year anomaly.

"There is not much full swing here," said Joe Schauf, manager of the Nickerson Farmers' Co-op Elevator. "I don't think there will be such a thing."

The Hutchinson News (http://bit.ly/nrhgIF) reports that in the past two years, Schauf said his elevator has taken in 900,000 bushels of corn annually, including some days when 100,000 bushels came in.

During the current harvest, the best day

so far was Sept. 12, when 40,000 bushels were brought into the elevator.

"This year will be lucky to hit 300,000 bushels total," Schauf said. "There is no dryland corn to speak of. It was chopped early for feed."

In southwestern Kansas, some farmers are reporting average to good corn yields, but only in a few fields. Independent crop consultant Loarn Bucl said Haskell County, where he lives, had 1.8 inches to 3.8 inches of rainfall from August 2010 to this August, when typical rainfall for that period is 18 inches.

Bucl said he has never seen a year so dry, including 1980 when there was record-breaking heat. The difference between that year and now is producers were pumping a lot more water from irrigation wells three decades ago.

"I didn't see the poor yields we're see-

ing today because our irrigation pumped three to four times as much as they are today," he said. "If we had 10 more inches of rain, we would have had near normal yields."

Instead, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports Kansas lost nearly 138 million bushels of corn worth more than \$965 million last year.

"We can absorb one bad year," Schauf said. "But two to three years make it tough not just for the producer, but the grain elevators."

The department estimates Kansas lost more than \$1.77 billion in wheat, corn, sorghum and soybeans in 2011, based on a comparison of current department production estimates and average historic production.

The bad numbers are expected to continue through sorghum and soybean har-

vests, which start in a few weeks.

Even with the drought, at least the wheat crop came in better than expected, Schauf said.

"We hit a five-year average, which was better than we expected," he said. "That won't happen with corn. Our five-year average at this elevator is 600,000 bushels in the elevator. We'll be lucky to hit 50 percent."

Larry Goerzen, grain coordinator at Mid Kansas Co-Op Association in Moundridge, said farmers are protected against the poor yields.

"Most people take our crop insurance," he said. "Even if they are hit hard with a drought, crop insurance should give them some guarantee on their income. Everyone is disappointed, but most farmers will weather the storm."

Briefly

Reception planned for college president

The Colby Community College Board will hold a public reception for Dr. Stephen Vacik, the new college president, at 4 p.m. Tuesday in room 108 at the student union. Vacik began working at the college in April. He previously worked at East Mississippi Community College and Beville State Community College in Alabama. For information, call Debbie Schwanke at 460-5411.

Walk to end hunger set for early October

The Thomas County CROP Hunger Walk will begin at 2 p.m. Sunday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 855 E. Fifth in Colby. The hunger walk has set a goal of 50 walkers and hopes to raise \$5,000 to help stop hunger and poverty. A portion of the funds raised here in Thomas County will go to the Thomas County Genesis Food Bank. For information, call Trinity Lutheran Church at 462-3497.

School plans book fair for two days next week

Sacred Heart Catholic School will have its annual book fair from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4, and from 2 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, in the school gym. Proceeds will go to the school library. For information, call Principal Dave Evert at 460-2813.

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.

Trash trucks will not pick up grass until spring

The Colby Sanitation Department will stop picking up grass separately on Friday, Oct. 7. Residents may continue to put grass clippings in with regular trash throughout the winter. The department will notify people in the spring when they should separate the grass from the trash again. For information, call the Public Works Department at (785) 460-4420.

Get laboratory tests this week at hospital

2011 Wellness Fair discounted laboratory blood tests will be drawn from 6 to 9 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday in the front lobby of Citizens Medical Center. The Wellness Fair will be from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 8, at Colby Community College. Skin cancer screenings will only be available beginning at 9 a.m. For information, call Jeanene Brown at 460-4850.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table of TV listings for Tuesday Evening, September 27, 2011. Columns include time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and program titles.

Table of TV listings for Wednesday Evening, September 28, 2011. Columns include time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and program titles. Includes a section for American Profile.