Weather

National Weather Service

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54. West wind 10 to 15 mph becoming south.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 31. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53. Breezy, with a west wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear and blustery, with a low around 23.

New Year's Day: Sunny, with a high near 42.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 19.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 40.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 23.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 50.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 26.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 53.

Precip: Month: 0.67 inches
Year: 20.23 inches
Normal: 20.65 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
Friday 8:04 a.m. 5:30 p.m.
Moon: waxing, 36 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

No parade planned for Iraq troops

By Ben Nuckols and Samantha Gross
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Americans probably won't be seeing a huge ticker-tape parade anytime soon for troops returning from Iraq, and it's not clear if veterans of the nine-year campaign will ever enjoy the grand, flag-waving, red-white-and-blue homecoming that the nation's fighting men and women received after World War II and the Gulf War.

Officials in New York and Washington say they would be happy to help stage a big celebration, but Pentagon officials say they haven't been asked to plan one.

Most welcome-homes have been smaller-scale: hugs from families at military posts across the country, a somber commemoration by President Barack Obama at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

With tens of thousands of U.S. troops still fighting a bloody war in Afghanistan, anything that looks like a big victory celebration could be seen as unseemly and premature, some say.

"It's going to be a bit awkward to be celebrating too much, given how much there is going on and how much there will be going on in Afghanistan," said Don Mrozek, a military history professor at Kansas State University.

Two New York City councilmen, Republicans Vincent Ignizio and James Oddo, have called for a ticker-tape parade down the stretch of Broadway known as the Canyon of Heroes. A similar celebration after the Gulf War was paid for with more than $5.2 million in private donations, a model the councilmen would like to follow.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said last week that he was open to the idea but added, "It's a federal thing that we really don't want to do without talking to Washington, and we'll be doing that."

A spokesman for the mayor declined to elaborate on the city's reasons for consulting with Washington. Ignizio said he had been told by the mayor's office that Pentagon officials were concerned that a celebration could spark violence overseas and were evaluating the risk.

Navy Capt. John Kirby, a Pentagon spokesman, said that he has not heard that issue raised and that New York has yet to make a formal proposal. He also said officials are grateful communities around the country are finding ways to recognize the sacrifices of troops and their families.

The last combat troops in Iraq pulled out more than a week ago. About 91,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are in Afghanistan, battling a stubborn Taliban insurgency and struggling to train Afghan forces so that they eventually can take over security. Many U.S. troops who fought in the Iraq War could end up being sent to Afghanistan.

A parade might invite criticism from those who believe the U.S. left Iraq too soon, as well as from those who feel the war was unjustified. It could also trigger questions about assertions of victory.

Mrozek noted that President George W. Bush's administration referred to military action in the Middle East as part of a global war on terror, a conflict that's hard to define by conventional measures of success.

"This is not a war on a particular place or a particular force," he said.

Bush himself illustrated the perils of celebrating milestones in the war, Mrozek said, when he landed on an aircraft carrier and hailed the end of major combat operations in Iraq behind a "Mission Accomplished" banner in May 2003. U.S. troops remained in Iraq for 81/2 more years, and Bush was criticized over the banner.

Iowa voters focus on national economy

By Ryan J. Foley
The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa – The "Great Recession" barely touched Iowa City.

The University of Iowa and its hospital are in the middle of a construction boom. A manufacturer is touting plans to hire 175 people for a new iron foundry. Farmers working the land outside the city are flush with cash from record-setting crop prices.

Yet, after Rick Perry entered the Republican presidential race, he rolled into town on a bus emblazoned with "Get America Working Again" and offered prescriptions for fixing the economy. Newt Gingrich stopped by to bash what he calls job-killing environmental and labor regulations. Ron Paul said during a recent visit that an overreaching federal government is hurting "the productivity of all of us and means we will be poorer."

Throughout the campaign for Tuesday's Iowa caucuses, it hasn't seemed to matter much that the state economy is in far stronger shape than the rest of the country, with unemployment at 5.7 percent, agricultural real estate selling near all-time highs and some manufacturers reporting a shortage of skilled workers to fill all their openings.

Republican voters who in past election years focused on pocketbook issues specific to Iowa, such as corn subsidies or ethanol policy, say they're taking a wide-angle view of the economy this year. They blame President Barack Obama for its sputters and fear giving him a second term will slide it back toward the abyss.

"The economy is still suffering, even though the numbers don't say it. People are hurting and things have gone downhill since Barack Obama became president," said Pam Swick, a Council Bluffs retiree and Perry supporter.

"Yes, things are better here. But they're still not good," she said. "And don't credit President Obama for it. He's made it worse. Things here are going fine despite him, not because of him."

Iowa's economy fell into recession later than the nation's and didn't drop as far as some other states, said Iowa State University economist David Swenson. There wasn't much of a housing bubble, partly because the state is slow-growing but economically stable.

Yet a recent *New York Times*/CBS News poll found the economy was by far the most important issue to likely Republican caucus-goers. Leading the polls off and on in recent weeks have been the candidates most associated with the pro-business, small-government, economic freedom slices of the GOP: Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul.

Those with stronger ties to the party's social conservative base – Rick Santorum, Michele Bachmann and Perry – make time for a healthy dose of economics during their stump speeches.

Jim Knapp, a 71-year-old home builder who lives in Iowa City and plans to support Bachmann, is one of many taking the wide view. Knapp said he is collecting Social Security and works on home remodeling projects while his wife works at the University of Iowa. They're doing fine financially.

But he said he's worried about the long-struggling economy in Detroit, where his son is a preacher. His son-in-law, meanwhile, is being laid off in a downsizing at a financial company in Minnesota.

"Iowa's economy has held up because of the agricultural base," Knapp said as he left a Bachmann event at a diner. "But we need to get the whole economy back on track. As long as the nation is suffering, everybody is, to some extent."

To be sure, not all of Iowa is as economically healthy as Iowa City. Swenson said that while Des Moines and the corridor between Iowa City and Cedar Rapids are doing well, cities such as Waterloo and Mason City that rely heavily on manufacturing are struggling with long-term unemployment and a slow recovery.

"We're just kind of stuck in neutral," Swenson said. "On average, we don't look so bad, but a large swath of the state also doesn't look so hot."

Still, Swenson said he wasn't surprised that Iowa's Republican voters are focused on the economy outside of the state. Many are businesspeople and farmers who equate a recovering national economy to renewed demand for their products.

That's the view of Norman Olson, a 77-year-old retired farmer from Northwood, near the border with Minnesota. "It still hurts that other people don't have work other places," he said. "We are not isolated from the rest of the country."

Then, there's Obama. A recent University of Iowa Hawkeye poll found that Iowa Democrats have a brighter view of the economy than those in the GOP, suggesting some of the gloomy Republican outlook could be tinged by anti-Obama partisanship.

That's the case for Carol Ann Christiansen, 55, president of the Johnson County Republican Women and the retired owner of a floral business. She said she wants a candidate who will be frugal in Washington and "create the jobs this country so desperately needs." She dismissed the economic success in the state college town of Iowa City as being largely funded by taxpayers.

"We need a president who is going to give business people some economic certainty," Christiansen said. "Every other day there seems to be some new regulation that makes it hard for them."

Adult obesity a top priority

TOPEKA (AP) – Tackling obesity will be the top priority for Kansas' top health official in the coming year.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Secretary Dr. Robert Moser says the number of overweight adolescents and adults has risen steadily over the last 15 years.

Moser told *The Lawrence Journal-World* (http://bit.ly/rw8Sd39) he's concerned about health conditions related to obesity, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, increased risk of diabetes and arthritis.

He says his office will encourage organizations, businesses and schools to offer more health-related activities in 2012.

Briefly

Pets available at clinic for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has male black and white 5-month-old and 4-month-old kittens, a male gray tiger-striped declawed kitten, a female tabby/calico 5-month-old kitten and a female black 1-year-old lab mix available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

Sanitation schedule to change for holidays

The City of Colby Sanitation Department will not be working on Monday Trucks will pick up Monday's residential trash route on Tuesday. Have your tipper can to the curb by 8 a.m. For information, call the Public Works Department at (785) 460-4420.

County offices plan Friday closures

The Thomas County District Court office will close at noon on Friday to complete end of the year accounting. The Thomas County Treasurer's office will close all day Friday. Both offices will be open again Tuesday. For information, call the court at 460-4540 or the clerk's office at 460-4500.

Get a Colby Eagles flag and support the team

The Colby High School boys basketball team is selling Colby Eagle flags to raise money for the team. The 3- by 5-foot flags are $55 each. To order a flag, call 443-2763.

Booster club to have potato bar before game

The Colby High School Booster Club will have a baked potato bar from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Colby Community Building. The bar will coincide with the Colby High basketball games against Goodland.

Hospital plans childbirth classes

Citizens Medical Center will offer a four weeks of childbirth classes from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursdays starting Jan. 5 in the hospital conference room. Women due to deliver before May should attend with their labor support partner. The next classes will begin in April. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown at the hospital Education Department, (785) 460-4850.

Seniors plan potluck

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share; table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

LOCAL TV Listings

Sponsored by the Colby Free Press

Saturday Evening — December 31, 2011

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Rockin' Eve				Dick Clark		Local	Dick Clark's New Year's		
KBSL/CBS	How I Met	The Bourne Ultimatum					Local			
KSNK/NBC	Grimm		Grimm		NBC's New Year's Eve		Local	NBC's New Year's Eve	SNL	
KSAS/FOX	Terra Nova				Local				American Country New	
Cable Channels										
A & E	Dog Bounty Hunter		Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog Bounty Hunter		Dog Bounty Hunter	
AMC	The Walking Dead		The Walking Dead		The Walking Dead		The Walking Dead		The Walking Dead	
ANIM	America's Cutest Pet		Too Cute! Kittens		Too Cute! Puppies		Too Cute! Kittens		Too Cute! Puppies	
BRAVO	Housewives/NJ		Housewives/NJ		Housewives/NJ		Housewives/NJ		Housewives/Atl.	
CMT	Blue Collar		White-Tater		Ron White's Celebrity			Blue Collar Comedy Tour		
CNN	Best, Worst		Piers Morgan Tonight		Best, Worst		New Year's Eve Live			New Year
COMEDY	Dance Flick		South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	Tosh.0	Tosh.0
DISC	Moonshiners		Moonshiners		Moonshiners		Moonshiners		Moonshiners	
DISN	Beverly H	Cats & Dogs			G-Force					
E!	Kourtney and Kim		Kourtney and Kim		E! Special		The Soup	New Year's Eve/Daly		The Soup
ESPN	College Football						Red Bull: New Year		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	College Basketball				College Basketball				NBA	Red Bull
FAM	Paul Blart: Mall Cop			Sweet Home Alabama					Elf	
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FX	Tropic Thunder		Pineapple Express					Archer	Archer	Archer
HGTV	House	House	House	House	House	House	House	House	House	House
HIST	Marijuana: A				Cocaine: History				Marijuana: A	
LIFE	Maneater								Maneater	
MTV	Jersey Shore		Jersey Shore		Jersey Shore		NYE in NYC 2012		NYE in NYC 2012	
NICK	iCarly		SpongeBob	SpongeBob	'70s Show	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	'70s Show
SCI	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone
SPIKE	Jaws					Jaws				
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	She's the Man	
TCM	Fail-Safe					Panic in the Streets			D.O.A.	
TLC	Strange Sex		Virgin Diaries		Geek Love	Geek Love	Strange Sex		Virgin Diaries	
TNT	Transformers					Training Day				
TOON	Spy Kids 3-D		Oblongs	King/Hill	King/Hill	Fam. Guy	Boondocks	Boondocks	Bleach	Bleach
TRAV	Fast Food-Glbl		Man, Food	Man, Food	Travel	Travel	Travel	Travel	Man, Food	Man, Food
TV LAND	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	King
USA	NCIS		NCIS		NCIS		NCIS: Los Angeles		NCIS	
VH1	Ghostbusters			Ghostbusters II					T.I.-Tiny	T.I.-Tiny
WGN	Funniest Home Videos		Saturday Night Fever					Saturday Night Fever		
Premium Channels										
HBO	The Eagle				True Blood		True Blood		True Blood	
MAX	Strike Back		Strike Ba	Strike Back		Strike Back		Strike Ba	Strike Back	
SHOW	I Am Four	Sports	The Italian Job				Felipe Esparza		Teller	Gigolos

American Profile
We Celebrate Hometown Life
Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

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Sunday Evening — January 1, 2012

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Once Upon a Time		Once Upon a Time		Once Upon a Time		Local			
KBSL/CBS	Unforgettable		The Good Wife		CSI: Miami		Local			
KSNK/NBC	Football	NFL Football						Local	Dateline NBC	
KSAS/FOX	Simpsons	Cleveland	Fam. Guy	Amer. Dad	Local					
Cable Channels										
A & E	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
AMC	Hell on Wheels		Hell on Wheels		Hell on Wheels		Hell on Wheels		Breaking Bad	
ANIM	Birth of a Legend		Finding Bigfoot		Finding Bigfoot		Gator Boys		Finding Bigfoot	
BRAVO	Housewives/Atl.		Housewives/Atl.		Chef Roblé & Co.		Chef Roblé & Co.		Housewives/Atl.	
CMT	Legally Blonde			Sweet Home Alabama					Extreme Makeover	
CNN	CNN Presents		Piers Morgan Tonight		CNN Newsroom		CNN Presents		Piers Morgan Tonight	
COMEDY	Employee-Mnth					Tosh.0	Office Space			
DISC	Gold Rush		Gold Rush		Gold Rush		Gold Rush		Gold Rush	
DISN	Best-2011	Best-2011	Best-2011	Best-2011	Best-2011	Best-2011	Best-2011	Best-2011	Best-2011	Best-2011
E!	Kourtney and Kim		Kourtney and Kim		Kourtney and Kim		After Lat	Chelsea	Kourtney and Kim	
ESPN	SportsCtr	SportsCenter Special					SportsCenter			SportsCtr
ESPN2	The Real Rocky		30 for 30			The Dotted Line		Year of the Quarterback		
FAM	Pretty Woman			Pretty Woman					J. Osteen	Ed Young
FOOD	Cupcake Wars		Rachael v. Guy		Iron Chef America		Chopped		Rachael v. Guy	
FX	Step Brothers				Step Brothers				What Happens	
HGTV	Extreme Homes		Holmes Inspection		House	Hunters	House	Hunters	Holmes Inspection	
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn
LIFE	August Rush				Memory Keeper				August Rush	
MTV	Teen Mom 2		Teen Mom 2		Teen Mom 2		Teen Mom 2		Jersey Shore	
NICK	'70s Show	'70s Show	My Wife	My Wife	George	George	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SCI	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone
SPIKE	Star Wars IV		Star Wars V						Star Wars VI: Return	
TBS	Shrek			Shrek 2						
TCM	Lover Come Back				That Funny Feeling				Student Prince	
TLC	Dr. G: Caylee		Hoard-Buried		All-American Muslim		Hoard-Buried		All-American Muslim	
TNT	The Dark Knight		Leverage		Rush Hour 3				Leverage	
TOON	Gumball	Looney	Chicken	Aqua Teen	King/Hill	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Robot Chicken		
TRAV	When Vacations		Hot Spots 2012		Beach Goers Exposed		The Layover		Hot Spots 2012	
TV LAND	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Everybody-Raymond		Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	King
USA	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
VH1	Mob Wives		Baseball Wives		Mob Wives		Baseball Wives		Mob Wives	
WGN	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	News/Nine	Replay	The Unit		Monk	
Premium Channels										
HBO	The Dilemma				Angry	Angry	Date Night			Angry
MAX	Titanic				Clash of the Titans					
SHOW	Shameless		Shameless		Shameless		Shameless		The Joneses	

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