

Weather Service reports record-high temperature

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to measure both dimensions of a storm. Traditional Doppler Radar only sends out horizontal waves.

Killingsworth said the new system came online on Dec. 8, and all the staff has been trained to use it.

In winter, the radar can be used to distinguish between snow, rain or a

mix of the two. Killingsworth said the meteorologists were able to tell it was drizzling in northern Colorado one day while it was snowing elsewhere.

In spring and summer, Killingsworth said the new system will be particularly useful in seeing where hail is falling. It may even be able to provide some data on hail size. During tornado season, he said, the radar may be able to pick up some airborne debris, letting meteorologists know where a tornado might be stirring things up.

Goodland is one of the first in the nation to get the new radar. The Oklahoma City office tested the

system over several years, and the service has now begun outfitting all its offices with the new technology. Killingsworth said Dodge City is getting the upgrade right now, a process that takes about two weeks.

Radar is just one of the tools the Weather Service uses to predict and record the weather, Killingsworth said. It also looks at spotter observations, satellite data and the traditional Doppler Radar.

"You still need a human person here to take all the tools and build a picture of what's happening," he said. "There's no computer that can do that."

Stamps to go up by 1 cent

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percent, based on the rate of inflation shown by the Consumer Price Index.

The price increase is one way for the service to deal with its financial crisis, he said, and hopefully bring the agency back to its feet.

He said the service adjusts prices annually, just like other shipping companies, but doesn't add surcharges for fuel or residential or Saturday delivery.

A timeline of letter prices issued by the service shows the price of a stamp was 2 cents in 1885. It took 32 years to require a 1 cent increase in 1917. The price went to 4 cents in 1958 and 5 cents in 1963.

Since 2006, the service has had a price increase every year except 2010. The last stamp increase was in May 2009, from 42 cents to 44 cents.

Postal regulators find fault with study

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of the effect of closings. Among other things, postal service was charting the new distances involved for consumers to reach remaining post offices through "as the crow flies" measurement rather than driving distances.

"I was particularly gratified the commission takes such a tough line on transparency," Heath said. "Through NNA's testimony and our ongoing dialogue with USPS headquarters Vice President of Corporate Communications Sam Pulcrano, we had already secured a commitment that community meetings before a closing would become open to photographers and audio recordings."

"The initial meetings had produced quite a few complaints from our members about poor treatment of reporters and observers who

wished to record the event for stories and for historical record. As a journalist, I found the practices ill-advised, and was grateful that Mr. Pulcrano made a promise to me to reform that aspect. But there is more to transparency than allowing reporters in. These meetings need to be better publicized and more conveniently scheduled. The commission agrees, and I applaud its strong mandate for openness."

The case formally involved only 3,750 post offices on the hit list for closure, but the Postal Service had said it intended to close more after the current round ends. Intervention by Congress as well as the commission's recommendations may affect those plans. The 2012 federal spending bill passed by Congress in December contains a rider prohibiting the closing of small and rural post offices.

Nomination deadline coming up for Guard employer recognition

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Defense Department agency, is calling on Guard and Reserve members to nominate their supportive employers for the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award before the Monday deadline. The Freedom Award is the Defense Department's highest recognition for civilian employers supporting Guard and Reserve members. All employers — large, small and public — are eligible to receive the honor. Guard and Reserve members, or a family member acting on their behalf, may nominate their employers at www.FreedomAward.mil.

"Even as our nation scales down our combat missions abroad, Guard and Reserve members and their employers remain a critical component in our national security equation," said James Rebolz, national chairman. "Just as our country has heavily relied on the more than one million men and women of the Guard and Reserve, these service members have counted on their employers for support and encouragement. I encourage all Guardsmen and Reservists to nominate their supportive employers today, so our Nation may acknowledge their extraordinary efforts."

This year, the employer support Freedom Award website provides additional guidance to make it easier and faster for Guardsmen and Reservists to submit information about their supportive employers. Suggestions include ways for a service member to best tell the story of their employer's support. Service members who have previously nominated their employers for

the Freedom Award are encouraged to do so again. The Department of Defense recognizes nominees, semi-finalists and finalists each year, and all employers who have not received the award in the past ten years are eligible. One Freedom Award recipient was recognized as a semi-finalist or finalist for three years prior to being honored as a recipient last year.

The 2012 recipients will be announced in early summer and honored in Washington, D.C. during a special ceremony in the fall. Past recipients have met with the President of the United States and Secretary of Defense.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of employer support to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. In the years since, 160 employers have been honored with the award. The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program was established in 1972 to develop and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service. Program advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of applicable laws and resolves conflicts between service members and employers. Paramount to the program's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.

For questions or interviews regarding the Freedom Award, visit www.FreedomAward.mil or contact Beth Sherman, Public Affairs, at (703) 696-1171, ext. 539 or by email at ESGR-PA@osd.mil.

Agriculture technology conference scheduled for Jan. 19 and 20 in Salina

Information about everything from yield monitors to variable rate application to auto-steer and beyond will be available at the 15th Annual Kansas Agricultural Technologies Conference planned for Thursday and Friday, Jan. 19 to 20, in Salina at the Ramada Conference Center, 1616 W. Crawford St.

The conference, sponsored by the Kansas Agricultural Research and Technology Association (formerly Kansas Agricultural Research Association or KARA), is an applied workshop that consolidates information about new and old technologies focused on supporting scientifically-based on-farm research and increasing farm profitability.

The conference begins at 8 a.m. Jan. 19, with registration. The pro-

gram starts at 8:45 a.m.

Presentations by university scientists and industry representatives will include:

- How Far to the Field? The Economics of Travel Logistics.
 - New Communications in Ag/Social Media.
 - Techniques for Site-Specific Crop Management.
 - Precision Ag and Ag Machinery.
 - Land Values, Rents and Other Ag Investments.
 - Precision Seed Metering and Placement.
 - Approaching Crop Nutrition Systematically.
 - Doing On-Farm Research — What, Where, Why and How?
- Association farmer-members

will give presentations about research conducted on their farms and also discuss the financial support available to producers for such projects.

The conference will give producers, crop consultants and others interested in agricultural technologies the chance to learn from each other, as well as industry scientists. Information, including printable registration forms, is available at www.KARTAonline.org.

The association, organized originally as KARA in May of 2000, is an organization of producers, university researchers and industry members focused on learning more about agricultural production and technological and informational changes occurring on today's farms.

Helping the community



Mike Schultz, Brewster city manager, helped the third and fourth graders from the Brewster School District make a difference by bringing the recycling trailer to school for the kids to load. The students have been doing many community service projects this year such as decorating the Craft Peddler and caroling at the Senior Center.

Photo by Mary Schmidt

Registration is open now for Oberlin no-till conference

For the latest on no-till farming, plan to attend the Cover Your Acres winter conference this month in Oberlin.

The conference starts with registration at 7:45 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 17 and 18, at The Gateway, presented by Kansas State University Research and Extension and the Northwest Kansas Crop Residue Alliance.

Early-bird registrations are closed, but you can still register to attend. The fee will be \$50 a day.

To register, go to www.northwest.ksu.edu/coveryou-racres. Send your name, address, phone number, e-mail

address and fee to Kansas State University, Northwest Area Extension Office, attention Jeanne Falk, Box 786, Colby, Kan. 67701.

The program will be held regardless of weather, so no refunds will be given.

"This is the latest and greatest information on no-till farming," said Byron Hale Decatur County agent for the Twin Creeks Extension District. He said there is always a great turnout, he said, usually about 300 people.

For questions or information, call (785) 462-6281 or go to the website.

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