

Noon News



Today
High: 79 Low: 53
Partly cloudy



Tomorrow
High: 69 Low: 51

Thursday, July 16, 2009

More faculty and staff news:
thepoint.healthcare.uiowa.edu

U.S. News ranks UI among 'America's Best Hospitals'

For the 20th time in 20 years, UI Hospitals and Clinics appears on the *U.S. News & World Report* listings of "America's Best Hospitals." Seven UI specialties are ranked: Otolaryngology (No. 3), Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (No. 6), Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation (No. 8), Neurology and Neurosurgery (No. 22), Cancer (No. 27), Kidney Disease (No. 34), and Gynecology (No. 36). The rankings are accessible online at <http://www.usnews.com/besthospitals>.

Over half of flood-damaged C.R. homes rebuilt

More than half of the Cedar Rapids homes damaged in the 2008 flood have been completely rebuilt, according to an AmeriCorps report that surveyed flood-affected areas in late June. Of the roughly 5,000 homes that were damaged, 51 percent have been repaired and 16 percent are undergoing repairs.

Foreclosures rise 15 percent

The number of U.S. households facing foreclosure soared by nearly 15 percent in the first half of the year, according to a report released today by RealtyTrac Inc. The crisis affected more than 1.5 million homes in the first six months of 2009. Experts don't expect foreclosures to peak until mid-2010.

Jobless claims drop

The Labor Department reported today that new applications for unemployment insurance dropped by a seasonally adjusted 47,000 to 522,000—the lowest level since early January. However, government officials and economists said the unemployment rate most likely will continue to climb because companies won't be ready to hire workers until they are certain an economic recovery is firmly rooted.

Sotomayor hearings nearing end

Sonia Sotomayor faces a third and final day of Senate questioning today before she can look ahead to confirmation as a Supreme Court justice. Sotomayor, 55, has been a federal judge for 17 years, the last 11 on the appeals court in New York. A vote by the full Senate is expected in August.

Taliban threatens to kill captured soldier

The Taliban threatened today to kill a captured American soldier unless the U.S. military stops operations in two districts of southeastern Afghanistan. A Taliban spokesman said the soldier is healthy and that a final decision about the soldier's fate will be made by leader Mullah Omar.

China boycotts opening of World Games

The 100-strong Chinese delegation boycotted the opening ceremony of the World Games in Taiwan today, a blow to recent Taiwanese efforts to improve relations between the two. Taiwan and China split amid civil war in 1949, and the communist mainland still views the island as part of its territory.

France shutting down military nukes facilities

While France has no plan to scrap its nuclear arms, French officials today said the nation has enough plutonium and highly enriched uranium to maintain its arsenal, so it is dismantling the factories where it used to make these materials. France is the first nuclear-armed state to do this, officials said.

Bowlingual makes a comeback

Japanese toymaker Takara Tomy said it will re-launch a new version of the Bowlingual, a gadget first released in 2002 that it says can analyze a dog's bark to detect its emotion. The device was on display today at the Tokyo Toy Fair. There's no word on whether the device will be sold outside of Japan.

30 Rock on a roll

Tina Fey's satire-rich sitcom, *30 Rock*, received a leading 22 Emmy Award nominations today, while the 1960s retro series, *Mad Men*, led the drama pack with 16 bids. The shows were honored last year as best comedy and drama and have a chance to repeat at September's Emmy Awards ceremony.

Watson leads British Open

Tom Watson took the early lead today at the British Open golf tournament in Turnberry, Scotland, with a 5-under 65. "Not bad for an almost 60-year-old," said Watson, who turns that age in September.

"The only way to enjoy anything in this life is to earn it first."

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—*Ginger Rogers*
American actress,
dancer, and
singer, born on
this day in 1911

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS ON BACK

UPCOMING EVENTS

- An Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting for patients, families, visitors, and hospital staff is at 7:30 tonight, Conference Room G, Elevator F, Level 7.
- Stop by the Preemie Project Summer Craft Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 21 and 22 in the Pappajohn Pavilion Lobby, Elevator I, Level 1. Proceeds benefit critically ill infants and their families in the NICU. For more information, call 338-1514 or e-mail vicepresident@thepreemieproject.com.
- UI Printing and Mailing Services will give a printing/ mailing information session from 2 to 3 p.m.. Tuesday, July 21, in the Atrium Conference Center, Elevator E, Level 7. The presentation will cover mailing and postage changes that have taken effect over the past few months and detail how Printing and Mailing Services can help cut expenses.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Emergency Treatment Center will evaluate a new safety IV catheter next week. It offers a number of safety features over the current safety IV catheter and will be used on adult patients. Educational posters on its use have been distributed. Please contact Renee Gould at renee-gould@uiowa.edu for a copy of the poster.
- Wild Rose Gifts is offering UI Hospitals and Clinics T-shirts for \$5 with a \$25 purchase (no limit, while supplies last). Stop by for this bargain from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. through tomorrow. Profits support programs that benefit patients and their families.
- Hospital Parking Ramp 4 will close at 6 p.m. Friday and reopen at 6 a.m. Monday, July 20. If you park in this ramp, please use another ramp during this time. Questions? Contact Martin Shafer, Environmental and Guest Services, at 356-2277.
- The second-floor Skyway between the Pappajohn and Pomerantz Pavilions will close at 5 a.m. Saturday and reopen at 6 p.m. Sunday, July 19. Use the third-floor Skyway for access. Questions? Call Scott Wieneke, Engineering Services, at 353-6423.
- Normal electrical power service to the second-floor Otolaryngology Clinic in the Pomerantz Pavilion will be interrupted from approximately 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Questions? Contact Tom Davin, Engineering Services, at 353-2582.

RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS INVITED

- Male adults, 50 to 80 years old, with no history of neurological disease, are invited to participate in a Department of Neurology research study of cognitive function. Participants will be asked to undergo neuropsychological testing. Compensation. For details, call Katie at 356-3171.
- Investigación del español: Les invitamos a los adultos que son hablantes nativos del español a participar en una investigación sobre la gramática. Hay una o dos visitas que duran una hora. Se proporcionará compensación. Pónganse en contacto con Theresa Prisco, 335-8113, theresa-prisco@uiowa.edu.
- Have you been taking risperidone (Risperdal), olanzapine (Zyprexa), or quetiapine (Seroquel) for more than one year? Are you between 18 and 50 years old? If so, you may be eligible to participate in a research study that involves an interview, physical exam, ultrasound, and laboratory testing. Compensation. Call 384-9379 or e-mail lois-warren@uiowa.edu.
- Children between the ages of 4 and 6 who do and do not stutter are invited to participate in a research study. The study consists of one visit per year over a five-year period. Each visit will consist of several one- to two-hour sessions scheduled over five or six days. Compensation. Children must speak English as their native language. For more information, contact Patricia Zebrowski at 335-8735 or Amanda Berns at 335-9766.
- Volunteers between the ages of 50 and 70, who have not had joint replacement surgery and are generally in good health (both normal weight and overweight) without current neuromuscular or orthopaedic problems, are invited to participate in a research study. The research protocol requires one 90-minute visit to the Orthopaedic Gait Analysis Laboratory. During the visit, you will be required to wear shorts and have markers placed on your lower limbs and trunk as you walk and stand up from sitting. Compensation. For details, e-mail gait-lab@uiowa.edu or call 384-6893.
- How do children learn words? Boys and girls ages 1 to 7 are invited to participate in a study to answer this question. In the study, your child will participate in tests of current vocabulary knowledge and games designed to assess word learning. The study involves two to three visits of 60 to 90 minutes each to the Department of Communications Sciences and Disorders or another appropriate location. For more information, call Allison Bean at 353-5779 or e-mail allison-bean@uiowa.edu.
- The UI Department of Leisure Studies is conducting a study about caregivers in the “sandwich generation.” Are you a caregiver for a parent with dementia? Do you also have a minor child who lives with you? If you would like to participate, involvement will consist of an interview to talk about your experience. E-mail lisa-schumacher@uiowa.edu or call 400-0628.

View the most recent study announcements at www.uihealthcare.com/depts/clinicaltrials/volunteer.html.

Contact *Noon News* at noonnews@healthcare.uiowa.edu. Persons with a disability requiring reasonable accommodations in order to participate in programs at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics may discuss their needs with Concierge Services in advance at 356-1900.