

weather report

77°  
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 8:01 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 5:26 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:01 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 61 degrees
- Humidity 39 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds northeast at 5 mph
- Barometer 30.10 inches and falling
- Record High 95° (1953)
- Record Low 37° (1924)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 73°  
Low 47°  
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly cloudy, 50 percent chance of thunderstorms, low in the 50s, winds north at 5 to 15 mph  
Tomorrow: partly cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 65 to 70, winds northeast at 5 to 15 mph

Extended Forecast

Tuesday through Thursday: Chance of thunderstorms, highs in the 70s, lows in the 50s  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.15 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.14  
Loan deficiency payment — 31¢  
Corn — \$1.64 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.84  
Loan deficiency prmt. — 15¢  
Milo — \$2.46 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$3.90 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.88  
Loan deficiency payment — 1.01¢  
Millet — \$4 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$7.65 cwt.  
Loan deficiency prmt. — \$1.76  
Oil new crop — \$7.90 cwt.  
Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)  
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Suspect kills himself in Ellis

ELLIS — A man wanted in three armed robberies in Colorado and Wyoming apparently killed himself after taking two people hostage in this northwest Kansas town.  
Randy Earl Miller, 22, Denver, shot himself in the head about 1:15 p.m. Saturday while on the phone with a police negotiator in Ellis, said Lt. Bob Symms of the Kansas Highway Patrol. Miller died about 8 p.m. Saturday at a Wichita hospital.  
Symms said the incident began about 10 a.m. Saturday on Interstate 70 near Ellis when two highway patrol troopers identified a green 1992 Ford Explorer as wanted in connection with armed robberies in Aurora and Denver, Colo., and Cheyenne, Wyo.  
The vehicle left I-70 at Ellis, and after a short chase through town it struck an Ellis police car head-on.

Alleged tavern robbers booked in Colby

By Patty Decker

Colby Free Press

Two fatigue-clad men linked to a tavern robbery in Wyoming were arrested Friday morning in Colby, setting off a national buzz when word spread that they might be linked to the murder of a Colorado police officer.  
Initially, the men's descriptions led some investigators to believe the two could be the fugitive "cop killers" involved in a Cortez, Colo., shooting nearly a year ago. The resulting media hysteria didn't subside until late in the afternoon.  
Colby police said confusion over the identities of the men started early Thursday morning when a caretaker at Bitter Creek rest area in Sweet Water County, Wyo., identified the two armed robbery suspects as the Colorado fugitives, Jason McVean and Alan Pilon, based on FBI photographs he had seen.

The armed robbery in Wyoming fueled speculation about a link to Pilon and McVean.  
Then on Friday, Colby police received a teletype alerting them about two men suspected of the Fremont County, Wyo., robbery.  
Not 20 minutes after receiving the teletype, Colby officers on patrol noticed two white men matching the description walking along Fourth Street (U.S. 24) near Country Club Drive in east Colby.  
Police Chief Randy Jones said Monday the officers frisked the two and found a weapon similar to an ice pick concealed in a boot. In their packs, they had sawed-off shotgun and a pistol.  
Both men were arrested and taken to



Raymond Johnson



Brendan Johnson

the Thomas County Jail, where they were uncooperative when police began questioning them. They refused to give their names, talk about what they were doing in town, or be fingerprinted or photographed. Officers had to use force

to get photos and prints.  
The men were later identified as brothers Brendon James Johnson, 21, and Raymond Kendall Johnson, 31, of Hillsdale, Mich..  
They were awaiting extradition to Wyoming, and facing possible weapon violations in Colby, tained mesh netting for faces, hooded masks and a lot of survival-type gear.  
The Johnson brothers are accused of robbing the "Rock Shop" in Wyoming, a combination store, bar and restaurant about four miles east of South Pass City and some 300 miles north of Cortez.  
The suspects were wearing military boots and ski masks, taking about \$500 and escaping in a stolen white truck,

which was crashed into a ditch near Rock Springs, according to information from the sheriff's office in Wyoming.  
Officials in Wyoming believed the two fled on foot and then jumped an eastbound Union Pacific train early Thursday.  
However, the two men currently in custody at the Thomas County jail, have remained uncooperative in every way, Jones said, so any details of how they arrived in Colby are sketchy. One family member living in Elkhart, Ind., who positively identified the two brothers and, asking to remain unidentified, said he was thankful the two were captured since both had made threats on their entire family.  
"These two are not stable and we are very grateful to the Colby police for capturing them," the family member said.

Small bird knocks out city power Saturday

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

With the stormy weather Saturday evening which dumped .42 of an inch of rain on Goodland, there was no problem with city utilities.  
About 7 p.m. Sunday, with no threat of rain, the power snapped off for about one third of the city's customers.  
City Manager Ron Pickman said a little bird did it.  
Pickman said the small bird which got into a transformer at the substation. The power was off for about 20 minutes, and Public Works Director Ed Wolak said there was no damage except to the bird.  
Pickman also said the new at the city power plant engine has been tested and is ready to generate power if needed. With the addition of the new engine, the total generation power of the plant is now 19.5 megawatts, which they said is sufficient to handle the needs of the city if all incoming power should be lost.  
The engines will be held in standby, and may see service during the summer at peak demand times to supplement the incoming power as the temperature rises and the use of air conditioners increases.  
The new engine replaces one which lost a piston in December 1997. It took over a year to replace and install the new engine, which cost the city about \$500,000.  
The storm Saturday dropped over an inch of rain south of town, but some areas received less than half an inch.



Salutatorian Melinda Marie Schwasinger addressed her classmates Saturday during graduation.

Photo by Charlie Baker/Goodland Daily News

Goodland High graduates 76 seniors

Seventy-six 1999 graduates from Goodland High School were presented Saturday at the annual commencement ceremony at Max Jones Fieldhouse.  
Speaker Gaylene Shank, a math teacher at the school, and recipient of this year's outstanding educator award, said the two most important things she could say were that she



Jeff Darnauer

"loves teenagers and she loves math."  
"Although your high school days are over, your education is just beginning," she told the class.  
Jack Walker,

who teaches science classes at the high school, received the Outstanding Educator award. Each year the senior class elects the recipient, and the winner is announced at graduation.  
Receiving an award as Honorary Outstanding Educator was Audrey Smith, who taught American Heritage at the high school from 1943 to 1971. She was the first teacher from Good-

land to be recognized as a Master Teacher, and was inducted into the Kansas Teachers Hall of Fame in 1978.  
Both valedictorian Jeff Darnauer and salutatorian Melinda Schwasinger gave talks to the class, who punctuated the ceremony by tossing their caps and streamers into the air from the floor of the field house.

Negotiations continue as deadline looms

Talks with district are progressing

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

The Goodland School Board presented a number of counterproposals Thursday as negotiations with the Goodland teachers union continued. The next session is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday.  
While there have not been a lot of tentative agreements on contract sections so far, Mary Porterfield, leader of the teacher negotiating team, said the talks are moving along.  
"All the items are on the table and we have received proposals or counterproposals on everything except salaries," she said.  
She said the teachers had received a verbal response on their detailed salary proposal, but no salary schedule yet. She expects to receive this at the next session.  
While not allowed to express personal opinions about the status of the negotiations, Porterfield said the process seems to be getting closer than it was since all the items are on the table,

and have been discussed at least once.  
Superintendent Marvin Selby was a little less optimistic about the progress as he discussed the counterproposals the board presented at Thursday's session.  
"We felt like we were not getting anywhere," he said, "and the teachers seemed to be saying 'no' to everything we proposed. We had hoped to wrap this up before the end of the school year, and time is growing short."  
June 1 is the target for the conclusion of the negotiations, but both sides agree it would be less convenient, but not impossible, to continue the negotiations beyond the beginning of June.  
"We would have to get an extension from the state, to show we were not at impasse," Porterfield said. "They may go past June 1, and that is not a problem, but it is more convenient when the teachers are all in school. We have gone past the beginning of June before."  
Selby agrees the negotiations could go into the summer, but hopes there is enough progress at Wednesday's session to allow the negotiators to present a proposal to the teachers before the end of school.  
"We intend to take our best shot at getting these wrapped up Wednesday

evening," he said, "and have agreed that we could spend additional time if we are getting close to an agreement."  
"The board could present a package deal, which they have done in the past," Porterfield said. "We prefer to go article by article for tentative agreements, and usually end up with a combination of these."  
At Thursday's session the board presented counterproposals on grievance procedures which extends the days for parts of the process and clarifies what happens if the teacher is unhappy with the decision of a principal. In such a case the issue would be appealed to the superintendent.  
The board restated their proposal concerning Professional Development Council points as they relate to advancement on the salary schedule.  
Porterfield said the teachers want a distinction between the way the points are counted for advancement on the salary schedule and the way they are counted for recertification.  
The board also presented a counterproposal on extra duty pay which would raise the wage rate to at least 50 cents per hour higher than the minimum wage. The teacher proposal had asked for the rate to be raised to \$10 per hour.

Included in the board counter is language to clarify the all-sports pass issue. Under the proposal, staff members willing to work one after-hours event would receive a family all-sports pass good for all local events. If they were willing to volunteer for three events or more they would receive a Northwest Kansas League pass in addition to the hourly pay.  
In a counter to the teacher proposal on supplemental contracts the board agreed to adding a head Science Olympiad sponsor and an assistant to the list with the head being paid 3 percent of base salary and the assistant being paid 2 percent of base salary. Also, the board proposed would raise the supplemental contracts for student council and junior class sponsor to 4 percent of base salary. Under the board proposal, none of the other contracts would be increased as requested by the teachers.  
The board presented a counterproposal on the technology training day which would designate one day prior to the beginning of the school year to be an in-service day for technology.  
The board proposed allowing the teachers who volunteer for lunchroom duty to use their free lunch at the discretion of the teacher. It could be given

to anyone if they like.  
Porterfield said the teachers agreed to pull off the table their proposal related to early retirement and extensive service because it could fall under a legislative moratorium, but believe the other items, including insurance, are not under the moratorium.  
"We have been told that if it is already in contact, it can be amended," she said.  
On the question of spring break, she said the teachers want it to be the five consecutive days, and suggested that if the calendar committee looks a year in advance and sees a problem, they could request a special exception to the contract provision.  
On noon recess supervision, Porterfield said teachers want to limit the number of teachers on duty to just one.  
The teachers also presented a revised proposal dealing with teacher duty days. Porterfield said they appreciated of the board's willingness to allow them to do the two workdays at the discretion of the teacher, and are proposing a reduction of one in-service training day to be a workday in February.  
All the items presented Thursday were taken under advisement by both sides and are expected to be discussed Wednesday.