

weather  
report

84°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:22 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 70 degrees
- Humidity 42 percent
- Sky Mostly sunny
- Winds south to southeast 20-30 mph
- Barometer 29.86 inches and falling
- Record High 104° (1936)
- Record Low 42° (1958)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 89°  
Low 60°  
Precipitation .19

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy with 20 percent chance of rain. Low 60-65. South winds 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny with 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. High 90 with southwest winds 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday through Tuesday. Chance of thunderstorms. Temperature: highs 85-90, lows 60-65.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.16 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.16  
Loan deficiency payment — 29¢  
Corn — \$1.75 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.84  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 15¢  
Milo — \$2.50 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$3.86 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.91  
Loan deficiency payment — 98¢  
Millet — \$4 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$7.45 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.07  
Oil new crop — \$7.75 cwt.  
Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$13 (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.

Harvest crews  
remain stalled

WELLINGTON — Spreading like a golden wave across the nation's heartland, millions of acres of winter wheat began ripening a few weeks ago, drawing crews from across the country and the world to harvest it.

Then the rains began.

Now, the fields are too soggy for the 27,000-pound combines to move in, and the wheat is too wet to harvest.

Soon the stalks will fall over, making the crop even harder to bring in. And soon, too, the wheat heads will sprout, destroying the crop's commercial value for anything but animal feed. Winter wheat is used primarily for bread.

The "custom cutters" who follow the ripening crops are waiting out the weather in hotel rooms in sleepy rural towns, doing little but sleeping, eating and hoping for the rain to stop.

Employment  
across state at  
19-year high

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

State figures released Tuesday show employment in Kansas at record highs and unemployment the lowest in 19 years, as a period of almost unparalleled prosperity continues to swell across most of the state.

The Kansas Department of Human Resources reported the state had the highest number of people working during May than ever before, and the unemployment rate was the lowest in nearly two decades.

In northwest Kansas, the number of people looking for work was well below the state average in most counties. The number of people looking for jobs in area counties could be counted by dozens, explaining why many employers complain that it is tough to find enough workers.

Job creation and the number of people working continued to grow despite the decades-long decline in the farm population, which continues across the area.

The report set the state's May jobless rate at 3.2 percent, down from 3.3 percent in April. This matched December's rate, which tied the rate for November 1979.

Additionally, the 1,395,446 people with jobs in May set a state record. Statewide, the Human Resources report showed there were only 45,855 people looking for work. In May 1998, there were 1,345,624 people employed in Kansas and 52,069 unemployed.

The jobless rates reported for counties in Northwest Kansas were below the statewide average with the exception of Greeley, which reported a rate of 3.6 percent. Cheyenne, Wallace and Sherman counties each reported a rate of 1.9 percent while Thomas County had a 1.8 percent and Rawlins reported a jobless level of 2.6 percent. Decatur County had a rate of 2.3 percent.

Looking behind the percentages the Department of Human Resources report showed 36 unemployed people in Cheyenne County; 29 in Greeley County; 40 in Rawlins County; 76 in Sherman County; 90 in Thomas County; and 15 in Wallace County.

"I think Sherman County is doing well because of the growth of the business economy, including the expansion of Northern Sun and the opening of Wal-Mart as prime examples," said Ron Harding, executive director of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

Harding said he was recently told that nearly 90 percent of the employees of the private prison in Burlington, Colo., are living in Sherman County.

Sherman, Thomas and Wallace counties showed drops in the unemployment rate and a growth in the labor force between May 1996 and May 1999.

Thomas County had the largest drop in the unemployment rate, down one percent to 1.8, and conversely the largest increase in employment with 307 new workers. In the four years, the Thomas County labor force grew by 265, and with the larger number of people working there were 43 less people unemployed.

In May 1996 there were 4,707 in the Thomas county labor force and 4,575 were employed leaving 133 looking for jobs, however, in May 1998 the labor force had grown to 4,972 and the employed workers were 4,882, leaving 90 unemployed.

Sherman County had similar figures, but at a bit lower rate, as the labor force showed a growth of 152 over the four years. Employment grew by 169 which reduced the jobless number by 17 people. The county showed a half-percent drop in the unemployment rate to 1.9 percent.

The Sherman labor force was 3,935 in May 1996 with 3,842 employed and 93 looking for jobs. By May 1998 the

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Winona has to deal with loss of loved teenagers

By Patty Decker

The Colby Free Press

WINONA — Funeral services were held Thursday in Winona for the first of two teen-agers who died after their sports car rolled Saturday night, ejecting all three.

Tasha Diane Mackley, 15, was pronounced dead at the scene, according to the Kansas Highway Patrol, and Dallas C. Latham, 17, died just before 10 p.m. Wednesday at Swedish Medical Center in Denver. A third victim, Cody A. Carter, 19, is expected to recover.

As residents of this tiny community mourned the loss of Mackley, services were being planned for Latham in Oakley.

Both of the teens were born and raised in Winona, which has a population of less than 200 and, as one resident said, both were known and loved by everyone.

"Two of our young people were taken at one time," another said, "and this tragedy has devastated our town."

The Highway Patrol said the accident happened at 11:10 p.m., 15 1/2 miles south of I-70 on Thomas County Road 11.

Latham was driving northbound when he lost control on a curve and the vehicle rolled twice, ejecting all the

occupants. After talking to Carter, highway patrol officials said that Carter was the front seat passenger with Latham driving and Mackley behind the driver in the back seat of a 1996 Chevrolet Camaro.

Emergency medical personnel from Winona transported Latham to Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He was then flown to Denver in critical condition. Thomas County Coroner Dr. Victor Hildyard pronounced Mackley dead at the scene. Carter was taken to the Logan County Hospital in Oakley and later released.

Alcohol containers were found at the scene, but test results on all three victims are pending, highway patrol officials said. Officers said that there was no evidence of excessive speed prior to the accident.

Winona school officials said the



Mackley



Latham

13th Street tunnel



Workers from Allied Inc. of Hays are working their way across Goodland on 13th Street, laying a new 10-inch water line as part of the second phase of the city water improvement program. Using a Ditch Witch, the crews are drilling tunnels about a block at a time to allow the new lines to be pushed through.

So far, the new line has been completed from Cattletrail to Kansas, and the drilling will continue until the line is completed east to Eustes. The water improvement program is part of a \$2.5 million project to improve the system, includes the new tank, new lines and two new wells.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

More bleachers needed for Cowboys to host

The Goodland High Cowboys hope to be in the running for a playoff spot in the upcoming football season, and with proposed improvements to their field, they hope to be able to host a playoff game.

Monday, the Goodland School Board will consider a plan to install new bleachers on the visiting side of the high school stadium that will prepare the field to be a possible playoff site.

To host a Class 4A playoff game, said Superintendent Marvin Selby, a facility must have seating for at least 1,400, and have access for persons with disabilities.

The stadium now has seating for around 800 on the home side, not much on the visitors side, and no handicap seating. The year-end financial reports for the district will be given. There will be some year-end budget maneuvers to balance and clear accounts.

The board will also discuss the need to

repair the roof of the high school, considering options and bids for the proposed work.

Members will vote on a contract for the new high school wrestling coach, Christopher Guilott, who will also serve as freshman physical education teacher and weightlifting coach.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Monday at the district office. The next school board meeting will be the annual reorganization meeting at 6 p.m. next Friday.



In a spirit of love, two crosses and other remembrances have been placed at the crash site where two teens from Winona lost their lives.

Michelle Hawkins/Colby Free Press

Latham was born on Feb. 11, 1982 to Bradley D. and Linda S. (Moser) Latham. In addition to his parents, other survivors include sisters Candice and Ashley of the home, and sister Linda Kahle of Manhattan.

The funeral will be held 10:30 Monday at Tri-Plains High School Gymnasium in Winona.

She was preceded in death by three brothers, Caton, Dalton and Jesse, along with her grandparents, Dennis and Diane Gfeller.