

weather  
report

94°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 8:12 p.m.
- Tomorrow
- Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:12 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 75 degrees
- Humidity 19 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds southwest 20-25 mph
- Barometer 29.65 inches and falling

- Record High 99° (1935)
- Record Low 39° (1955)

Last 24 Hours\*

High	95°
Low	64°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, 30 percent chance for thunderstorms, low 55-60, winds southwest 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, high 85-90, low 55-60, winds north 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday and Monday: chance for thunderstorms, high 84-90, low 55-60. Tuesday: dry, high 80s, low 50-55.

(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## Heat bills will jump 31 percent

### Increase shows on June gas bill

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

With temperatures reaching record high, most people aren't thinking about their heating bills, so they might be surprised when they get a bigger June bill.

Customers of Peoples Natural Gas here can expect bills to be 31 percent higher than last June's, said Nick Schwartz, director of gas supply services for UtiliCorp. Market prices are twice as high as they were at this time last year, he said, and this increase is being passed on to customers.

Larissa Long, media relations representative for Peoples, said that gas prices are rising because supply is down and demand is up.

More power stations are using natural gas because it's cheaper, she said, but there was less exploration for natural gas last year because of higher-than-normal temperatures.

"Gas bills are as high as they have ever been for this time of year," said George Minter, another People spokesman.

One of the reasons prices are so high, said Schwartz, is because the gas company is buying natural gas on the market now so that they can sell it for a lower price in the winter.

Minter said that the key to keeping gas prices low for the customer is buying when prices are at their lowest in the summer, and then storing it until winter when prices increase.

In 1997, Peoples bought all of its gas from the market, said Minter. The winter of 1997 was severe, he said, and the cost of gas went up, forcing Peoples to raise prices.

"Now we don't put it all in one basket," said Minter.

He said Peoples buys some its gas on the commodity market and some from fixed price contractors. They buy primarily in the summer.

The company then uses stored supplies during winter months instead of buying more, he said, so they do not have to raise prices in the winter — even if it is a severe one.

## District may investigate future staff

The Goodland School Board may sign an agreement Monday that it will have the KBI and FBI run background checks on all potential employees who have not lived in Kansas for 10 consecutive years.

The board will meet at 7 p.m. in the district office at 1312 Main St. Superintendent Marvin Selby said the agreement is part of a new state law that takes effect on July 1.

He said it requires the board to sign a "point of contact" agreement.

By signing, he said, the district is agreeing to pay \$41 for a check of each new hire who has lived out-of-state.

That means, Selby said, that potential employees will have to agree to be fingerprinted and investigated.

"The strange thing," he said, "is that I can hire someone before I get the results back."

The law is upsetting to many school boards, Selby added, because it shows the state doesn't trust their decisions.

"It says that school boards are making bad decisions," he said, "and I don't believe that is true at all."

Board members will also hear reports from Pam Hardy, the chairperson for the Professional Development Council; Gerald Franklin, board representative to the Northwest Kansas Technical School; and Karla Murray, the district's technical director.



Sid Yost sat on a bed with Angel (above) in their room last week at the Buffalo Inn in Goodland. Later, Angel gave Yost (below) a big kiss.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

## Thespian chimp to act here

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Her name is Angel Holiday and she lives on a 160-acre spread in Ventura, Calif. She likes vienna sausages, but she doesn't like large bodies of water.

She's a chimpanzee and she was in Goodland last week with her trainer, Sid Yost, to look for a site to film a movie called, "Cross Country Rescue."

Angel stars on a weekly children's television series called "Critter Gitters," which is filmed mostly in California and is aired nationwide on over 150 stations.

She was constantly on the move in the hotel room while Yost was talking. He stopped to scold her when she tried to get out the door or messed with the reporter's camera.

Yost said he trains Angel along with all the animals on the show. He has been doing it for so long — 25 years — that they call him "the guy who lives with apes."

He said Angel understands over 600 English spoken words and some Italian. Her home in California has lemon, apple, and orange trees and a 100-year-old avocado tree in which a \$10,000 tree house was built for her. The house also is used for the television show.

Angel was abandoned by her mother when she was three days old. She was then taken in by Yost, who has had her ever since. He called it cross fostering, which is when one species, similar to another, cares for a baby from the other. Yost said Angel's father is Michael Jackson's chimp,



Angel the chimp

"Bubbles."

Yost was quick to explain that Angel is not a monkey, but an ape. He said chimps have no tails and are far more intelligent than monkeys. There is only a 1.6 percent difference between the DNA of a chimp and in humans, he said, adding that chimps have 32 teeth in their mouth like humans and can catch and transmit human diseases. He said ape means to

mimic, which is what a chimp does.

Angel is scared of leopards, snakes, and large bodies of water, he said. She does abstract paintings and has her favorite colors that she uses when painting. Yost said she recently painted three pictures in 15 minutes, which will be sold.

She communicates and solves problems, Yost said, and she sees as humans see.

She can use a toaster and a microwave. Yost said she likes to answer the phone and operate the remote control for the television.

Angel weighs 40 pounds, solid muscle, and she is as strong as a 120-pound human, he said.

At night, Angel sleeps in a regular bed, usually about eight to 10 hours straight. But when Angel travels, she has to be kept in a cage.

Yost said the film crew would come to Goodland the second week of July to film parts for the movie, staying two or three days. He said they probably will need extras from the community.

He described the movie as a live animal action adventure film that would be a lot like "Lassie" or "Flipper" with a touch of "Back to the Future."

## Bikers come to Goodland

### Up to 600 cyclists to show up today

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

Rob Cotter said he took up biking six years ago after quitting smoking. The 40-year-old is now planning to ride 500 miles across Kansas on his bicycle.

Cotter, who lives in Goodland, and nearly 600 other cyclists will line up along the Kansas-Colorado border early Saturday morning, mount their road bikes and set out on a week-long trek.

The journey will end in White Cloud, smack on the Missouri border in the bends of far northeast Kansas.

It's called Biking Across Kansas, and Cotter said this is the fifth time he has participated. A Wichita couple started the non-competitive event in 1975.

Before they leave Saturday, hundreds of bikers will converge on Goodland Friday afternoon, setting up camp around the Max Jones Field House on the state border or renting hotel rooms for the night.

A welcoming reception is planned at the field house between 2-5 p.m., followed by a hamburger fry.

But the tents will come down almost as quickly as they go up.

The Goodland Ambassadors will take the riders and their bikes to the border about 5:30 a.m. Saturday morning, and probably won't stick around to watch them pedal away.

"I enjoy the peace and quiet," said Cotter, who works at the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center, "and seeing all the different towns across Kansas that you can't see from the Interstate."

He and another Goodland resident, Mike Mersch, chose to take the "Karefree" route on the bike trip.

Participants pay \$140, and have their choice of three routes that meet in Hiawatha on Friday, June 16, allowing the cyclists to pedal into White Cloud together.

Hazel Estes, the mayor of Kanorado, plans to take the ride also.

Karefree riders will venture through Colby, Lenora, Smith Center, Beloit, Belleville and Frankfort.

Bikers who chose the "Adorable" route will make their way to U.S. 36, stopping in Norton and Phillipsburg, before veering off for stops in Downs, Concordia and Blue Rapids. The "Bedazzled" route starts west of St. Francis, where riders will begin arriving today.

The cyclists will travel between 57 and 62 miles per day.

Mersch, 58, said he's biked across Kansas every summer for the past seven years. This time though, he said, he won't have to travel far for the start.

He said they change the routes every year, so riders can see different parts of the state.

Mersch, who works for Rhoads Construction, said running keeps him in shape for the ride.

"I'd almost be scared to quit running and biking and everything," he said. "I'd probably die. Plus, I'd get fat."

## Hot birds cause power failures

It was a bird, again. Public Works Director Ed Wolak said he has pictures to prove it.

Wolak said the bird caused two brief power outages on Wednesday afternoon. He said another bird caused the 20-minute power outage Tuesday evening.

At 5:55 p.m. Wednesday, all homes and businesses in Goodland lost power for a few minutes when a bird flew into the substation by the power plant. The same thing happened Tuesday evening.

The power went off a couple minutes Wednesday, lights flickered back on and then everything went down again for about five minutes.

The substation is an open structure, he said, and birds can get in easily, but it's still unusual for one to knock the power out.

## Former sheriff wants his old job back

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

With the filing deadline Monday at noon, a former county sheriff filed for office Thursday, setting up a primary contest with incumbent Sheriff Doug Whitson.

Jack Armstrong, a 57-year-old Republican, said he wants his old job back.

"I have always been interested in law enforcement," Armstrong said. "I want to get back into service on a full time basis. I have nothing against how either of the other candidates do their job, but just want to return to full time."

Sherman County Clerk Janet Rumpel said Undersheriff Dee Albers is expected to file for the Democratic primary.

Armstrong was county sheriff from 1968 to September 1995. Before he was elected, he worked for the Goodland Police Department for four years.

Since 1979, he has been a part-time U.S. Marshal, and has helped the sheriff's department with transportation.

Whitson, a Republican, has filed for re-election, and he and Armstrong will face off in the Republican primary. If Albers, a Democrat, files by Monday, he will face the winner in the November general election.

There are already races for county treasurer and county clerk. Two Republican's Janet Rumpel, who is seeking a fifth term as county clerk, and Judy Siruta, have filed for the office.

Democrats Shelby Miller, seeking her sixth term as treasurer, is facing opposition from Deedi Hoss, who worked in the office for two years.

Commissioners Kenneth Davis and Gary Townsend have both filed for re-election. Davis is a Democrat from District 2, and Townsend is a Republican from District 3.

Register of Deeds Carol Armstrong, a Republican, has filed for re-election and Republican Bonnie Selby has filed for county attorney. Selby was appointed last year to fill a vacancy, and will be seeking her first full term.

Rumpel said several people have filed for townships and precinct offices, and a full list will be available after the Monday deadline.



local  
markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.48 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.20
- Loan deficiency payment — 25¢
- Corn — \$1.82 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.78
- Loan deficiency payment — 21¢
- Milo — \$2.67 hundredweight
- Soybeans — \$4.40 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.52
- Loan deficiency payment — 38¢
- Millet — \$2.67 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$5.85 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.96
- Confection current — \$13/\$7 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon  
wire

Late news from the Associated Press



1 p.m.

## Hoxie woman ties in contest

PRATT — The Miss Kansas pageant completed its second night of preliminaries Thursday, and for the second night a Hutchinson woman finished in a tie.

Miss Frontier, Kelsey Carver, 21, from Hoxie, and Miss Wheat Capital, Jeanne Anne Schroeder, 21, from Hutchinson, tied for first in swimsuit judging Thursday.

Schroeder had tied for first in the talent contest Wednesday night.

Thursday night's talent competition was won by Miss Cheney Lake, Kimberly Brown, 19, from Preston.

She sang "Art is Calling Me," a song from a comic opera.

Twenty-two women are competing for the Miss Kansas title, with finals scheduled for Saturday night. The winner will represent the state in the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, N.J., in October.