

weather report

79°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 8:17 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 5:25 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 63 degrees
- Humidity 40 percent
- Sky mostly clear
- Winds southeast 7 mph
- Barometer 30.06 inches and falling

- Record High 105° (1933)
- Record Low 49° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

- High 87°
- Low 52°
- Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 55-60, winds southeast 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Sunny, chance for thunderstorms, high 100, low 60-65, winds southwest 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: dry, high 100, low 60-65. Monday and Tuesday: dry, high 90s, low 60s. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.57 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.53
 - Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
 - Corn — \$1.68 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.65
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 34¢
 - Milo — \$2.18 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$3.97 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.37
 - Loan deficiency payment — 53¢
 - Millet — \$4.00 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$5.75 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.82
 - 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.

Fire burns near nuclear waste

RICHLAND, Wash. — A huge wildfire roaring across the Hanford nuclear reservation burned out of control early Thursday within miles of areas contaminated by radioactivity. At least 25 homes were destroyed and thousands of people were urged to evacuate. A man was critically burned and two people were treated for smoke inhalation. The fire, which was started Tuesday by a fatal car wreck, spread to 150,000 acres by Thursday morning in the arid sagebrush country of southern Washington. It closed highways and threatened a Hanford building holding radioactive waste Wednesday, then jumped the Yakima River and began burning homes near Benton City, 10 miles west of Richland. "It looks like the sky is on fire. It looks like hell. It's scary," said Betty Upington of Richmond.

Storms breed tornado, hail and winds

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

A quarter-mile-wide tornado roared across southern Cheyenne County, north of Goodland, on Thursday evening, kicking up dust and ripping telephone poles from the ground before it dissipated near the Sherman County line.

"Who saw it?" said Kevin Lynott, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland. "Anyone and anybody."

"Storm spotters, farmers, the general public. The phones were ringing left and right. We even got a call from

Benkelman in Dundy County (Nebraska)."

Meteorologists were still busy Friday morning, taking calls from reporters and others wanting to know about the twister.

"This happens every time we have a tornado," said Lynott.

He said the funnel, which was spotted around 5:30 p.m. near Bird City, could be seen in a four-county area.

"It looks like it was about a six- or seven-mile path it covered," he said, adding that the tornado was moving southeast and stayed on the ground for about 20 minutes.

Lynott said he would have to survey the damage before making a decision on the tornado's strength, but it most likely will be rated at an F-1 or F-2 force, on the low end of the scale.

Not having seen the area where the tornado hit, Lynott said he wasn't sure whether it moved into Sherman County.

"It was close," he said, "awfully close."

The forecaster said he and others from the weather service planned to go to the site late on Friday morning to find damage and make sure no farmsteads were hit.

Lynn Swayne, a matron with the Sherman County Sheriff's Department said there was no damage or injuries reported. She said she didn't see the funnel, but was keeping an eye on the sky.

"Boy it was a nasty-looking cloud," said Swayne, who was off duty at the time. "It was pretty much over by the time I heard about it."

Lynott said the storm was moving about 20 miles an hour and produced nickel-to-golf ball-sized hail in Thomas and Logan counties.

"There was good wind shear, plenty of moisture and just the right type of

dynamics to form a tornado," said Lynott.

He said Friday afternoon the weather service will be surveying damage from another severe storm that moved across the tri-state area, dropping baseball-sized hail and producing 70 to 90 m.p.h. winds.

"Red Willow (in Nebraska), Graham and Norton counties got the brunt of it," Lynott said.

He said that the roof of a house was torn off, sheds damaged and a house may have been knocked over.

"It's all preliminary until I take a look at it," he said.

Africans in Kansas for harvest

Foreign cutters like Wal-Mart

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Four young men from South Africa dropped by the Goodland Wal-Mart Tuesday night to get pictures developed.

The are members of a harvest crew run by Clint Wilson, 36, of Boise City, Okla., who is cutting wheat around Cheyenne Wells, Colo.

The men and Wilson were in Colby earlier Tuesday to get machinery parts and also made a visit to the Colby Wal-Mart.

"They have to stop at every Wal-Mart," Wilson said with a smile.

The group — Thys Van Zyl (pronounced Tace Fun Sail); Nickie Olivier, 30; Johan Burger, 20; and Nicol Martin, 20 — came to the United States around the end of April to work for this summer and fall. It is the first time for each of them in America.

They said it took them 34 hours to travel from South Africa to the United States. They flew from Johannesburg to Brussels, Belgium, then to Washington, and on to Houston. Their final flight took them to Amarillo, where they were picked up by the Wilsons.

"You can't find help from America," Wilson said, adding that this is the fourth year, he's hired men from South Africa.



Johan Burger, Thys Van Zyl, Nicol Martin and Nickie Olivier (standing left to right), South African members of a harvest crew, looked at wheat on Thursday in a field near Cheyenne Wells, Colo. They were joined by Kyle Wilson, their boss's son. Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

He said communication has not been much of a problem, but the South Africans had some problems getting over to the United States.

"If it wasn't for the Wilsons, we

wouldn't have been here," said Olivier.

They all agreed that they have enjoyed being in the U.S., but they also admitted that they have worked very hard.

They wanted to see what the United States was like, but Van Zyl said he had some additional reasons for making the trip.

He wanted to get the experience and

see the world. He said when he heard about the job, he thought it would be a great opportunity to see a foreign coun-

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People pump and run to avoid paying

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

With gas prices still on the rise, some people have decided to pump and run, gas station employees say.

Managers and employees say gas skips have increased with the rise in prices. Each skip a bigger loss because of the higher prices today.

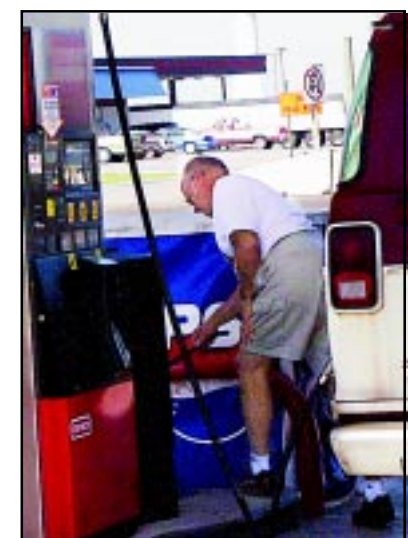
Police say they have not noticed a significant increase in complaints, but know they may not get calls on all the skips.

"We have had a couple of instances," said Police Chief Ray Smece, "but there aren't any more than in the past."

Most instances of gas skips, or pumping the gas and then leaving without paying, have been miscommunications, said the chief.

"Two people are driving together," he said, "and they will both go in the store and leave thinking that the other person paid."

"I can't say that they are any higher



A paying customer pumps gas, but managers say some are pumping and running.

now than they were when gas prices were low."

Gas station employees tell a different story. They said that they have seen

the number of gas skips go up in the last months as prices have risen. For the most part, it's the stations that serve travelers that are having a problem.

"The number of gas skips have definitely gone up since the gas prices went up," said Edith Blume, manager of the Presto Phillips 66 on Commerce Road.

The gas stations that are off of I-70 seem to be getting gas skips a lot more, added Blume, not the ones in town.

"People will just leave the nozzle on the ground and run," she said. "We have actually caught a lot of them."

Presto had about 12 gas skips in the last month, she added.

Austin's Conoco, on Sandy Road near the east I-70 exit, has had about six in the last month, said Manager Barbara Phillips, more than usual.

"It is definitely unusual," she said. "We hardly ever have any."

Most stations in town haven't had as many gas skips. MCB's Motor and Repair hasn't had any skips in the last

month, said Mary Beth Zwick, the bookkeeper.

There was only one this month at the Cowboy Loop, said bookkeeper Leann Friedrichs.

Chief Smece explained that it is harder to get away with the gas skips in town. It is easier to escape when the gas stations are closer to I-70, and transients usually stop near the highway.

The difference in perception between the gas station and the police department might have something to do with the number of gas skips that are reported, said the chief.

"If they don't want to sign a complaint, then it is a civil case," he said.

If a complaint is signed, said Smece then the police will try to find the driver and charge them with theft, but if the gas station doesn't want to file charges, then it isn't reported.

"Most of the time they just want their money," said Smece, "so they don't want to prosecute."

School board will meet to make start-of-year decisions

It's the start of a new year for Kansas school districts, at least financially, and the Goodland School Board will meet Monday morning to make decisions they face at the start of every year.

The board will hold a special meeting at 7 a.m. in the district office at 1312 Main St.

Members will make appointments,

set school lunch prices, select a school board attorney, pick an official newspaper, approve textbooks and make about 20 other decisions.

Though the list is long, Superintendent Marvin Selby said, the meeting usually only takes about 45 minutes.

The board also may discuss resurfacing the high school's aging track, if bids

are available, and will review bids the district gathered on computer equipment.

The computer equipment bid opening was scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Friday.

This week, the district hired Travis Whitman as a social science teacher and assistant basketball coach at the

high school. Board members hired Whitman at a meeting on Monday, but asked that his name not be released until he has time to tell his boss he is taking another job.

Whitman said he taught at the Northwest Kansas Technical School for five years before deciding to make the change.

Williams moving to Carolina?

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)—North Carolina coach Bill Guthridge retired Friday after three years as Dean Smith's successor, a move that opens one of the most prestigious jobs in college sports. Kansas coach Roy Williams, a former North Carolina assistant under Smith, will succeed Guthridge, a source close to the university told The Associated Press.

However, Williams said in a statement Friday he has agreed to talk to North Carolina athletic director Dick Baddour, but it is "completely false" that he has accepted the job.

Williams said an announcement clarifying his situation will come "on or before July 7," the day before he goes on the road recruiting.

Williams talked Thursday night with Kansas athletic director Bob Frederick. Frederick said he wanted to emphasize to Williams "how strongly the university, the community, the people in the state of Kansas and all of our alumni and fans feel about him continuing as the Jayhawk coach forever."

Kansas chancellor Robert Hemenway said the school was privileged to have Williams.

"Our hope and fervent desire is that the best basketball coach in America will continue to practice his craft at KU," he said Thursday night.