

weather report

65°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 8:01 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 5:25 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:03 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 61 degrees
- Humidity 34 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds north 23-30 mph
- Barometer 30.05 inches and steady
- Record High 97° (1964)
- Record Low 29° (1992)

Last 24 Hours*

- High 77°
- Low 39°
- Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low upper 30s, north wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, high 70-75, low 40-45, north wind 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: dry, high 70s. Sunday: dry, high 70s, low 40s. Monday: chance of thunderstorms, high 65-75, low 45-55.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Current wheat — \$2.73 bushel
 - New wheat — \$2.75 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.71
 - Corn — \$1.74 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.63
 - Loan deficiency payment — 36¢
 - Milo — \$2.84 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$3.95 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.85
 - Loan deficiency payment — \$1.05
 - Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$6.85 cwt.
 - Oil new crop — \$5.95 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.71
 - Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$14 (new crop)
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Bush pushes tax-cut plan

WASHINGTON—Despite upheaval in the Senate, negotiations on a final 11-year, \$1.35 trillion tax package moved ahead today as President Bush urged lawmakers anew to finish the bill this week.

“We feel we need to go forward with this,” said Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., the majority leader who will lose that title because of the decision by Vermont GOP Sen. James Jeffords to become an independent and tip the Senate balance of power toward the Democrats. “This is bigger than who’s in charge.”

As the bargaining continued in a first floor room in the Capitol, the House remained in recess but was ready to take up a compromise if a deal was reached. The Senate could then act as early as Friday.

Bush, speaking in Cleveland, urged lawmakers to complete the bill.

Leaders listen to pleas from farm

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Farmers, custom cutters and others who worry about the future of family farming gathered early at the Northwest Kansas Technical College campus to talk with U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran and House Agriculture Committee leaders.

The legislators, in a district-wide teleconference, asked for opinions about the next farm bill — which will be written this year — and about how to save small farms from financial ruin.

The college’s Murray Center was one of eight sites for the conference, starting at 6:30 a.m. Mountain Time Tuesday.

Low crop prices, high fuel costs and bad yields

have farmers in Kansas and across the nation struggling to stay afloat, and they say the 1996 farm bill, which covers most agriculture programs through 2002, isn’t helping.

Former President Bill Clinton, when he signed the last farm bill in 1996, said he was doing it with reservations.

“I believe the bill fails to provide an adequate safety net for family farmers,” he wrote. “The fixed payments in the bill do not adjust to changes in market conditions, which



Jerry Moran

would leave farmers, and the rural communities in which they live, vulnerable to reductions in crop prices or yields.”

His words rang true Tuesday, as farmers say the payment programs set up by the bill are helpful when crop prices are low and yields are high, but won’t do much good this year, when there are “depression-era” prices and pitiful yields.

The “Freedom to Farm” bill was supposed to make American farmers more competitive in the world market by allowing them to choose the crops they plant, farmers say, but allegedly unfair trading policies and sanctions have made that impossible.

Lawmakers said they have heard different so-

lutions, but they’ve also heard reasons why those won’t work.

Some suggest leaving the program payments the same but keeping farmers from planting on 10 to 20 percent of their land each year, reducing the amount of crop and increasing demand and prices.

Agriculture leaders say countercyclical payments, which would increase or decrease depending on farm income, would be more fair.

Congressman Moran, from an office in Washington, said he and other rural lawmakers want ideas from Kansas farmers and ranchers about

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Grandmother delivers baby on I-70

Mom, daughter safe at hospital

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Leslie Farley said she worked on the county ambulance for five years, and one goal was to be in on the birth of a baby. She just didn’t think it would be her own granddaughter.

“I thank God I am an EMT,” said Farley, 604 Cherry, Wednesday morning after delivering her daughter Kelli’s baby at 12:55 a.m. in the back seat of a car heading east on I-70 about three miles from the Colby exit.

“We did some simulated training, and I witnessed a cesarean birth,” she said, “but this was my first.”

She said Kelli and daughter Kaitlin Rae Thompson are doing well at the Citizens Medical Center. The baby weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and was 19 1/4 inches long.

“Never again,” said Kelli Farley, 18, when asked about her experience with “natural” child birth.

Kelli and the father, Aaron Thompson, who works at the Frontier Equity shop in Goodland, had driven to Colby with Leslie and Kelli’s sister, Randi Gray, 16, about 9:30 p.m. Tuesday when it seemed that labor pains had started.

Nurses sent them home to Goodland about an hour later after consulting by phone with Dr. Victor Hildyard, who thought the blessed event would not happen that night.

“We had been home about 30 minutes when the pains got worse,” Leslie Farley said. “I called dispatch and said we were headed to Colby and wouldn’t be going slow, but would have our flashers on.

“We stopped at Brewster to change, with Aaron driving, and I got in the back seat with Kelli. It was just so fast,



Leslie Farley



Kaitlin Rae Thompson rested comfortably in the arms of her mother, Kelli Farley, at the Citizens Medical Center in Colby. Her father, Aaron Thompson, had just fed her. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Daily News

and there she was.

“I cleaned the baby off and got her to cry as we got off the Interstate. I didn’t have any tools. We wrapped her in a Winnie the Pooh baby blanket.”

It wasn’t quite so easy for her daughter.

“I thought I was going to die,” Kelli said. “I kept saying, I wanted the pain

to stop.”

When they arrived at Citizens, mother and baby were wheeled into the delivery room to complete the birth and cut the umbilical cord.

“I was less nervous after I started driving,” Thompson said.

He had planned to be in the delivery room for the birth, but wasn’t ex-

pecting the delivery room to be the back seat of a car hurtling down the highway.

At the hospital, Thompson was holding and feeding Kaitlin.

When it came time for a diaper change, however, he handed her over to Kelli, saying it was her turn as he had already done it once.

Goodland couple helps Hoisington tornado victims recover

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Marlin and Mary Zimbelman saw firsthand the effects of the Hoisington tornado and how it affects people’s lives, but it wasn’t the first time they have jumped in to help after a disaster.

The Goodland couple are volunteers for the American Red Cross and have been to several national disasters. Besides tornadoes, they’ve worked after earthquakes, hurricanes, windstorms, fires and floods.

They belong to the North Central Kansas Chapter of the Red Cross out of Salina and work as family service specialists. Marlin said they joined the Salina chapter because it offers lots of classes.

He is an auctioneer and farmer, and he said the couple is able to go to disasters because they can set their own work schedule.

Marlin said he was involved in the organization before the couple married in 1992, but Mary wasn’t. However, she had taught cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and was an emergency medical technician at Cambridge, Neb., for about 25 years.



People worked to cleanup debris after the Hoisington tornado April 21. Photo by Mary Zimbelman

They said in the first six months they were married they went on three national disasters. When Hurricane Andrew hit Florida in 1992, they spent 31 days helping there. When they go out

of state, he said, they usually work for three weeks. When a disaster is in their state, they might work for just a few days. They stay in motels while on duty and wear their Red Cross vests to dis-

tinguish themselves.

The Red Cross makes sure people have emergency needs, like food, clothing and shelter, right after a disaster. They also set up a communication system, because most times there is no phone service.

Hoisington, which is in central Kansas, was hit by another tornado on Oct. 10, 1919, killing three people and injuring a fourth who later died. Though damage was extensive this time, only one person was killed.

The Zimbelmans said the recent tornado hit the north and northwest areas of Hoisington, damaging about one-third of the town. Besides shattering many homes, it caused major damage to the hospital and destroyed the only grocery in town. The tornado also damaged the town’s high school, swimming pool and a park.

“(There were) cars in basements, cars in trees, cars all over,” Mary said.

They said Hoisington high school students were holding their prom the night of April 21 when the tornado hit. Usually it is held at the school, but this year it was at the Knights of Columbus Hall for some reason. The students

were sent to the basement as the tornado touched down. Later, students at nearby Great Bend High School helped put on a prom for the Hoisington juniors and seniors.

The Red Cross rushed Emergency Response Vehicles to Hoisington which dispensed food and drinks to victims and workers. The Zimbelmans said that Baptist church members did the cooking.

The Zimbelmans said churches and organizations donated canned foods and businesses donated juice, water, food and merchandise like shovels, rakes, hoes and gloves.

Prisoners from Ellsworth County and students and adults from surrounding towns helped with the cleanup. Several towns sent dump trucks to help haul off the debris. Mary said people hauled off all the debris and raked the ground until it was clear.

“We’ve been to a lot of disasters,” Marlin said, “and we’ve never seen people pull together like they did there.”

Marlin said when he and his wife re-

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