


weather report

96° at noon



Today

- Sunset, 7:52 p.m.
- Tomorrow
- Sunrise, 5:54 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:5 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 74 degrees
- Humidity 26 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds south 15 mph
- Barometer 30.03 inches and falling
- Record High 108° (1934)
- Record Low 46° (1939)

Last 24 Hours*

High	96°
Low	62°
Precipitation	none

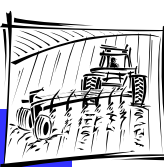
Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 60-65, southwest wind 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 80, low 50-55, northwest wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: dry, high 75-80. Saturday and Sunday: chance of thunderstorms , high 80, low 60. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.55 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.48
Corn — \$2.02 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.88
Loan deficiency payment — 11¢
Milo — \$3.25 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.70 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.47
Loan deficiency payment — 45¢
Millet — \$4.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.55 cwt.
Oil new crop — \$7.45 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.19
Confection current — no bid
Pinto beans — \$16 (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.

Pratt suicide investigated

PRATT—A formal inquisition is under way in the case of a teen who killed himself after his friend was taken to a hospital for treatment of alcohol poisoning in a move to get reluctant teens to say who bought the booze.

Officials believe Blake Allan Culver, 15, was distraught after his friend was taken to the hospital following an underage drinking party. No one knows if Culver thought his friend had died when he went home, found a handgun and committed suicide after the party early July 21.

Authorities investigating Culver's death said other teenagers who were at the party had been hesitant to provide information about where the alcohol came from. So Pratt County Attorney Tom Black sought a formal inquisition, which allows him to subpoena witnesses.

New utility charge confuses some

By Rachel Miscal
The Goodland Daily News

Many people were confused when they found a new charge labeled "FA" on their city utility bills this month with no explanation of the new fee, intended to let the city recover some of the extra money it's paying for energy this year.

City Clerk Mary Volk said her office received several calls from people wondering what FA means and why they're being charged for it. The amount actually represents a "fuel adjustment" charge approved by the Goodland City Commission in June.

"They just want to know what the FA is on the bill," she said, "so we tell them and we give them the rate that Ed Wolak has given us."

Wolak, Goodland public works director, said the new charge will help the city cover the rising

cost to make or buy electricity.

Residents can expect to see the charge, which will vary from month to month, on their utility bills until power costs go down or city officials decide to increase electric rates for good — which could happen in February.

Wolak said the charge is different for each customer each month, depending on how much the city pays to buy or make electricity in a month and how much power each resident uses that month. Residents will likely see the highest charges this and next month, he said, because July and August, the hottest months, are the peak for energy use.

City Manager Ron Pickman said with higher fuel costs this year, the city has been paying more for electricity than it was charging residents to use it, and officials decided they had to either increase electric rates or find another way to break even.

He said high natural gas prices have made it more expensive to produce electricity at the city plant and the city has to pay more when it buys outside power.

Pickman and Wolak said they and the city commissioners decided to go with the fuel adjustment charge — instead of raising rates or imposing one fixed fee — because they thought it was the fairest option.

"We wanted to keep the hurt down as much as possible," Pickman said, noting that residents have already been paying more to gas up their cars and heat their homes.

Wolak said he figures out each month how much more the city paid to buy or make electricity over the rate residents now pay, and uses that to find out how much the city needs to bring in per kilowatt hour of electricity to break even. That num-

ber, he said, is then multiplied by the amount of power each resident has used to come up with the fuel adjustment charge.

Pickman said when the city commissioners set the residential electric rate, which is 7.3 cents per kilowatt hour, in the early 1990s, they based it on the average cost to produce or buy electricity — 2.8 cents at the time. He said the cost to distribute the power and maintain the system is included in the rate.

The production cost has remained consistent, he said, until last year when natural gas prices soared.

"Our costs sky rocketed," Wolak said, noting that the average cost to buy or make electricity is now 3.5 to 5 cents per kilowatt hour. He said the city tries to pay as little as possible for electricity by comparing the cost to buy or make power.

Pig pin



"I got him!" "Hold on!" It was chaos Monday at the Wild West Buckaroo Show pig catch at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair. Kids ages 6-7 circled the pigs and used any hold possible to catch one. Winning the event was Cooper Slough, second was Jason Cowan and third went to Spencer Smith. The fair continues through Saturday. Photo by Sheila Smith / The Goodland Daily News

Legislator from Colby files for re-election

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Daily News

Dr. Jim Morrison, a Republican from Colby, has filed for re-election to the Kansas House of Representatives in 2002.

The veteran legislator says if he wins a sixth term, he plans to continue working for a bill to allow electronic commerce to come to western Kansas, to help area schools to get more money from the state and to push for better medical care in rural hospitals.

He is currently chair of the Joint Committee on Information Technology and vice-chair of the House Committee on Health and Human Services. He also serves on the Education Committee and the e-Government Committee.

Development of high-speed rural branches of the "information highway"



Morrison

is crucial to the growth of our economy, he said, as businesses in rural areas do not see as much traffic by their front doors as do those in large cities. Our business people have worked with these conditions, he said, and are thus better equipped to compete in the worldwide market than others are.

"I want to extend Main Street Goodland to the world," he said.

A law passed this year, Morrison said, requires that Kansas adopt a common platform for telecommunications across all three branches of government.

This will allow more secure communication over the Internet, he said, which would allow the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, for instance, to communicate securely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The KBI is the only law-enforcement agency that is able to

do this so far, he said.

Morrison said he is concerned about the quality of education here if state funding is cut. Our schools have had a substantial decline in enrollment, he said, and that is usually what determines the amount of money the state will give to a district.

If the state sends area schools less money, he said, the schools will have to cut programs. The school boards would have difficult decisions to make, he said, and he wants to prevent that from happening.

The representative was the chairman of the committee which was pushed for a Kan-ed bill giving schools the ability to interconnect electronically.

You could have a classroom of two people out here collaborate with 30 other students elsewhere, he said.

The bill went into effect July 1 and should be implemented within the next five years to make schools fully interactive with other schools and libraries,

he said, but he wants to speed that up.

Morrison said he is also trying to keep the money coming to small hospitals.

Better health care is also tied in with technology, Morrison said, as hospitals are able to perform tele-surgery with the right telecommunications connections.

In tele-surgery, also called robotic surgery, a doctor at one hospital can perform surgery on a patient at another hospital, he said, giving patients access to the best surgeons and specialists in the country.

The representative graduated from the University of Kansas and the Southern College of Optometry. He owned and practiced at an optometry clinic in Colby which is now owned by his son Jeff.

He has served as the 121st District in the House for nine years, five terms, and says he wants to continue to serve the people of this district.

Officers search for pair

A massive air and ground search was underway in northwest Kansas after noon today as officers tried to locate a car stolen at knife point from a Thomas County woman, who was bound but apparently not hurt.

Radio stations were asked to broadcast the description of the stolen vehicle, and airplanes were searching south of Colby.

It was not known what started the chase, but it is possible it was related to a gas skip by a blue pickup earlier in Oakley. The blue pickup was located in a corn field in Thomas County.

Officers received a report that a man and a woman armed with a knife tied up an elderly woman at Randy Barton's home in Thomas County, south of Colby. They stole a black 1998 Ford Escort with Kansas license plate SFO 942.

The latest word was that the car had been spotted south of Colby and that 30 law enforcement officers and at least two airplanes were searching the area.

Officers are asking that anyone spotting the vehicle call 911 to report the location, but not to approach as the occupants are considered dangerous.

Heat wave makes life miserable

By Associated Press

Temperatures soared again today as a heat wave made life miserable for millions of people across the nation from the Plains to the East Coast.

Searing heat stretched from the Dakotas and Minnesota to Philadelphia and New York, where the temperature hit 99 degrees in Central Park. The humidity made temperatures feel even hotter, with most states experiencing heat indexes of more than 100 degrees.

"There's folks out here getting overheated. It's dangerous," said Jimmy Cornelison, coroner in Madison County, Ky., where heat was blamed for the death of a man working on a roof.

"If you walk out there right now and you're doing strenuous work and you don't compensate with fluids, you're asking for trouble," Cornelison said. "It's hot. It's bad hot."

By midday, Wrightstown, N.J., already was steaming with a heat index of 116 — based on an actual temperature of 99 degrees and 49 percent humidity. The town is close to the heat-radiating runways of McGuire Air Force Base.

Relief was on the way for the north-central states as a cold front started pushing into North Dakota, the National Weather Service said.

As the approaching cooler air collided with the hot, humid air, thunderstorms snapped trees and power lines and tore apart buildings early today in Hillsboro, N.D.

No injuries were reported, but Gov. John Hoeven sent the National Guard to help clean up the town of 1,500 people.

Work closes Caldwell Ave. north of airport to K-27

Sherman County's transfer station is open, but getting to it is more difficult these days.

Curt Way, county road and bridge superintendent, said Caldwell Avenue has been closed north of the airport because Ritchie Paving is now paving the new roads and K-27 north of the city.

"I talked to the supervisor for Ritchie, but he was not sure how long the road would be closed," Way said. "He told me, 'We are doing our job as quickly as possible.'"

To get to the transfer station, he said, people have to drive east to County Road 23 and north to Road 67, back west to get to it from the east.

Colorado family's trailer catches fire on highway

A Denver couple's motor home caught fire Tuesday on I-70, delaying their return home with six children.

The Sherman County Sheriff's Office reported that Clarence A. Church Jr., 68, was westbound about six miles east of the state line when he noticed a fire in the right rear axle, near the right wheel.

He pulled over about 8 p.m., and Deputy Robert Lamb was at the scene

to help within seven minutes of receiving the call.

Rural firemen came to put out the blaze.

Despite the crowd in the motor home, no one was hurt. With Church were his wife Mary, 58; and six children, Webgeworth, 15; Deeindra, Darius and Michael Davis, 9, 11 and 15; Tony Fresquez, 8; and Rujon Belt, 13.

The motor home had to be towed.