

weather report

72°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 7:51 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:55 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:50 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 75 degrees

• Humidity 63 percent

• Sky cloudy

• Winds northeast 19-27 mph

• Barometer 30.18 inches and falling

• Record High 108° (1937)

• Record Low 53° (1965)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 95°

Low 59°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, low 50-55, light north wind. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 75-80, low 55-60, south-east 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday and Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, high 80s, low 55-60. Monday: dry, high 85-90, low 55-60.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.58 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.48

Corn — \$2.03 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.90

Loan deficiency pmt. — 9¢

Milo — \$3.26 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.72 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.51

Loan deficiency payment — 41¢

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

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, 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 to give cell decision

CRAWFORD, Texas — After months of deliberations, President Bush will announce his decision tonight on whether to allow federal funding for embryonic stem cell research.

“The president has carefully considered the scientific and ethical issues involved,” said White House spokesman Scott McClellan. “This is a decision that will have far-reaching implications for our nation 20 to 30 years from now and beyond.”

It’s one of the biggest decisions of Bush’s presidency, pitting many scientists and research advocates against anti-abortion forces.

Bush intends to disclose his decision in a 7 p.m. Mountain Time nationally televised address from his ranch. Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer said the speech would run about eight to 10 minutes.



## Gas tank explodes and burns

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

A gasoline storage tank exploded and burned Wednesday afternoon at the Joe Bellamy Farm, near K-27 a half-mile south of the Sherman County line.

Wallace County Sheriff Larry Townsend said the tank blew up when workers at the farm were transferring fuel from one tank to another. The workers told the sheriff there was 600 gallons of gas in the tank when it exploded, blowing the lid off the vertical, above-ground tank.

A stiff south wind whipped billowing black smoke off the tank, and the cloud could be seen from about two miles south of Goodland. Firemen with two fire trucks from Wallace County were spraying a foam solution on the fire when Sherman County trucks arrived to assist.

The top of the tank landed about 100 yards to the north.

“They said there was a spark which ignited a small amount of gasoline, and it took off from there,” the sheriff said.

Nearby tanks were being sprayed to keep them from adding to the inferno.

Townsend said the call came in at 12:52 p.m., and the Sherman County rural fire department was put on standby. A moment later, the call was given to the Sherman firemen to head south.

With hoses from the two trucks from Wallace County and one from Sherman County, the blaze was kept from getting away. The second Sherman County truck was supplying water.

The fire was controlled within an hour, and the firemen were raised on a forklift to allow them to spray down into the tank to cool it off and keep it from reigniting.

Townsend said the situation was dangerous, and the workers were lucky that no one got hurt. He said the tank appeared to hold about 2,000 gallons when full.

“That was our second fire of the day,” Sheriff Townsend said. “Earlier a Union Pacific train had started a grass fire about five miles west of



Fireman sprayed treated water on a gasoline tank fire and on nearby tanks to keep the fire from spreading. The tank, just south of the Wallace County line, exploded Wednesday when a spark ignited gas as fuel was being transferred from another tank at the Joe Bellamy Farm. Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Sharon Springs, and the firemen were trying to put that out.”

He said the grass fire had spread to some conservation reserve land, and

the firemen had been called out there at least three times to put out rekindled fires.

The National Weather Service in

Goodland said at the time of the fires south of Goodland, the winds were blowing from the south at 10-15 miles per hour with gusts to 25.

## Runaway tank hits grain truck

**By Rachel Miscall**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

A runaway 1,000-gallon portable fertilizer tank plowed into a grain truck stopped at 17th Street and Cattletail Avenue Wednesday, leaving two city workers who had been repairing an electric pole thankful the truck had shielded them.

Larry Gutsch, a Sherman County farmer, said he was driving north on Cattletail in his GMC pickup about 1:45 p.m. near the railroad crossing when the empty Collingwood Grain tank he was hauling became unhitched.

Gutsch said he was crossing the intersection at 17th and hadn’t noticed the tank was unhitched until he saw it roll by the passenger side of his truck. It hit a grain truck owned by D&D Custom Hauling sitting at the stop sign.

“I saw the trailer coming,” said Pete DeLaRosa, co-owner of D&D in Goodland, “but people were stopped behind me. I didn’t want to hit anyone, so I just waited.”

He said the tank damaged the front driver’s side and smashed in the door step of his truck. Ed Cook, Collingwood manager, said the tank’s engine and pump were damaged, causing a small amount of



white liquid to leak onto 17th Street. A call went out for the hazardous materials team.

Gutsch said the tank was empty and what spilled onto the street was water and residue. Police Chief Ray Smee said the tank had contained a liquid fertilizer. Emergency workers spread an oil-absorbing material across the road to soak up the liquid.

Neal Thornburg, a city worker, said he had just turned south off 17th onto Cattletail when he noticed the unhitched trailer running toward the intersection, where two other city workers were

repairing an electric pole.

Abel Ontiveroz and Manny Hernandez said they were standing on the north side of 17th Street behind the grain truck, concentrating on wrapping wire around a line attaching the electric pole to the ground. Hernandez said if the grain truck hadn’t been there or had moved, the tank could have injured or killed them.

“We wouldn’t have noticed it coming,” Hernandez said, adding that it would have probably hit both him and Ontiveroz because they were standing near each other.

A Collingwood Grain employee got ready to haul a portable tank away Wednesday after it came unhitched from a farmer’s pickup and hit a grain truck at 17th Street and Cattletail Avenue.

Photo by Rachel Miscall The Goodland Daily News

## Couple still on the run

### Manhunt continues for two car thieves

**By JAY KELLEY**  
*Colby Free Press*

A man and woman in a stolen pickup fled from a sheriff’s deputy on I-70 Wednesday, starting a chase which ended when they drove off the highway, through a fence and into a corn field.

The pair then accosted a Colby teenager at knifepoint, stealing her car and prompting one of the most intensive manhunts the area has seen in years. The couple slipped through the net, however, apparently doubling back to near Hoxie, where they left the car at an elevator and took a white 1991 Jeep Cherokee.

The chase took to the air within minutes as officers from the Thomas County Sheriff, Colby Police and Kansas Highway Patrol were assisted by a private plane and a Highway Patrol plane out of Quinter.

Officers from Logan and Sherman counties joined the search Wednesday, closing off U.S. 40 and I-70 within an hour after the chase began. Agents from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation responded from Hays, Liberal and Great Bend.

The fugitives are apparently heading east and are probably still running, said Thomas County Sheriff Tom Jones.

“We’ve got a lot of people working on the case,” said Jones, praising the quick response of other agencies in the case.

The couple, originally wanted for a gasoline skip in Grinnell, are also suspected of tying up a rural Thomas County teen-ager and stealing her black 1998 Ford Escort.

The couple left the car near the Hoxie Grain Co. elevator, taking a 1991 White Jeep Cherokee which was parked there.

The Sheridan County Sheriff’s office said the Cherokee, with Sheridan County license ION-370, was there at 8 p.m. when employees left for the day.

It was reported missing at 8:30 a.m. today when workers discovered the black Escort, stolen during the Thomas County manhunt Wednesday, parked in its place.

“It’s pretty obvious it’s the same two in the pickup,” Jones said.

The sheriff said dispatchers received the gas skip report on Wednesday morning, describing the vehicle as a teal Mazda extended cab pickup. At 11:38 a.m., Deputy Ken Patton stopped a pickup matching the description on the westbound on-ramp at I-70 and K-25.

The driver denied involvement in the theft, but when Patton asked for identification, he drove away. When Patton pursued, the driver crossed the median,

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## City officials supporting ‘Junk Parade’

**By Sharon Corcoran**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

City commissioners gave their support but no money to two projects aimed at improving the appearance of Goodland at their meeting Monday.

When visitors were offered the opportunity to speak, Mitch Hixson and Schyler Goodwin of the Goodland Development Corp. took the floor to ask the commission’s permission to have a “junk parade.” They said the project is designed to clean up the city by encouraging people to pick up trash and larger refuse.

“I would like to ask the city’s permission to march trucks and trailers of junk down Main Street,” Goodwin said.

The men said they have contacted churches, businesses and civic organizations to

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