

weather
report

81°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 7:50 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:56 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:49 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 70 degrees
• Humidity 56 percent
• Sky mostly cloudy
• Winds south 8 mph
• Barometer 30.25 inches
and falling
• Record High 105° (1964)
• Record Low 48° (1960)

Last 24 Hours*

High 81°
Low 57°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, low mid 50s, southeast wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high mid 80s, low 60, south wind 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, high 90. Monday and Tuesday: dry, high 90-95, low 60-65.

(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 — \$2.52
Corn — \$2.08 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.92
Loan deficiency payment — 7¢
Milo — \$3.35 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.77 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.56
Loan deficiency payment — 36¢
Millet — \$4.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.70 cwt.
Oil new crop — \$7.60 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.23
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.

Bush allows
limited study

WASHINGTON (AP) — Confronting President Bush's decision allowing federal funds for limited stem cell research, scientists today pressed for more latitude to avoid possible treatment delays.

Political conservatives urged restraint.

"We should take a lot of time to think through the steps that we're proceeding down before we rapidly move down this road. ... This is a new world for us," said Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., a leader of abortion opponents concerned that embryos are destroyed for stem cell research.

Dr. John Gearhart, a researcher at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, said he was disappointed Bush limited funding only to 60 or so lines of existing stem cells. He said it could slow research unless new stem cell lines are drawn from additional embryos.

Fugitives held knife to girl's throat

By Jay Kelley

Colby Free Press

A Colby teen-ager spent a terrifying half-hour in the hands of two fugitives when she returned to her rural home Thursday to find the couple had broken in while eluding police.

The girl, who asked that her name not be used, said the man held a steak knife to her throat at one point and the couple seemed to think the police knew where they were. The phone continued ringing, as it turns out, from friends trying to warn the family about the fugitives, but the

couple wouldn't let her answer.

"She (the woman) seemed like she didn't want anything to do with it," said the girl. "He was really erratic and seemed scared."

After about a half-hour, the couple tied the girl up, changed clothes and took her 1998 Ford Escort and some checks. Within seconds, she freed herself and called 911.

That call was the first good clue officers had in the search. Shortly afterward, a private plane used in the search spotted the Mazda pickup near the farmstead south of Colby.

Thomas County Sheriff Tom Jones said a Colby officer helping with the search was at the home before she hung up.

"She was very scared, but she kept her head," said Jones. "She did the right thing."

The couple is believed to have made their way to Colby, where they apparently left the girl's car and stole a 1991 white Jeep Cherokee from the Hoxie Grain Co. that evening.

According to the Sheridan County sheriff's office, the Jeep, with Sheridan County license number ION-370, was last seen at 8 p.m. when employ-

ees left the elevator. It was reported missing at 8:30 a.m. Thursday when employees discovered the girl's Escort parked in its place.

Sheriff Jim Johnson speculated the suspects hid out in a rural area of Sheridan or Thomas County until Wednesday night.

The chase started on the west on-ramp of I-70 from Range Avenue in Colby when Thomas County Sheriff's Deputy Ken Patton stopped a Mazda pickup that looked like one reported to be

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Pool season to end

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

Steever Water Park will have reduced hours, with reduced rates, next week as lifeguards filter off for school and sports activities, then close for the summer the following Tuesday as its managers go to other jobs.

The water park will be open from 1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday starting on Monday. It will be open from 1-7 p.m. next Saturday, Aug. 18, with the slides being closed because there are only four lifeguards available to work that day.

The park is required to have six lifeguards to operate the pool and have the slides open. The park will be open from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19.

Adult swim will be open to people ages 18 and over from noon-1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. Monday-Friday next week.

Practice begins for high school sports on Monday, said Pool Manager Debbie Lawson, and some of the lifeguards will be participating and will not be available to work as many hours.

The water park will close on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at 4 p.m., Lawson said, because she has to go to work at North Elementary as a paraprofessional and Assistant Manager Kristi Nelson has to care for the children of a teacher who will begin work that day. When staff training begins at the school, she said, the water park has to close because there won't be anyone to run it.

"The city has had this problem for years," City Manager Ron Pickman said. "When the swimming pool has employees that have to go to school, they have to close."

The old swimming pool closed on Aug. 22, 1999 and on Aug. 23 the previous year.

The city commission decided to reduce the rates for the water park during the time of reduced hours at its meeting Monday.

Some of the commissioners felt the price shouldn't be reduced because most swimmers wouldn't stay any longer if the water park were open all day than they will while the hours are reduced. Others thought they should just let people in.

"I wouldn't be opposed to letting people in free," Commissioner Rick Billinger said.

The temporary price reduction for Aug. 13-21 will be: children five and under free, children six to 12 will pay \$1 and people 13 and over will pay \$2.

Board may approve small tax hike

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland School Board will hold a hearing on Monday to give people a chance to discuss and ask questions about next year's budget, which includes a .63 of 1 mill increase in the school district's property tax levy.

The board may approve the proposed budget at the meeting, though some members have said they will not vote for it if it includes a tax increase. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at the district office on Main Ave.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said the small increase would raise the local property tax levy from 14.04 to 14.67 mills and bring in about \$40,000 next year. That is a slight increase, he noted, when compared to the district's proposed budget of \$7,454,269.

He said the budget last year was \$7,349,490, a difference of \$104,779,

or 1.425 percent. While the tax increase will bring in about \$40,000, Selby said, the rest of the money will be due to higher property values in Sherman County, which means more tax dollars for the district.

Selby has said without the tax hike, the district will be forced to cut programs and possibly staff. One reason the district is in a financial bind is that state legislators this year approved a relatively lean education package, leaving many districts, facing declining enrollments and increases in insurance and other services, looking for money.

Despite that, board members said at the last meeting that they had mixed feelings about the tax increase.

On the one hand, they said, the increase is minor compared to the 7.8 percent property tax increase city commissioners approved this week. But,

they noted, with the economy taking a slide and people having to pay more for gas and other services, it might not be a good idea to raise taxes.

"Considering the current economic conditions," said member Ron Schilling, "it is hard to vote for a tax increase."

Ben Duell said he would not vote for a tax increase, while Kathy Russell and Eric Gray said it may be necessary. They all agreed that the district should look for ways to save as much money as possible. The board will also review investment bids from banks in Sherman County, approve a bid from a Colby company called Vap, which supplies the district with milk, and hear a report from Mike Campbell on the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center board, where he represents the district.

Selby said the board will also discuss hiring cooks.

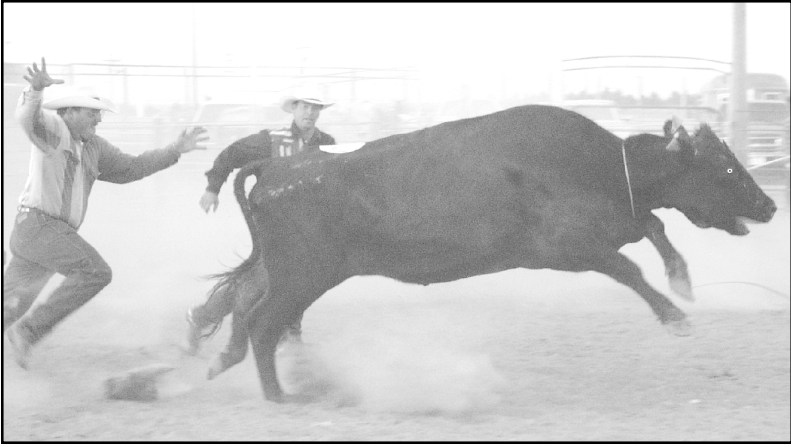


Wild milking

About 10 cowboy teams from ranches and feed yards in Goodland, St. Francis and Colorado participated in the wild cow milking event at the Ranch Rodeo on Monday during the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair. Each four- to five-man team had to cut a cow from a herd at one end of the corral, make the cow cross a chalk line, rope and mug the animal and then milk it. One team member then had to squirt a small

amount of milk into a plastic bottle and then run to a circle on the west side of corral, where he poured the milk out. A judge stood near the circle with a flag to signal when the milk had been poured. Many teams completed the event in about a minute, while a couple were disqualified because the cow crossed back over the line, which was not allowed.

Photos by Rachel Miscal
The Goodland Daily News



Seniors have their own fair to avoid the heat

By Reagan Smith

The Goodland Daily News

The residents at the Good Samaritan Center are having a fair of their own this week in conjunction with the county fair.

The idea came up during a resident council meeting, when Rob Cotter, a social worker for the center, asked the residents what they would like to do since it is too hot to go to the fair. They came up with the idea of holding their own fair, and the staff went to work to make it happen.

Sherry Helton, activities director, said staff and volunteers made the fair a joint effort. A fair-type display

case was set up where staff and residents brought craft items to display, tables were decorated with miniature hay bales, a cowboy hat, and farm figurines, including cowboys and animals.

Cotter contacted Leon Volk, because of his work at the Catholic Church in Goodland, and asked him to come in and draw some backdrops. Volk's drawings of scenes from the fair, done in black and white on cardboard, include a carousel, Ferris wheel and other amusement rides; livestock pens with sheep,

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