

weather  
report

80°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 7:41 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:02 a.m.  
• Sunset, 7:40 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 65 degrees  
• Humidity 40 percent  
• Sky sunny  
• Winds light and variable  
• Barometer 30.19 inches  
and steady  
• Record High 105° (1983)  
• Record Low 47° (1944)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 85°  
Low 53°  
Precipitation .01

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, low upper 50s, light winds 5-15. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 85-90, low 55-60.

Extended Forecast

Sunday and Monday: dry, high 85-95, 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 — \$2.53 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.48  
Corn — \$2.01 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.89  
Loan deficiency payment — 10¢  
Milo — \$3.23 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.65 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.49  
Loan deficiency payment — 43¢  
Millet — \$4.00 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$8.45 cwt.  
Oil new crop — \$7.50 cwt.  
Loan deficiency prmt. — \$0.95  
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.

Ford cutting  
5,000 jobs

DETROIT — Ford Motor Co. said today it plans to eliminate between 4,000 and 5,000 white-collar jobs in North America by the end of the year.

The cuts, which will come about largely through retirement, will account for about 10 percent of the automaker's salaried work force.

"The voluntary separation program is a difficult, but necessary action," Jacques Nasser, Ford president and chief executive officer, said in a statement. "These actions will help us operate the business more efficiently, streamline our organization and align our skill base with future needs."

Nasser pointed to a competitive market as one of the reasons for the job cuts. Ford so far this year has cut other costs by eliminating a shift at its Michigan Truck plant in suburban Detroit and eliminating overtime at several other plants.

# Moran stopping in to talk and listen

By Rachel Miscallo

The Goodland Daily News

Congressman Jerry Moran will stop in Goodland Tuesday on his annual tour of the 66-county 1st District to talk about the new farm bill, high energy prices, rural health care, transportation and anything else on people's minds.

Making his way across the "Big First" during a recess in this year's session, the representative will be at Western State Bank from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. to update constituents on things in Washington and get their ideas.

This is the fifth year Rep. Moran, a Hays Republican who served in the Kansas Senate for eight years before he was elected to Congress in 1996, has visited every county in his district.

Moran said in a news release that he started the tour early this year because he wanted to hear from as many people as possible.

"With work under way on the next farm bill," he said, "and issues facing Kansans such as rising fuel costs, education and access to quality health care, I felt it was important to start the tour earlier this year to gather as much input as possible. It is essential to my job in Congress that I hear the thoughts and concerns of the people I represent."

The tour began May 5 in Thomas County — after which Moran came to Goodland to welcome Lt. Jeff Vignery, a Navy pilot from here held in



Jerry Moran

China with his crew after an airplane accident. It will end on Aug. 30 in Reno County.

While Moran was busy visiting with people in Marion County this morning, Travis Murphy, his press secretary in Washington, said the main topics people have wanted to talk about include the farm bill, rural health care, high energy prices and whether Moran will run for governor of Kansas.

"It's an inevitable question," said Murphy, a Natoma native who has been working for Moran for 1 1/2 years. "At every stop someone asks him about running for governor."

Moran has not made a decision, he said, but has

said he'll make up his mind by Oct. 1. Some potential contenders have said they won't even try if Moran decides to enter the race.

Murphy said Rep. Moran will take any advice he can get on the new farm bill. It passed the House Agriculture Committee, which Moran serves on, before the recess, and the full House will take up the bill when Congress reconvenes in September.

Murphy said the new bill retains the crop planting flexibility and loan rate provisions of the current law, while adding a counter-cyclical payment system to help farmers when commodity prices are low. He said it also would set aside 75 percent more dollars for environmental and conservation

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## In-field studies

Roger Stockton (above), crops and soils extension specialist for Kansas State University, presented the most frequent sunflower complaints and how to avoid them to close to a hundred Sunflower Field Day participants this morning. The event is part of the annual Sunflower Celebration, companion to the Sunflower Festival that will take place in Goodland this weekend. Stockton addressed topics such as: poor stands, weed control, insufficient root development, over-irrigation, pre-harvest lodging and rhizopus head rot. Sunflowers (right) at a Caruso area demonstration plot west of Goodland show drought stress and also suffer from several other problems. Photos by Eric Yonkey/The Goodland Daily News



## Night blaze levels two shops

Fire consumes downtown businesses, burns into early morning

By Patty Decker

The Colby Free Press

COLBY — A fire leveled two downtown businesses, destroying an extensive inventory stored at both, on Thursday night.

No one was injured in the blaze, reported at 10:23 p.m., said Colby Fire Chief Bob McLemore said today, but the owner of one building could not find his hunting dog.

Hutfles Construction at 315 E. 4th and Northwest Kansas Telecommunications, next door at 325 E. 4th, were consumed as firefighters worked through the early morning hours today to save the neighboring business to the

east, P & D Auto Repair.

The location is on the north side of U.S. 24, on the east of downtown Colby.

"When we got here minutes after the 911 call," McLemore said, "the fire was already through the roof at the Hutfles Construction location."

The Colby Fire Department had five pumpers at the scene, 22 firefighters and four hours later had the situation under control.

"We were fortunate to get the fire stopped before it spread into P & D," the chief said.

During the initial assessment early this morning, before the state fire mar-

shal arrived, McLemore said there appeared to be no interior damage at P & D, but there was some smoke damage inside and the heating system on the roof will need repairs.

Business owners Ron Hutfles and Jack Johnson (of Northwest Kansas Telecommunications) were at the scene looking at the damage.

Johnson said he had six vehicles, three golf carts and more than 1,000 telephone units stored in his building.

"I also had left my hunting dog in the building last night and I kept hoping maybe she got out in time," he said, "but

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Chuck Plumisto, a Colby volunteer firefighter, stood in the doorway of what used to be the entrance into Hutfles Construction while the ruins smoldered this morning.

Photo by Patty Decker/The Colby Free Press

## City may do hike, bike trail early with Cherry addition

The city commission will consider whether to put in the hike and bike trail for Pioneer Park as part of the construction being done on Cherry Ave. at its regular meeting at 5 p.m. Monday.

The trail was not supposed to be done until next year as part of the Pioneer Park Project, but the city may elect to do it now while other work is being done.

The city is now working to build a new road

connecting Cherry and Business U.S. 24, creating a new entrance to Goodland.

Pioneer Park is planned for west of the new road, and is not expected to be built until next year. The park will include two ponds and other amenities.

In other business, the commission:

• Expects to approve an agreement with Sherman County on the cost of prisoner care at the Bastille. The sheriff wants to increase the cost for

the city and outside communities from \$30 per prisoner per day to \$40.

• Approve an agreement with the county in which the county will pay the city 1/2 mill of the property tax levy for recreation.

• Decide whether to continue paying sales tax on water system purchases or pay a new state clean drinking water fee.

• Approve a beer license for the Buffalo Inn

Restaurant.

• Consider a conditional use permit for Tots Daycare Ltd. at 1019 W. 13th, which is not a commercial property.

• Pass the annual resolution determining how the city will be audited and how its financial statements will be reported.

• Move the meeting for Sept. 1 to Tuesday, since that is Labor Day.