

weather
report

48°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 6:10 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:58 a.m.
• Sunset, 6:08 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 47 degrees
• Humidity 45 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds north 25-28
• Barometer 30.42 inches
and rising
• Record High 89° (1938)
• Record Low 16° (1966)

Last 24 Hours*

High 64°
Low 35°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, low upper 20s,
wind northwest 5-10. Tomorrow:
sunny, high mid 60s, low 40s, winds
south 10-15.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday and Thursday: sunny,
high mid 70s, low 40s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.45 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.46
Corn — \$1.96 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.77
Loan deficiency payment — 22¢
Milo — \$1.68 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.65 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.68
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.24
Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$7.20 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.49
Confection current — \$13/\$6 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$19 (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.

Escapee shoots
pal; frees two

FORESTBURG, Texas — One
of two escaped inmates holed up
in a North Texas farmhouse freed
his two captives early today, then
shot the second fugitive to end the
standoff.

While jail escapee Gerald Lynn
Gantt slept inside the house, his
partner Bob Harold Leach, helped
free the two hostages, whose
hands had been tied. The hostages
then escaped through a bathroom
window, law officers said.

Vincent Forrester and his wife,
Erma, fled behind hay bales near
their home. Before Leach could
escape, officers said, Gantt awoke
and the two suspects began talk-
ing.

Law officers, who had been ne-
gotiating with Leach, then heard
gunfire at 3:50 a.m. Central Time.
Leach surrendered and Gantt was
sent to a hospital for treatment of
a gunshot wound to the abdomen.

Anthrax cases rise; mail scary

By Sara Kugler

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Americans returning to work
faced anxious moments opening envelopes af-
ter the number of people across the nation ex-
posed to anthrax sent through the mail jumped
to 12.

Three new cases — a police officer and two
lab technicians involved in an investigation at
NBC's New York headquarters — tested posi-
tive for exposure to the bacteria, Mayor Rudolph
Giuliani said Sunday. Nevada officials said four

people who may have come into contact with a
contaminated letter at a Microsoft office tested
negative, while results weren't known for two
others.

The new New York cases brought to 12 the num-
ber of people around the nation who either have
anthrax or been exposed to it. That does not in-
clude an NBC employee who is taking antibiot-
ics after displaying possible symptoms of the dis-
ease.

"I think twice about opening my mail," said
Steve Blum, 54, of Boca Raton, Fla. He said he

will discard letters from someone he does not rec-
ognize. "You also have to worry about copycats."

The anthrax scare began in Florida on Oct. 4,
when it was confirmed that an editor at the tab-
loid the Sun had contracted the inhaled form of the
bacteria. He later died, the first such death in the
United States since 1976. Seven other employees
of American Media Inc. have tested positive for
exposure and are being treated with antibiotics.
None have developed the disease. A second round
of blood tests for more than 300 of the company's
employees is expected this week.

In Washington, Attorney General John
Ashcroft said it was premature "to decide whether
there is a direct link" to Osama bin Laden's ter-
rorist network, but "we should consider this po-
tential that it is linked."

Some of the Sept. 11 hijackers spent time in
Florida, and the FBI said the wife of the Sun's
editor, who works as a real estate agent, rented
apartments to two of them.

"Right. That's true," FBI spokeswoman Judy

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Christopher Brittain, Colby's 11-year-old hero (left), flashed a smile Saturday knowing his little sister, Alyssa, 1, brother, Garrett, 5, and his

Uncle Stoney (not pictured) were safe following what could have been a disastrous Friday morning.

Photo by Patty Decker/The Colby Free Press

Boy takes wheel to save family

By Patty Decker

Colby Free Press

Not many 11-year-olds could ma-
neuver a car at 60-plus miles per hour
through morning traffic — and do it
from the passenger seat, saving him-
self, his brother and sister and his
uncle from harm.

But that's exactly what Christopher
Brittain, a sixth grade student at Colby
Middle School, found himself doing
just before 8 a.m. Friday when the
driver, his uncle Jeremy Stoney, 25, of
Oberlin, had a seizure.

"Uncle Stoney was driving us to

school," said Christopher, "and just as
we turned onto Range from Fourth
Street toward the middle school, he
had a seizure and his foot went down
on the accelerator."

The young boy said he saw Stoney
slump over and knew he had to do
something.

"I don't remember what I was
thinking and I don't know how I did it
either," Christopher said later that day.
"I just knew I had to take the steering
wheel."

Randy Decker, who witnessed the
incident while driving his son, Joey

Melnyk, to school, said he thought it
was nothing short of a miracle.

"It was unbelievable that somebody
of that age, steering a car going that
fast and in such tight quarters was able
to stop the car safely," he said.

Christopher said he knew he needed
to figure out how to stop the car while
steering and weaving through the traf-
fic, so he pushed the stick shift into
neutral as the car continued racing
southbound.

He said he put the 1992 Firebird
Formula into neutral around Pizza Hut
and as it started slowing down the next

half mile, he turned into Deep Rock
Cafe.

"As soon as we got to the parking
lot there, I pulled the emergency
brake," Christopher said. "I got out of
the car and my first thoughts were to
get help for Uncle Stoney."

Christopher said he helped his 5-
year-old brother, Garrett, and year-
old sister, Alyssa, out of the car.

Decker, who followed the Firebird
into the parking lot, said he called
"911" and stayed with the kids until

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Light snow dusts city; warm weather on way

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

A light snow coated windshields and
lawns in white early this morning, and
while it was the first flakes of the sea-
son, forecasters say it's not a sign to dust
off the snow blower or break out the
shovel.

"No, I don't think that's the case right
now," said Aaron Dorn, a meteorologist
at the National Weather Service office
in Goodland. He said temperatures are
expected to rise into the mid-70s by
Wednesday, and Sherman County
shouldn't see more rain or snow until
next week.

Dorn said rain started to fall in Good-
land about 3:30 a.m., with the precipi-
tation slowly tapering off before chang-
ing to a light snow about 4:15 a.m. The
snow stopped about 6 a.m., he said,
adding that a total of .018 of an inch of
precipitation fell in Goodland.

A meteorologist measured .3 inches
of snow at the weather office, Dorn
said, and people reported trace amounts
in downtown Goodland and across the
county. He said the white stuff wasn't
around for long.

"Now the sun has come out and it's
all gone," he said. "It's just sort of the
first taste of winter, I guess."

Dorn said the combination of a cold
front moving in from the northwest and
a low pressure disturbance gave Good-
land its first snow.

"Those things worked together to
focus the uplift and to produce the rain
and snow," he said, noting that the sys-
tem didn't have the characteristics of a
typical winter storm.

"It was nothing terribly organized,"
Dorn said. It did cause rain and snow
to fall across the Tri-state area, with
Culbertson, Neb., receiving nearly an
inch of rain.



Snow covered a scarecrow lawn decoration at 923 W. Eighth St. this morning. The white stuff didn't signal an end to warm weather, though, as forecasters say temperatures should rise into the 70s this week.

Photo by
Rachel Miscal
The Goodland
Daily News

Bridge agreement tops county meeting agenda

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County commissioners
will meet at 8 a.m. Tuesday, facing a
request from the Kansas Department of
Transportation to have an engineering
agreement between the county and
Penco of Plainville on the upcoming
replacement of the bridge on old U.S.
24 two miles east of Kanorado.

Curt Way, county public works direc-
tor, will present the proposed engineer-
ing agreement with Penco, which has

been the county contractual engineer
for several years.

The Department of Transportation
wants the county to have the agreement
in place before the project begins. Way
said the Kanorado bridge is the next
major project the county has on the pri-
ority list with the department and is
scheduled to be bid in the spring of
2003.

Mary Beth Zwick of Topsiside
Daycare will ask the commissioners
about waving the landfill fees for the

demolition and remodeling work they
are doing on their building to bring it
up to state standards. The group, work-
ing with the Goodland Regional Med-
ical Center, received a grant to open a
commercial daycare facility in Good-
land.

The commissioners are to consider
appointment of a hospital board mem-
ber to fill the vacancy made by the re-
signation of Dr. Greg Bongers.

The Northwest Local Environmen-
tal Protection Group is asking the com-

missioners to approve a resolution to
adopt fees for services of an inspector
under the environmental/sanitary code.
The regional program covers most of
the counties in northwest Kansas, and
has been in operation since 1993. The
resolution says the fees are for the ad-
ministration and enforcement of the
code.

The commissioners will also review
bids with Sheriff Doug Whitson for a
generator to handle emergency power
outages at the Bastille.

Fertilizer equation flipped

Lower prices won't
help some farmers

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Faced with
rising fertilizer costs, many farmers
bought their supplies last fall to secure
the lowest price they could find.

They face the opposite equation this
year: Falling natural gas prices have
pulled down the price of fertilizers pro-
duced with the fuel, and farmers who
buy too early may ask themselves
whether they're locking in too high.

Fertilizers such as anhydrous ammo-
nia and urea, made from natural gas, are
used across the country to add nitrogen
to farmland.

They are applied either after harvest
for the next crop year or before spring
planting. Like home heating bills, their
price rises and falls with that of natural
gas.

Nitrogen-fertilizer prices this fall are
roughly two-thirds of what they were
in the spring, said Mike Severson, a
manager of the Hope Farmers Elevator
Co. in Steele County.

That translates into about a \$120 per
ton cut in the cost of anhydrous, he said,
and a price cut of about \$65 per ton for
urea.

The drop brings fertilizer prices
down to about where they were before
they started to rise at the end of last year,
said Andrew Swenson, a farm manage-
ment specialist at North Dakota State
University.

"Prior to that last year's bump,"
Swenson said, "we had anhydrous
prices that were pretty reasonable."

The reduction amounts to about a
\$6,500 cut in costs for a typical farm in
North Dakota or in the Midwest's Corn
Belt, Swenson said. Savings in other
parts of the country vary because the
amount and type of fertilizer needed
changes with soil conditions.

North Dakota retail fertilizer prices
are close to those found in other parts
of the Midwest, said Dave Franzen, a
former agronomist for an Illinois fertil-
izer company.

Franzen, a soil specialist for North
Dakota State University Extension
Service, said last year's price jump was
the worst he's seen in 25 years.

Basic supply and demand caused the
big change in price over the last year,
said Scott Hults, manager of gas sup-
ply planning for Xcel Energy in St.
Paul.

The company estimates its residen-
tial customers will see winter heating
bills as much as 45 percent lower than
last year because of declining natural
gas prices.

Before last year, a stretch of warm
winters had reduced demand for natu-
ral gas, which in turn reduced price and
supply, Hults said. Production also was
reduced when prices were low.

"(Exploration firms) just hadn't
sunk a lot of money into the ground
because the price was so low," he said.

Then unusually cold weather last
winter increased demand, straining
production and stores and raising
prices, he said.

In response, production was ramped
up and storage facilities were topped off
over the summer, two moves that
brought prices back down again.

The swing was quicker than typical
in a cyclical industry in which produc-
ers rush "to one side of the boat or the
other, depending on what the price is,"
Hults said.