

weather report

58°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:10 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:11 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 62 degrees
- Humidity 77 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds northwest 6 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.09 inches and falling
- Record High 100° (1969)
- Record Low 36° (1998)

Last 24 Hours*

High 64°
Low 53°
Precipitation .60

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: mostly sunny with 100 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evenings, breezy, high mid 70s, low upper 40s, winds northwest 5-10 m.p.h. Saturday: mostly cloudy and cooler with 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high lower 60s, low mid 40s.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy, high mid 60s. Monday: partly cloudy and warmer, high lower 80s, low 50-55. Tuesday: partly cloudy, high mid 80s, low mid 50s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.06 bushel
New Crop — \$2.86
Corn — \$2.39 bushel
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.12 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.72 bushel
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$6 hundredweight
New crop — \$5
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.55 cwt.
New crop — \$9.90 cwt.
NuSun — \$9.90 cwt.
New crop — \$10.25 cwt.
Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.
New crop — \$17/\$10 cwt.
Pinto beans — withdrawn
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



K-18 team on win streak

A Goodland K-18 runner scores against Oberlin during one of the games on May 29 when the Goodland team won 19-2 and 18-17. Coach Bill Knox says the team has won games against Oakley, Atwood, and on Tuesday against Imperial, Neb. See Photo on Page 10.



Swimming practice laps

Eric Roeder, Chelsey Horney and Hannah Blake, members of the Goodland Swim team in the 11-12 year old group, were practicing Tuesday morning at Steever Water Park to get ready for the first meet in Holyoke, Colo., on Saturday.

Coach Glenna Jarmin, was watching the 20 members of the team as they swam their strokes and checked on individual form of the swimmers. The Goodland team will host its first swim meet at the new water park on Saturday, June 14. Teams from St. Francis, Colby, Oakley, Oberlin and Burlington, Holyoke, Limon and Wray, Colo., along with mothers, brothers and

sisters, aunts and cousins, will swarm into town.

Swim Team President Peggy Blake and son Daniel Blake help with the coaching. Peggy Blake said the team would welcome more kids for the season, and that they have appreciated the people who are helping to sponsor the team this year.

"It has been a long time since we had to have sponsors," Blake said.

Jarmin said this is a rebuilding year for the team, and she hopes having the meet in Goodland will help bring more kids for the team.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Four land spouts spotted west of city

There was a light rain falling in the city Wednesday morning when spotters reported as many as four possible funnel clouds west of the Sugar Hills Golf Course.

Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson said he saw at least three funnel clouds moving southeast about five miles south of the city and a mile east of K-27.

"I saw at least three, and one was pretty close to the ground," Whitson said. "I asked the weather service, and they said they were probably land spouts. I haven't seen those for a number of years."

The first reports of the funnels was broadcast about 10:50 a.m. and the spotter said they were west of the golf course.

Meteorologist Bruce Entwistle of the National Weather Service said the land spouts are a form of a tornado, but that they start on or near the ground and spin up toward the clouds.

He said the thunderstorm that was moving southeast had enough air disturbance to produce the funnel clouds.

"We had several reports of these land spouts," Entwistle said. "They are usually small, but can cause damage and are a form of a tornado."

Whitson, Deputy Roger Studer and State Patrol Lt. Kevin Winston were at a county road intersection about five miles south of town watching the cloud formation and reporting by radio.

Other reports had similar tornadoes spotted near Flagler and north of Burlington in Colorado.

There was another report of a funnel two miles east of Goodland about 1:30 p.m., but when spotters arrived it had dissipated.

No damage was reported from any of the storms. The weather service has reported .62 of an inch of rain since Tuesday.



A wet Sheriff Doug Whitson talked to the dispatcher on his mobile radio Wednesday while Deputy Roger Studer took photos of clouds and possible land spout tornadoes about five miles southeast of Goodland.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Kids put on great 'Elvis' act at dance show Saturday



"You ain't nothing but a hound dog," sang Kade Sheldon, wearing an Elvis Presley mask, and accompanied by guitarists Drew House, Nolan Deeds and Alex Goodwin at a dance recital Saturday.

Utility costs may stay high

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

City Manager Ron Pickman told the city commissioners Monday the recent fury over the spike in the fuel cost adjustment on electric bills appears to be a tip of an expanding problem.

Pickman, referring to recent articles in the Kansas Municipal Utilities newsletter and a newspaper article about heating costs, said while the cost of making power has dropped to a lower level than in the past months, prices may be going up over the next several months and may remain high for several years.

The article in the Kansas Municipal Utilities newsletter by Phillip Duran of Burns and McDonnell of Kansas City, said natural gas prices have dropped to below \$6 after hitting a record high in February of \$19.05 per mmbtu.

He said the price is not as low as it had been before February, but better than where they will probably go next.

"Which brings us to the bad news," Duran wrote. "There is significant market evidence to suggest prices will remain high, if not move higher in the future, and endure for several years."

Duran says there are five reasons that have created a supply-and-demand imbalance which is at the heart of the price surge:

- There has been a drop in U.S. gas production, and the production this year is expected to be the lowest in 16 years.

- Fast growth in gas-fired electric generation, which has increased by 35 percent in the past five years.

- Gas imports from Canada are dropping, and Canadian consumption is rising. That the Canadians

had a colder-than-normal winter which is contributing to a severe depletion of storage reserves.

- as exports to Mexico have increased dramatically and unexpectedly in the last few years.

- Residential heading demand is expected to increase this winter with a steady increase in gas-heated homes.

"All of the evidence suggests that gas prices could easily rise to levels even higher than they are today," Duran concluded. "These conditions will remain thorough the end of this summer, and unless we get lucky and have a very mild winter, prices will remain high through next summer as well. This will continue until the balance between supply and demand is restored."

Pickman said the city had arranged to purchase some power from a system in Nebraska, but the cost was higher than what they purchase from Sunflower Electric Co-op, the city's main supplier.

Pickman said that may change in the future, but that currently Sunflower is asking Goodland to generate power from the city plant to supplement what they are providing.

The city's plant uses natural gas to run big diesel engines which turn the turbines.

The newspaper article warns homeowners to be prepared for higher heating costs this coming fall because of the rise in natural gas prices.

The story suggests that people add insulation, caulk door and windows and install programmable thermostats and "Get Ready," said David Springle consumer counsel for the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board.