

weather report



87°
noon
Thursday

Today

Sunset, 6:47 p.m.

Friday

Sunrise, 6:34 a.m.

Sunset, 6:46 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 70 degrees
- Humidity 37 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds southwest 15-25 mph
- Barometer 29.97 inches and falling

- Record High today 96° (1937)
- Record Low today 26° (1983)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 82°
- Low Wednesday 54°
- Precipitation trace
- This month 0.61
- Year to date 12.76
- Below Normal 4.40 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 88, low around 55, winds north 10-15 mph. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 89, low around 59, winds south 10-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a 10 percent change of showers, a high near 85, a low around 55. Monday: Partly sunny with a high near 75 and low around 47.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
*Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

- Wheat — \$7.56 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.47
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Corn — \$3.40 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.05
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Milo — \$3.17 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$8.74 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$8.40
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scouler Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowgirls win tourney

Junior Chelsie Gausman won the Russell Invitational Golf Tournament Monday, leading the Cowgirls to a first-place finish. See story, photo on Page 12.

Woman saved by men, sheriff

By Sharon Corcoran

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A Colorado Springs woman, kidnapped and beaten Friday by her estranged husband, may owe her life to the Sherman County Sheriff's Department and two men at the Kanorado Co-op station.

Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts said Colorado Springs police believe Natalja Ripple was kidnapped from her apartment Friday by her husband, Gregory Paul Frye, 49, also of Colorado Springs, whom she was separated from. Her 15-year-old daughter called 911, and police put out a "be on the lookout" message in Colorado, not realizing he would take her out of the state, Butts said.

Ripple tried to get out of the vehicle and get help in Colorado Springs, said Butts, but ended up in Kanorado about 3:20 p.m. She persuaded Frye to let her go in to use the bathroom while he was getting fuel, and she told Donald Daub, an employee at the station, she had been kidnapped.

Daub told Manager Rod Boyce what the woman said, and the two men tried to rescue her, but Frye drove off. Boyce followed to see which way he went on the interstate, and Daub called 911.

Sheriff Kevin Butts said he went out and found the pickup near the east Goodland exit. He said he followed it at 86 mph until he could see Deputy Bob Pope waiting near mile marker 22. Butts said he pulled the truck over and directed Pope to talk to the driver so he could try to rescue the woman.



Frye

Butts said he saw that the passenger door was unlocked and saw that Frye didn't have a weapon in his hands. He said he pulled Ripple from the car and took her to his truck.

Ripple had been beaten to the point her face was swollen way out of its usual shape, Butts said, and when she was taken to safety, she broke down so badly she was incoherent. She later told deputies she broke down because she then realized she wasn't going to die, Butts said.

Detention Deputy Kandee Raile took Ripple to the hospital, Butts said, where she was treated for her injuries. She was hysterical, the sheriff said, and had a lot of bruises.

A dispatcher called Colorado Springs, Butts said, and found out police there were working on a kidnapping case. They had put out a "be on the lookout" message in Colorado, he said, but not nationwide. Two detectives from the

Colorado Springs Police Department came out, Butts said, as well as John A. Morales, a special agent with the FBI's resident agency in Garden City.

The special agent said he was sure Ripple would have been killed if she had not been rescued when she was, Butts said. The sheriff credits Boyce and Daub for their role in the rescue.

"I owe these guys a lot," Butts said. "It's my understanding when they left, Rod followed to see which way they went on the Interstate."

Frye did not resist when being arrested, Butts said; he was very polite with law enforcement and did everything asked. The FBI agent said that is normal, Butts said.

The only weapon Frye had was his size, the sheriff said, and no alcohol or drugs were found in the truck.

Daub had brief contact with Frye and Ripple both, Boyce said. Frye had started to put red diesel (tax-free, for farm use) into his truck, Boyce said, and Daub went out to tell him he was using the wrong pump. Ripple came in and had just a brief moment to tell Daub she had been kidnapped and needed help, Boyce said, before Frye came in for water. He was probably checking to see what she was doing, Boyce said.

Boyce said Daub wasn't sure what to do, so he told him what Ripple said, and they prepared to rescue her from the car. Boyce said he could see her looking at him through the window; she wouldn't turn her head, but she could see him mouth the words, "Do you need help?"

She nodded, he said, and they tried to get her attention to help her from the car and were going to fight with Frye until sheriff's deputies arrived.

"If we could have gotten her out of the car, we were gonna take him and wait until the sheriff's deputies could get here," Boyce said. "We knew if we could get her to a safe place, he wouldn't take her anywhere else."

Frye was a big guy, Boyce said, but they would have taken him on anyway.

"We were gonna do what's right," he said. "I have my own family. If we were in that situation, I'd want someone to do that for me."

They weren't able to get her from the car, so when Frye drove away, Boyce went to a service road and followed where Frye couldn't see him, and Daub called 911.

"I didn't want her to get killed if he had a gun," Boyce said.

Once Boyce saw which way they went

See RESCUE, Page 9

Lumber yard to celebrate 60 years in business

By Tom Betz

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The lumber yard opened 60 years ago on the same block where it is today, and Tuesday, Rasure's Do It Center will celebrate six decades at Seventh and Caldwell with an open house and activities.

Owners Christie and Kevin Rasure are inviting customers and friends to come by at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday to celebrate the anniversary of the family business.

Christie said they wanted something unique for the event and thought about belt-sander races, which will be held during the open house.

A second open house will be held at 6:30 p.m. (Central Time) on Wednesday at Rasure Lumber in Colby.

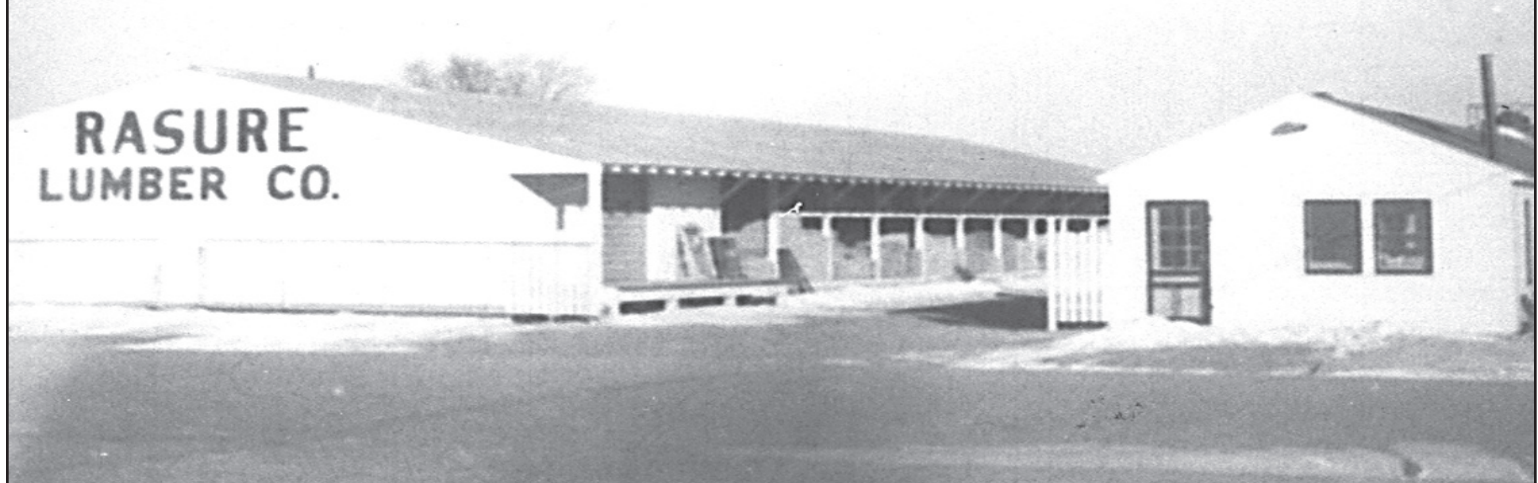
People are encouraged to enter the races and cheer on their favorites.

"Being unique is why we decided to do the belt-sander racing," she said. "It is keeping with our ideas We have board cuttings rather than ribbon cuttings."

She said the sander-racing idea came from a friend who was a top finisher in a recent national race.

Kevin Rasure said you take a couple of belt sanders and put them on a track similar to a Pinewood Derby course and attach a long extension cord.

"Some guys can really get them



The Rasure Lumber yard as it appeared when opened in 1947 at the corner of Seventh and Caldwell. A 60th anniversary celebration

of Rasure Lumber Do It Center will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Photo courtesy of Rasure Lumber



Paul



Dick



Kevin

Kevin Rasure's grandfather, Paul Rasure. Kevin's father, Richard Rasure, took over in the 1960s and retired recently, but still lives in Goodland.

Paul Rasure was 57 when he opened the lumber yard, Kevin said, but he had worked for Foster Lumber Co. since he was about 16 years old. Kevin said his grandfather worked at lumber yards in Flagler, Colo., Jennings and Brewster before moving to Good-

land to manage the Foster Lumber yard at 12th and Broadway.

"They started as a lumber yard and progressed to a more complete home center," Kevin Rasure said.

The firm started on the same lot where it is today, but has expanded several times, including the addition of the Do It Center in January 1995. The original office on the south end of the lot is used for storage today.

Two years ago, Rasure Lumber purchased Golden Hardware in Colby, which had been started in 1927 and opened at the present location in 1947 by Ernest Golden.

Rasure, in his third term as a Sherman County commissioner,

says he believes there are good job opportunities for young people in this area.

"I came back in 1978," he said. "I liked northwest Kansas, and I have no regrets about coming back. I think we need to encourage our young people to come back and become business people."

Rasure graduated from Goodland High School in 1973 and went to Kansas State University, where he graduated in 1978.

He remembers the days as a youngster helping to unload railroad cars of lumber and bags of concrete.

See RECEPTION, Page 9

Street bond bidding close, advisor terms 'excellent'

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners waited patiently for the results of the public sale of \$2.4 million in street-repair bonds at a meeting on Monday, and were pleased to hear that the interest rate came in lower than expected.

The city wants to borrow \$2.4 million to rebuild or chip seal about two miles of streets in town, including replacement of curb and gutters on Main. The loan would be paid off over 10 years at about \$292,000 per year.

Todd Loescher, vice president D.A. Davidson of Wichita, the city's financial advisors, told the commission five banks had bid, and he had to carry the decimal point out further than normal to compare the two lowest.

"The market treated the city very well," he said, "and I recommend the winning bid from UMB Bank, which was the lowest by a fraction of a point."

"We ended up better off than where we thought we would be a few weeks ago." The rates improved over the weeks.

Loescher said the second-lowest bid was from Country Club Bank of Kansas City, and on the face it appeared they would be the lowest until he came to the true interest cost line and then UMB, also of Kansas

City, came out the winner by .0036 of 1 percent.

He said that was one of the closest bids he has seen.

UMB Bank's average interest rate was 3.731052 percent, and Country Club Bank's was 3.730922 percent, and at that point Country Club held the lower edge by .00013, he said.

Loescher said the difference ended up in UMB Bank's favor because they took a smaller discount of \$12,000 while Country Club Bank wanted a discount of \$15,048.

He said that is what brought the true interest cost down to 3.740963 for UMB Bank, and 3.744609 for Country Club with the difference being less than .004 percent.

The other bidders were Marshall and Ilsley Bank of Wisconsin, 3.779852 percent; Commerce Bank of Kansas City, 3.806415 percent; and Reidl First Securities of Wichita, 4.152428 percent.

The net interest cost to the city for the bond issue of \$2.4 million from UMB Bank is \$520,357 over 10 years.

Loescher said there is an interest payment in March of each year for half the interest, and the principal and second half of the interest is to be paid in September.

He showed the commission a debt service chart that shows an interest

payment will be due in March of \$39,916, and a principal and interest payment to be paid in September of \$228,282.

The total annual principal and interest will average about \$292,000 over the 10 years, he said.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked how much the city would have to repair streets. Is it \$2.388 million plus \$500,000 in interest to give the city a total of \$2.88 million? he asked. City Clerk Mary Volk said the cost of issuing of the bonds, \$31,525, was included in the total, so the city would have about \$2.356 for road work.

Loescher said the estimated cost of the bond issue was about \$35,000, but could be less, because of the lower interest rates. He said the city would have about \$40,000 more to go into the project fund. Any left over money after the projects are paid for would go into the fund to pay off the bonds.

He said the closing should be done by the end of the week, and the city should have the money in the bank by next week.

City Manager said the city would start the projects as soon as possible, and may start up by the hospital in the next few weeks, and some valley gutters.

"We want to get on it as fast as we can," he said.

Leadership's 11th class open house on Tuesday

Members of the 11th Leadership Sherman County class will gather at 6 p.m. on Tuesday at the Handy House for a public reception to kickoff the second decade of the program.

The Leadership Sherman County program is designed to bring people from a broad spectrum of the county together to take one day per month to learn about the inner workings of business and government in the county said Josh Dechant, leadership board member.

The first session for the class will be Wednesday when they begin the team building process by going through the ropes course at North Elementary and a True Colors course held at the 4-H building at the county fairgrounds.

Sessions continue for the next seven months on a Wednesday with topics including agriculture, community media outlets, school district, hospital and health care, city and county government and a trip to Topeka to witness state government in action. The final session will be in March with a day with the economic development groups followed by graduation.

Dechant said it appears this year's class is well balanced, and it should be a fun and educational time for the class members.

The 10 people in the new class include Donna Fenner of First National Bank, James Miller of Eagle Communications, Pat Schiefen of *The Goodland Star-News*, Brian James, Goodland fire chief, Dean Graber, vice president and ag loan officer at Bankwest of Kansas, Jeris McCombs of Pueblo Chemical and Supply, Holly Coryell of Howard Johnson's Hotel, Steve Rains, pastor of Calvary Gospel Church, Jeff Bhend of the Scouler Company and another person to be named later.

Dechant said the class is selected from nominations received from business, churches, community-based organizations, education and government.

The class members are selected for their commitment and motivation to serve the Sherman County area he said, and have shown an interest in community involvement or an interest to become involved.

Dechant said he is proud of the fact several members of past leadership classes are involved in programs throughout the county including tree city commissioners, city manager and city clerk.