

weather report

80°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:08 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:21 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:09 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 65 degrees

• Humidity 48 percent

• Sky partly cloudy

• Winds south at 15 mph

• Barometer 29.87 inches

and falling

• Record High 99° (1933)

• Record Low 34° (1954)

Last 24 Hours*

High 85°

Low 53°

Precipitation .18

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 55-60 Tomorrow: mostly clear with highs in the mid-80s, wind from the south at 10-20, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms.

Extended Forecast

Saturday through Monday: Chance of thunderstorms all three days, highs on Saturday and Sunday mid-80s, high on Monday 85-90. (National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Inside and out



Goodland Regional Medical Center administration, personnel and board members welcomed the public to the Grand Opening of the Medical Office Building located at the east end of the hospital. The office building is now home to Doctors Kenneth Austin, Sue Jennings, Greg Bongers, Moe Shafei and Duncan Davis as well as Nurse Practitioners Tom Hellerud and Jackie Jorgensen. Administrator Jim Chaddic (left) visited with Mr. and Mrs. David Schilling before they toured the facility. While the celebration was going on inside, the crew from Midwest Landscaping of St. Francis unloaded a truck load of trees, bushes and shrubs for placement around the grounds.

Photos by Keith Lippoldt/Goodland Daily News



District is advancing technology

By Charlie Baker

Goodland Daily News

Goodland USD #352 is blasting into the future with technology ahead of its time.

Karla Murray, technology coordinator for the district, has submitted a proposal to the district for new equipment, which the board has approved.

Murray said that the district and community has always been generous with funds for the necessary equipment in the schools. There has been \$100,000 allocated each year since 1995.

Around 75 percent of the funds are used for new equipment each year, and the remaining 25 percent goes for maintenance and repairs of existing equipment.

"We are way ahead of our time in technology," said Murray. "I was recently at Hutchinson, they have 10 elementary, two middle, and the one high school, and they are not networked."

Goodland had all the schools wired to be connected in 1995, and has been upgrading equipment each year since.

"Whenever our teachers or board members visit other districts, they always come back feeling really good about our situation, we really are very fortunate to be so advanced," Murray said.

At West Elementary, the proposal includes 20 multimedia computers networked for printing and the internet. These computers will go in the first and second grade classrooms. Currently, there is one computer in each of the five classes in both grades, with the teacher and students having to share access. Next year, with the addition of two computers in each classroom, there will be much greater access to a computer for the teachers and students for assignments, research and exploration.

At Central, the proposal replaces the current computers in the computer laboratory. These machines were bought in 1991, they do not have internet access or CD roms, only a floppy disk drive. The 22 new machines will all be multi-media machines, and will be connected to a new printer.

At North School, the plan calls for adding two new computers in each kindergarten classroom. There is now one in each class, so that number will be three next year. The new computers will also be connected to the internet and a printer.

Grant Junior High is getting additions to their computer lab. The lab now has 16 machines, the proposal adds five more and a new printer, so there will be 21 computers available in the 2000 school year. Grant will also receive two computers in the science lab and one in the language arts department.

The high school will be getting additions in their main computer laboratory. During the last school year there were 12 computers available for students to use. Next year there will be seven new machines, bringing the total to 19.

Also in the plan for the 1999-2000 school year is a wireless network connecting the Max Jones Fieldhouse and bus barn to the rest of the district. The rest of the buildings are all connected by fiber optic cable.

There are two teachers in the fieldhouse, and the bus barn needs to be connected to the district for e-mail access and to send and receive reports from the state. The wireless network will allow these buildings to communicate with the rest of the district at a lower cost.

Lives are saved before the warnings

By Keith Lippoldt

Goodland Daily News

The Oklahoma City and Haysville tornadoes, still fresh in our minds because of the close vicinity, death and destruction it caused, should teach us to be prepared to react at a moments warning.

Fortunately, we live in a time when our equipment and technology is so advanced that we generally always get more than a moments notice. We also live in a place where detection of storms and protection of life and property is peoples jobs.

"We work closely with the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla.," said Scott Mentzer, meteorologist in charge of the National Weather Service office in Goodland. "They issue the watch and then it becomes our responsibility to follow it from there."

When dealing with the potential of severe weather, (thunderstorms, lightning and tornadoes) it is important to understand the language of a forecaster. Watches and warnings are two words used frequently when describing weather situations but two words that have very different meanings.

"In a watch, severe weather is possible within the designated watch area so you need to be aware of the situation," Mentzer said. "A warning means that severe weather has been reported or is imminent, so you need to take necessary precautions now."

When the threat of severe weather exists, keep alert of the situation by listening to a NOAA weather radio, a local radio station or by watching a network television station that has the ability to break into programming when necessary.

When you live in an area that is in a severe weather watch, several precautions need to be taken.

"At the time when a watch is issued, it is very important to make sure that you are prepared," Mentzer said. "We issue statements so you can monitor the situation through your local media.



With the recent pattern of severe weather in the tri-state area, Scott Mentzer, meteorologist in charge at the Goodland National Weather Service, and his staff have been busy forecasting and broadcasting weather information. Mentzer is shown relaying a live weather warning over the NOAA weather radio.

Photo by Keith Lippoldt/Goodland Daily News

Keep a heads-up to the sky and be prepared to act if the watch should turn into a warning."

Once a warning is issued, time becomes a precious commodity. Being prepared and ready to react could make the difference in saving lives. One mistake that is being made is looking at the storms first instead of taking cover right away as you should.

"We don't recommend you going out to film a tornado," Mentzer said. "You need to take shelter immediately."

Education is a major factor in avoiding injury in a severe storm. It is a com-

mon misconception that tornadoes only strike in certain months or at certain times of the day.

In reality, most tornadoes occur between the months of April and June but every month has had a tornado report. Time of day means nothing to high winds. If the atmosphere is just right, a tornado can spawn at any time of the day.

"We try to do a lot of things to educate the public on severe weather situations," Mentzer said. "We have storm spotter training, public safety talks where we stress what to do as well as

what not to do. We also start early with the kids to insure that they have proper knowledge of what to do."

Mentzer also says that it is human nature to develop a 'cry wolf syndrome' during busy severe weather patterns. "The perception of some people is 'here we go again'. If a warning is issued it is because a storm has been spotted. Take shelter immediately."

For more information on how to develop a family disaster plan and to build a survival kit, contact the National Weather Service office at 785-899-7119.

Pilot received weather 'play-by-play' before landing

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — The pilot of the American Airlines jet that crashed was getting a "play by play" about the deteriorating weather in the minutes before the accident, a federal safety official said today.

"It's ultimately a pilot's decision to land or not, but they have to base that on the information they have," said George Black, a spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board.

"We know that this was a very dynamic situation," Black said this morning on NBC's "Today." "The weather was changing rapidly."

"There's even indications the tower controller was providing sort of a play-

by-play wind direction and velocity sequence of radio transmissions during the approach," he told "Good Morning America." He didn't give specifics such as what precise wind speed the pilot was told about.

Nine of the 145 people on board, including the pilot, were killed when Flight 1420 crashed while landing Little Rock National Airport during a violent storm just before midnight Tuesday. The plane caught fire after it rolled off the runway and down an embankment, striking steel supports for approach lights and breaking apart.

"It was a combination of weather and pilot error. He should have gone to an-

other airport," said Richard Klamm, 49, of Pine Bluff, who was in the first-class section of the plane as part of its metal skin was sheared off by a light tower.

The storm unleashed hail, lightning and wind gusts to 75 mph in the area in the minutes before the crash. A gust of 87 mph was recorded at the airport shortly after the crash.

American Airlines' chief pilot, Cecil Ewell, said he would not have attempted to land the plane if wind speeds exceeded 50 knots, or 57.5 mph. He oversees all of American Airlines' pilots.

The plane initially was directed to land from the north because the airport

was reporting southerly winds as the plane neared Little Rock. When winds shifted to the northwest, Flight 1420 was ordered to approach from the south instead.

"They did not make two approaches," Black said this morning.

Capt. Richard Buschmann, who was killed, was a veteran American pilot with 5,500 hours of flight time in the MD-80 series of aircraft, which includes the MD-82. As a chief pilot in American's Chicago operation, he supervised other pilots and flew passenger planes for two months each year.

NTSB investigators hoped to talk to the crew's first officer, Michael Origel,

today to see what he remembers about the minutes before the crash. They were waiting for a doctor's authorization.

On Wednesday, investigators stressed that many factors were being looked at, in addition to the weather.

Investigators will also examine whether the pilots' long day and their desire to get the plane to its intended airport for the night — to prevent delays the next morning — played a role in the decision to land.

Black said investigators also are looking at the groovings across the runway, designed mainly to prevent a plane from hydroplaning, as well as the runway drainage system.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.33 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.16
Loan deficiency payment — 29¢
Corn — \$1.75 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.83
Loan deficiency pmt. — 16¢
Milo — \$2.67 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.01 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.88
Loan deficiency payment — 1.01¢
Millet — \$4.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$7.70 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.01
Oil new crop — \$7.95 cwt.
Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.
Pinto Beans — \$12 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigo Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Students living in dorm at risk

PHILADELPHIA — College freshmen, especially those who live in dormitories, face a higher risk of a potentially fatal bacterial infection than others in their age group, a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates.

As CDC and college health officials conduct further research to look for the reasons, they recommend that students consider getting vaccinated against meningococcal meningitis.

A \$60 vaccine would prevent about three-fourths of the cases that occur among college students, Dr. MarJeanne Collins, director of health services at the University of Pennsylvania, said at the meeting of the American College Health Association.

Though rare, Collins said it is devastating to the students, families and campuses affected.