

weather
report

80°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 6:16 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:54 a.m.
• Sunset, 6:14 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 60 degrees
• Humidity 25 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds southwest at 23 mph
• Barometer 30.15 inches
and falling
• Record High 91° (1989)
• Record Low 22° (1948)

Last 24 Hours*

High 71°
Low 42°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, low near 45, north-
west winds 10 to 20 mph.
Tuesday: partly sunny, high near
75, northwest winds at 10 to 20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: dry, low near 55, high
near 75.
Thursday: dry, low near 40, high
near 80.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.04 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.99
Loan deficiency payment — .46¢
Corn — \$1.49 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.52
Loan deficiency prmt. — .47¢
Milo — \$2.12 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.17 bushel
Posted county price — \$4
Loan deficiency payment — .89¢
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.15 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.64
Oil new crop — \$6.15 cwt.
Confection current — \$9 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$15 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigo
Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea
and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon
wire

Late news
from the
Associated
Press



1 p.m.

American gets
Nobel Prize

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Dr.
Gunter Blobel of Rockefeller
University in New York won the
Nobel Prize for medicine today for
protein research that shed new
light on diseases including cystic
fibrosis and the early development
of kidney stones.

Blobel, 63, a native of Germany,
was cited for discovering that pro-
teins carry signals that act as “zip
codes,” helping them find their
correct locations within a cell.

Some hereditary diseases are
caused by errors in these signals
and the associated transport
mechanisms, the Nobel Assembly
said in announcing the prize. The
work has also helped scientists use
cells to churn out drugs, and has
had an “immense impact” on stud-
ies of the cell, the assembly said.

The announcement said Blo-
bel’s work explained the molecu-
lar roots of some genetic diseases.

County to decide what roads to drop

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

After months of effort and several days of bouncing over the worst ruts and washouts in the county, listening to landowners and farmers, Sherman County commissioners will consider what roads to close during their meeting Tuesday.

While Public Works Director Curt Way is recommending that the county close only those roads which were not objected to, commissioners say they might go over the list road by road.

The commissioners published the list of roads being considered for closure at the end of July and in August they traveled all the roads to determine which should be closed.

After their tour, commissioners continued to receive letters from people about specific roads

which were on the list. Way said about 125 miles of the nearly 200 miles on the closure list were objected to by people across the county.

By state law, the commissioners can close all of the roads which were on the published list by resolution, close the roads which were not objected to, or make their own choices, County Clerk Janet Rumpel said.

The commissioners also will review the final draft of the landfill plan and may talk to Mark McMullen of Terranext, the Denver-area engineering firm which is helping plan the facility, about liner questions that had been asked previously. The commissioners are expected to decide on whether to try a test pad for using a soil liner or to opt for either a bentonite or plastic liner for cells in the new landfill.

McMullen has recommended the soil liner be used if the test pad shows the material can be compacted to enough density to prevent moisture from seeping out. He told the commissioners the cost of the soil liner would be less than the other options.

If the commissioners decide to try the soil liner in the first phase development at the landfill and determine it is not sufficient, McMullen has said the liner could be changed in the later sections of the landfill.

Since the departure of Mike Irvin, the county has been without anyone to act as a county administrator, and the commissioners are considering opening this position for applications in the near future. Having an administrator could reduce some of the burden on the commissioners and

assist them in handling the day-to-day needs of the county, which currently are falling to the clerk and county attorney.

The commissioners have been discussing the need for an administrator since spring, but wanted to have a clear picture of the budget before proceeding.

With the road mowing season winding down, there have been several calls to the individual commissioners about the success of the program. The commissioners are looking to find ways to improve the process, and may talk about them.

In addition the commissioners will handle communication employee evaluations, met with Treasurer Shelby Miller about personnel, and review a request for a riding mower for the fairgrounds with William McKnight, building manager.

Fed turns to outland for answers

Bank system establishes center in Kansas City to boost rural lifestyles

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Fed is turning its eye from Wall Street to Main Street.

The nation’s bank wants to look at rural America, exploring issues beyond agriculture that affect rural life.

The Federal Reserve Bank on Wednesday will open the new Center for the Study of Rural America.

“We are taking a look at the economy of all of rural America, not just at agriculture,” said Alan Barkema, an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank and vice president of the new center. “We are interested in all of the businesses that affect the rural economy.”

Rural economic studies are not new to the Fed, but now it is trying to put together its efforts in one place so it can share information nationally.

Barkema said parts of the rural economy are changing rapidly. He said the goal is to give policy-makers the information they need to understand those changes.

Economists believe that public policy tends to address only agriculture issues, usually on a crisis basis. A broader approach is needed, they say, to stabilize the rural economy into the next century.

Terry Nemechek, a loan officer with Farm Credit Service, has a suggestion of where to focus efforts.

“Prices are the root of the farm problem,” Nemechek said. “Commodities are selling for the same prices they were 20 or 30 years ago. But prices of everything else are not level. And certainly the price of food is not the same as it was 30 years ago. Back in 1940, wheat was about the same price per bushel as it is now. But, in 1940, you could buy a tractor for \$1,500. Today, it’ll cost you \$150,000.”

Nemechek said this has led to the vertical integration of agriculture. It’s what the Federal Reserve refers to as a “supply chain revolution” in its first “Main Street Economist” newsletter.

The development challenges the traditional structure of agriculture, leaving fewer farmers growing more of the production of each commodity. In this system, farmers do not make independent production decisions and sell their crop at market. Rather, they sign contracts with major food companies to deliver commodities on a set schedule.

For example, in 1997, nearly 60 percent of all the hogs in the United States were sold under some form of contract, compared with only 5 percent in 1980.

Federal Reserve economists say that 40 or fewer chains will control nearly all pork production within a few years. And supply chains are dominating other crops and livestock as well. That worries Nemechek.

“Is that the future of farming, being a hired man for Con-Agra? Or Cargill or some other huge company?” he asked. “Is that what we want it to be?”

That’s a question the center will pose to policy makers.

“This is something that is happening,” Barkema said. “We think it is important to identify trends like this and to explore what effect they are having on rural communities. Only then can we have informed discussion about what we want our communities to be.”



Homecoming!

Winning always makes homecoming brighter, and it was a very bright night Friday as the Goodland Cowboys entertained a standing-room-only crowd with a 14-7 win over the Panthers of Concordia. At one point, senior Matt Schields (above) broke a tackle of major yardage; he had several good runs. At half time, though, the game was still scoreless as the Goodland Student Council crowned the king and queen. The 12 seniors who were nominated were on the field, with the finalists escorted by the other nominees. Josh Vignery (far right) was named king and Jennifer Davis queen. Blake Winter and Sasha Lohr (below left) were first runners up, and Aileen Cebula and Russell Owens second runners up. Also at halftime the cheerleaders tossed small footballs to the crowd. Braden Bongers (below) was one of the lucky fans who caught a Cowboys football. He was with his dad, Dr. Greg Bongers, who was on the sidelines to help if any injuries occurred.

Photos by Tom Betz (center) and Charlie Baker (top and bottom)/The Goodland Daily News

