

weather
report

72°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 7:49 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:36 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:50 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 00 degrees
• Humidity 40 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds northeast 18-24 mph
• Barometer 29.57 inches
and rising
• Record High 99° (1962)
• Record Low 29° (1946)

Last 24 Hours*

High 81°
Low 44°
Precipitation —

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Clear, low 40, winds north 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Sunny, dry, high 65, low 35-40, winds northwest 25 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: dry, high 75, low 50. Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, high 85-90, low 50-55. Monday: dry, high 90-95, low 50s.

(National Weather Service)

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

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.34 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.19
Loan deficiency payment — 26¢
Corn — \$1.95 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.01
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Milo — \$2.94 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.89 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.91
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.10 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.44
Confection current — \$13/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco 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.

Iran may buy
sunflower oil

BISMARCK, N.D. — American sunflower oil exporters are hoping to recapture a Middle Eastern market lost two decades ago when Islamic militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Iran.

Argentina has had a stranglehold on sunflower oil sales to Iran since the United States began a trade embargo after the 1979 embassy hostage crisis, said John Sandbakken, international marketing director for the National Sunflower Association.

The Clinton administration last year lifted sanctions on exports of food and medicine to Iran, Libya and Sudan — three countries listed as terrorist states. This fall, an Iranian trade delegation will travel to the United States.

"It's a very momentous thing for them to come over," he said. "When they come over, they want to buy products."

Rattlers to give visitors a warm welcome

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

You can watch skilled handlers work with poisonous prairie and diamondback rattlesnakes, see demonstrations on how to get out of a sleeping bag when a snake crawls in, and learn how not to get bitten if you accidentally come on a rattler.

All this and more will be offered for hundreds of visitors converging on the annual Rattlesnake Roundup this Saturday and Sunday at the Wallace County Fairground in Sharon Springs.

The snake pit will open at 9 a.m. Saturday for viewing and buying. Craft and food vendors will also open at the same time. Hourly events will begin at 10 a.m. with the first to be a display and a lecture on fangs and rattler research.

The Snake Snack Shack will open at 11 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Entertainment will be provided throughout the day by magician Rex Getz

and a chain-saw artist who carves figures out of wood. The carvings will be auctioned off late Saturday afternoon.

Fangs n' Rattlers will do amazing tricks inside a pit with hundreds of live rattlesnakes, plus you can learn how information on snake habitat and health is gathered. Snakes will be measured at 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

Snake hunters will need a bucket with a lid, a snake catcher or snare and a valid Kansas hunting license with snake permit, said roundup coordinators.

Along with the rattlesnake roundup, Sharon



Prairie rattler on guard.

will run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. throughout the town. Maps will be available at SS Country Store, Miller's Food Store, and the Wallace County

Springs will have a community yard sale, farmer's market and breakfast.

The breakfast will be from 7-9:30 a.m. on Saturday to be served at the Community Activity Building by local boy scouts.

A farmer's market will be open from 8 a.m. until noon. on U.S. 40 east of the state Department of Transportation shop building. There will be fresh fruits and vegetables and baked goods.

The community yard sale

Economic Development office.

Then at 2 p.m. on Sunday, a drawing will be held. Some of the items to be raffled include a Cripple Creek overnight stay at the Double Eagle Hotel/Casino with breakfast included and a Denver family package with a night's stay, four Elitch Gardens tickets, and four Colorado Rockies tickets provided by First National Bank. A Caribbean cruise for two with airline tickets and several Colorado Springs vacation packages will also be given away. Merchants have donated gift certificates and other items.

The Rattlesnake Roundup still has vendor spaces available. If you are interested, call Judie Withers at (785) 852-4473.

If you are interested in participating in the community yard sale, call Jacquelyn Mai at (785) 852-4717. For guidelines on the farmer's market, call Joyce Radiel at (785) 852-4244 or 4716.

Fire eats through N.M. city

Thousands flee blaze set by government

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) — A firestorm swept through the abandoned streets of Los Alamos today, burning as many as 400 homes, some down to their foundations, while frustrated firefighters braced for gusts up to 60 mph.

All 11,000 people in Los Alamos were evacuated, and this morning another 7,000 fled suburban White Rock, where many evacuees had sought safety.

"We weren't ready down here. We were the refugee center for our friends," Kirk Christensen said as he and his wife loaded their camper and headed into a sea of cars crawling down the highway. They were headed for a friend's house in Santa Fe, to camp in the yard.

About one-third of the 10,000 residents in western Espanola, in a valley 10 miles east of Los Alamos, were advised to leave because of flames sparked by embers from the Los Alamos blaze.

Brick fireplaces were all that remained of some homes in Los Alamos. A basketball hoop remained intact on one driveway, its net still hanging but singed. The house was destroyed, the garage door was split in half and crumbled on the driveway.

At the storied Los Alamos nuclear laboratory, for the first time shut down by fire, flames singed a research building but it did not ignite. Explosives and radioactive material were protected in fireproof facilities, lab officials said.

The fire was set by the National Park Service a week ago to clear brush, but quickly flared out of control, racing through stands of ponderosa pine. It had burned less than 4,000 acres Wednesday morning, but after being fueled by 50 mph wind gusts Wednesday it grew to 18,000 acres.

The fire was too dangerous to battle head on, firefighters said. They pulled back as flames advanced, moving their command post to relative safety.

Water-bombing helicopters and airplanes dropping pink fire retardant bombarded the blaze, hoping to narrow its westward and northward thrust. Today's high wind could limit the use of firefighting aircraft.

Los Alamos, 70 miles north of Albuquerque, is essentially a company town for the federal lab. It sprang up in the 1940s as the base of operations for the Manhattan Project, which built the atomic bomb. There are still military barracks and military-style housing in Los Alamos, along with relatively upscale, newer developments.

Neighborhood by neighborhood, the town burned Wednesday and into today. House after house filled with fire, glowed like jack-o-lanterns, then exploded in pulsing orange flames. Just after sundown, flames marched to a tree-covered ridge overlooking downtown, lighting the night sky.

As evacuees fled to shelters, hotels and motels outside Los Alamos, firefighter Sam Schroeder stood outside one flaming home.

"This is bizarre — this house won't be touched," she said, pointing to the house next door. "This one will go all the way to the ground."



Eighth graders in picture

Eighth graders spent Wednesday at the high school for orientation. The high school Student Council showed the newbies around. They tried to give them some idea of what high school is all about, and that's not quite what some of us might remember.

There was time for some fun and a little good-natured initiation, too. Two eighth-grade boys (above) participate in a game where a team had to pass a Lifesaver from toothpick to toothpick.

If the Lifesaver was dropped, then they had to start over.

One group (right) put all its strength into the tug-of-war. Another (bottom) was launching water balloons, and maybe the school windows did need a washing.

In one event (below), the teams were tied together at the ankles. They started out standing but found it easier to advance on all fours, crawling to the finish line.

Photos by Debra Turner
The Goodland Daily News

