


weather report

88°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Tomorrow

- Sunrise, 5:21 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 75 degrees
- Humidity 33 percent
- Sky partly sunny
- Winds variable 6 mph
- Barometer 29.88 inches and falling
- Record High 106° (1954)
- Record Low 47° (1964)

Last 24 Hours*

High	95°
Low	62°
Precipitation	trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, 40 percent chance for thunderstorms, low 60-65, winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 30 percent chance for thunderstorms, high 90, low 50s, winds southwest 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday through Tuesday: chance for thunderstorms, high 80s, low 50s.

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

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.64 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.44
Loan deficiency payment — 1¢

Corn — \$1.80 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.71
Loan deficiency payment — 28¢

Milo — \$2.31 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.18 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.41
Loan deficiency payment — 49¢

Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.90 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.83
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.

Prisoner faces murder charge

HUNTSVILLE, Mo. — An inmate who allegedly conspired with two suspects to free him from jail will be charged with the murders of two jailers killed in the attempted escape and could face the death penalty.

Michael Tisius, 19, and Tracie Ann Bulington, 27, were arraigned in court this morning for the shooting deaths of Randolph County jailers Leon Egly, 33, a city councilman, and Jason Acton, 36.

Authorities have said Tisius, of Moberly, and Bulington, of Macon County, were trying to free Bulington's boyfriend, Roy Vance. Vance, 27, could be charged with first-degree murder in the deaths, Randolph County Attorney Mike Fusselman said.

Bound by handcuffs, Tisius and Bulington looked tired as Circuit Court Judge James Cooksey read the charges.

It is dry, but is it drought?

By Dana Sulsberger
The Goodland Daily News

Is there a drought or is there not a drought? In Goodland, the answer depends on who you talk to.

Technically, there is no drought in Goodland, said meteorologist Aaron Dorn at the National Weather Service, because the amount of rain that's fallen is above the drought level.

But Mary Knapp, state climatologist, said there is a drought in northwest Kansas, because of the low moisture levels in the soil.

"Goodland is in a moderate drought state," said Hank Ernst, spokesman for the Kansas Water Office, adding that it's not as serious as the drought in other parts of the state. If the weather continues to be this dry, he added, the area could be in a technical severe drought stage in three weeks.

Rainfall in Goodland is 1.31 inches below average for June, Dorn said. Goodland has gotten 5.91 inches so far for the year, which is 3.05 inches below normal, but that does not qualify for a hydrological drought.

A hydraulic drought, said Professor John Harrington Jr., head of the department of geography at Kansas State University, is different from an agricultural drought.

A hydraulic drought is measured by the amount of water available in rivers and lakes, he said, while an agricultural drought is gauged on how it affects crops and livestock.

"An agricultural drought is usually more short term," said the professor.

Drought conditions are usually measured using the Palmer Drought Service Index. The index measures not only the amount of moisture that's fallen but also the amount of moisture in the soil and the daytime temperature, said Ernst.

Using the index, accurate predictions can be made on the dryness of an agricultural area. On the scale a +4 is a very good year, and a -4 is a severe drought.

In Goodland, we have a rating of -2 to -2.99, said Knapp. If conditions do not improve in the next three weeks, the area will slide farther down the scale. It would take a lot of rain to turn that around.

"It will take Goodland getting six inches within the next three weeks to even reach zero on the scale," said Knapp.

Normal rainfall is only 3.19 inches for the whole month of June, and 2.87 inches for July, so chances are very slim that Goodland will get that much rain in the next few weeks.

Goodland's index rating qualifies the area for moderate drought status in agricultural terms, said Ernst.

The state is divided into river basins, said Knapp, and the index rates the different basins. Most of Sherman County is in the Upper Republican Basin.

Drought status can range from mild drought, moderate drought, and severe drought, said Ernst. The upper Republican Basin lies somewhere in the middle, close to severe drought, he said.

The moisture content of the soil is

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Drought has caused dryland corn to wilt.

Photo by Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

Drought must worsen before farms get help

Things aren't bad enough here for farmers to seek much assistance from the government yet, said Dennis Mote, county executive director for the U.S. Farm Service Agency in Sherman and Wallace counties.

In some areas, said Hank Ernst, spokesman for the state Water Office, the agency has already released Conservation Reserve Program land for grazing because of the lack of rain.

In order to apply for release of the lands, said Mote, an area must have a 40 percent loss in normal yield and Sherman County is currently listed at 35 percent.

"All the small showers we have been getting only prolong the time that they have to wait before the can apply," he added.

Wallace and Cheyenne counties are now able to apply, standing at 42 percent, said Mote, but Sherman County is not quite there yet.

The Kansas Department of Transportation, said Ernst, is allowing some farmers to harvest hay along the right of way.

The weather has also led to low quality and weight of wheat this year, said Mote.

Mote compared this year's rain to a year ago, saying the area had 16 inches last year, while this year the total is only 6.38 inches.

"We are almost 10 inches behind," he said, "and that is a big factor in the crop quality. The quality just isn't there." Test weights for wheat have been light, between 55 and 57 pounds per bushel, and yields have been anywhere between four and 44 bushels per acre.

It isn't just the dry weather affecting this crop, he said; a late spring freeze affected it as well.

"We need someone to do a rain dance, fast," he said.

Board to resurface track

The Goodland School Board will talk about resurfacing the high school's aging track on Monday, and may decide who will do the work and when.

The board will meet at 7 p.m. in the school district office at 1312 Main St.

Members will review bids from contractors on resurfacing the track, which now has a rubberized surface formed from recycled, shredded tires and latex glue.

Richard Leiss, high school athletic director, said the old track is in terrible shape.

"It desperately needs to be resurfaced," he said. "It has been there for seven years."

At an earlier meeting, Superintendent Marvin Selby said it could cost about \$60,000 for a new surface.

other type of surface.

In other action, the board will:

- See a presentation from the Family Careers and Community Leaders of America Parliamentary Law team, which is headed for a national competition in Florida.
- Hear reports from the superintendent and member Mike Campbell, who represents the school board on the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center board. Campbell will talk about the center board's latest meeting.
- Check out used busses the district recently bought.
- Give Rich Schwasinger, who teaches DECA classes at the high school, an award for 20 years of service to DECA, the association of high schools' marketing students.
- Make annual money transfers so the district's general fund budget has a zero balance at the end of the fiscal year on June 30 — something state law requires.



Jamie Helmut, a volunteer with the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter, gets "Prince" ready for the "Dog Day of Summer" event on Saturday, where people will be able to adopt dogs that need homes.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/*The Goodland Daily News*

A real dog day is coming

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

When Sherman County animal lovers say Saturday is going to be a dog day, they're not talking about the heat. In fact, they plan to be done before it gets hot.

They're talking about 30 dogs gathering in a small park to put on their cutest doggie faces and go home with someone who will love them.

The Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter's second annual "Dog Day of Summer" will start at 9 a.m. Saturday at the old roadside park on East U.S. 24, across from the KOA Kampground. Volunteers who run the animal shelter are hoping that when they leave the site at 10:30 a.m., all of the stray dogs will have new homes.

"We have everything from great big to very small," said Jamie Helmut, who helps run the shelter's foster care program. "We even have a few puppies."

Helmut and two of her sisters from Greeley, Colo., spent Thursday evening at the Paw Wash at the east end of Goodland, getting the dogs ready for their big day.

Kathy Weis, who owns the pet-washing business, donated use of her facilities to the shelter.

Asked why, Weis didn't have much to say because Sharon Bowker, president of the board that runs the shelter, jumped in:

"Because she's nice. She is just a nice person who loves animals."

Helmut said the foster care committee started dog day last year so potential pet owners can see the dogs in one place. Normally, they are at 10 foster homes across the county.

"It's just easier that way," said Helmut.

There will be 30 dogs this year, she said, up from 14 last year.

Bowker said 159 dogs were adopted through the shelter over the past year.



Vicky

Remember when...



When the Amoco gas station on K-27 closed about six months ago, it cost almost 60 cents less to buy a gallon of gas than it does today.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/*The Goodland Daily News*

Restaurant will open at lodge

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

As of Monday, Goodland will have a new place to eat, with entertainment every night, a game room, dance floor and bar.

"Kickers," the restaurant and lounge at the Goodland Elks Lodge at 1523 Arcade, will be open to the public with no membership required. It will open at 11 a.m. seven days a week for lunch and dinner. Sunday through Thursday, it will close at midnight, on Friday and Saturday it will stay open until 1:30 a.m.

The co-owners are Goodland residents Stony Wilson and Traci Price, who have leased the building from the Elks. Price is in charge of the restaurant and Wilson the bar and entertainment.

Wilson said he wants to have different entertainment each night. A karaoke night is planned for either Wednesday or Thursday, a college night on one night, and maybe a jam night. Dancing will be available each night. On the weekends, he plans to bring in live bands from Denver that haven't been in Goodland before. There will be a cover charge for those nights.

He said they have a whole new light and sound system in the dance floor

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