

weather report

57°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 6:17 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:52 a.m.
• Sunset, 6:17 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil Temperature 48 degrees
- Humidity 41 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds south 20-27 mph
- Barometer 29.99 inches and steady
- Record High 88° (1962)
- Record Low 25° (1958)

Last 24 Hours*

High 59°
Low 23°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 35-40, south winds 15-25. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 70-75, south winds 20-30 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday: chance of rain, high 60s, low 35-45.

(National Weather Service)

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.79 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.64
 - Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
 - Corn — \$1.84 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.61
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 38¢
 - Milo — \$2.75 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$4.29 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.98
 - Loan deficiency payment — 92¢
 - Millet — ask
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$5.30 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.51
 - Confection current — \$15/\$6 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$15
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Israeli official allows time

JERUSALEM — Under international pressure, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak on Tuesday gave his Palestinian counterpart more time to quell raging violence that has killed 88 people over 12 days.

The level of fighting in the region Tuesday represented a considerable de-escalation from the furious street battles that flared all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip last week, but there were ugly incidents.

Hospital officials in Gaza said a 12-year-old Palestinian boy was critically wounded by a live bullet to the head.

About 200 Palestinians threw stones and firebombs at Israeli troops near the West Bank town of Ramallah, and the soldiers responded with rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas.



Jackie Chartier of Wray, Colo., stopped her horse to deposit an envelope in a mailbox on the speed trail course at Saturday's Kara Bentzinger Memorial Gymkhana at the Sherman County Fairgrounds. Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Horses, riders kick up heels at event

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Some kicked up dirt as they raced their horses around barrels in the arena, while others coaxed their horses to go through a gate or up a ramp.

Riders ranged in age from 2 to 60-something, astride varying colors of horses in six events in Saturday's eighth-annual Kara Bentzinger Memorial Gymkhana.

Dennis Bentzinger, Kara's father and an organizer of the event, said the gymkhana had started out as a county event, but after his daughter was killed in a one-vehicle accident eight years ago, he was asked if he would like to turn it into a memorial gymkhana and took it over then.

Kara loved horses and rodeos. "It's kind of a therapeutic day for us," he said.

The gymkhana, at the Sherman County Fairgrounds in Goodland, was sponsored by the Bentzinger family and the Sherman County 4-H Council.

Gymkhana means games on horseback, and this year's event included a speed trail course, goat tying, barrel racing, pole bending, flag racing and a keyhole race.

Bentzinger said the first year they held the event after taking it over, there were 25 to 30 contestants.

"It's been growing every year," he said.

About 72 contestants from Goodland and St. Francis, and from the Colorado towns of Burlington and Wray participated.

The activities started at 10 a.m. and



Cy Homm of Burlington rode his horse around one of three barrels in the barrel race during the Kara Bentzinger Memorial Gymkhana, held Saturday at the Sherman County Fairgrounds in Goodland.

lasted until around 3:30 p.m.

There were four age divisions, 9 and under, 10-13, 14-16 and 17 and over.

In the 9-and-under category, the

first place winner was T.C. Herman, second was Stevie Mari and third was Jackie Chartier.

For the 10-13 age division, first

place went to Jade Inlow, second to Blu Mari and third to Jade Newson.

In the 14-16 age group, coming in first was Teokka Harris, second was Tori Mari and third was Jill Thomas.

For the 17 and over category, first place went to Cy Homm, second to Pam Herman and third to Susie Chartier.

Bentzinger said 108 prizes were given.

He said donations from about 25-30 sponsors and entry fees helped to pay for the prizes.

First National Bank and Western State Bank furnished \$50 savings bonds for the event and all-around champs in each age group received belt buckles as prizes.

Bentzinger, who teaches welding at the Northwest Kansas Technical School, said he welded saddle racks, salt block holders, and metal hat and coat racks which were given away as prizes.

The 4-H Council furnished the arena and Dana Belshe, Sherman County extension agent, cooked about 160 hamburgers for the participants and staff at a barbecue.

"It takes a lot to put this on," Bentzinger said. "We had a tremendous amount of help at different levels."

He said there were about 50 volunteers who helped. Bentzinger's son, Justin, set up a computer program for the event and then put the participants' times on computer, so they could see them during the event.

Dorothy Bentzinger, Kara's mother, said this was the first year they did the results on computer.

Board wants to double teams in football districts

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland School Board decided Monday to support a proposal by the Kansas State High School Activities Association to double the number of teams in each high school football district.

The plan is to switch from four-team to eight-team districts, and the association has sent information on the pros and cons to members, seeking comments from school boards and superintendents.

Richard Liess, high school athletic director and a member of a committee that studied the proposal this summer, told the board the switch would help with scheduling of games and allow the Goodland Cowboys to play more teams from schools their size.

Information the association sent said

advantages include having seven of a team's nine games count toward qualifying for the playoffs, but noted it would mean higher travel costs for schools in districts that would grow in size.

With four-team districts, the last three games before playoffs are devoted to teams in the same district — and in the same size class — playing each other. Doubling that would mean seven games would already be arranged each season, and districts would only have to schedule two.

Liess said he likes the idea because it takes the pressure off him having to schedule six games each year, something that is becoming more and more difficult as enrollment declines and schools become smaller.

Goodland is a Class 4A school and most nearby schools are 2 or 3A, Liess

said, which means the schools have smaller enrollments. He said other 4A schools in western Kansas, such as Pratt and Hugoton, are over 200 miles away and don't want to spend the money or take the time to make the trip to Goodland. That Goodland is in the Mountain Time Zone hurts also.

Before the meeting, Liess said he had asked activities association officials for help scheduling games because he was having trouble finding competitors in Goodland's class. This season, most of Goodland's opponents have been in 5A, 2A or 3A classes. One game time on Goodland's schedule was left open as Liess couldn't find an opponent, but, with scheduling problems of its own, the Phillipsburg team agreed to play the Cowboys.

When the association's executive board formed a 33-member committee

to study the proposal, Liess said, he was asked to join, and after meeting for two days this summer, the committee voted 25-4 to support the switch.

The association will make a decision next year after hearing from schools, but Liess said if it does change, it won't happen until the 2002-2003 school year because the football playoff schedules are set two years in advance.

He said the eight-team district would allow two teams from each district to qualify for state tournament play. Right now, only one team qualifies from each district.

Liess said under the eight-team district, teams from adjoining districts would play each other, with the winner advancing into the current playoff structure, which includes three rounds

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Officials wait for vaccine

Flu shots available for high-risk people

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Health professionals all over the city are waiting anxiously for the arrival of this winter's stock of flu vaccine, but right now there isn't any available in Sherman County except for high-risk people.

Due to a national shortage, the federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention is encouraging doctors and public health departments to delay public clinics for people who aren't at high risk for flu until November. Usually the clinics start this month.

"We don't have any for public clinics right now," said Derenda Harrel at the Sherman County Health Department.

She said their supplier is telling them they have the vaccine, but it is just late in getting to them.

While they are expecting it any day now, Harrel said, it may be November before they get enough to hold a clinic. Then they will let everyone know that it is available.

Janey Vasquez, a technician at Goodland Medical Arts Pharmacy, said they haven't gotten any of the vaccine they have ordered yet and she doesn't know when they will be getting it.

On Nov. 7, the Thomas County Public Health Nurse will be available to give vaccinations at the Brewster Senior Citizen Center, said Sally Michael, an employee with the center.

The nurse will be there from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to provide shots to the public for \$8, but the shots will not be available until then.

"We aren't anticipating any problems," said Michael about the shortage.

She said other shots will be available at the same time like the pneumonia vaccine.

The Centers for Disease Control expect a one- to two-month delay for the vaccine this season, and it isn't clear right now whether there will be as many doses available as there were last year.

There are several causes for the shortage. The first is problems with growing the influenza virus which is used to make the vaccine.

Secondly, the Food and Drug Administration has taken regulatory action against two of the manufacturers that are licensed to distribute the vaccine.

The shot is still available and should be given to high-risk people, said the Centers for Disease Control, including those 65 years or older; residents of nursing homes and other health care facilities with residents of any age group who have chronic medical conditions; adults and children older than 6 months who have chronic heart and breathing problems such as asthma; children and teen-agers receiving aspirin therapy; and women who will be in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during the influenza season.

Health-care workers and people working in the homes of high-risk individuals should also get vaccinated.

Loans here for crop loss

Emergency loans are available for farmers who suffered crop losses due to natural disasters last year and this year in Sherman, Cheyenne and Thomas counties.

The U.S. Farm Service Agency has applications available until Feb. 23.

To qualify, a farmer must be operating a family size farm or ranch, must be unable to get credit elsewhere, and must have suffered a certain amount of loss, such as a 30 percent loss in at least one crop in the year, from a natural disaster.

The loans can be used to replace equipment, buildings and livestock.