

The Goodland Daily News

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Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

79°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:06 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:41 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:06 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 76 degrees
- Humidity 64 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds southeast 7 mph
- Barometer 30.04 inches and steady
- Record High 111° (1940)
- Record Low 51° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

High 86°
Low 73°
Precipitation 0.11 inch

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 70 percent chance of thunderstorms, low mid 60s, south wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, 60 percent chance of thunderstorms, high mid 80s, low 60-65, southeast wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday and Saturday: chance of thunderstorms, high 85-95, low 60. Sunday: dry, high 90-95, low 60s. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.69 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.54
Corn — \$2.02 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.87
Loan deficiency payment — 12¢
Milo — \$3.25 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.62 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.41
Loan deficiency payment — 51¢
Millet — \$5.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.30 cwt.
Oil new crop — \$6.95 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 96¢
Confection current — no bid
Pinto beans — \$16 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, 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.

China deports spying scholar

BEIJING — China deported a Chinese-born American business professor today after he was convicted of spying in a case that has complicated an impending visit by Secretary of State Colin Powell.

While welcoming the release of Li Shaomin, Powell said other cases involving detained U.S.-linked scholars in China "are on the way to resolution," hinting that Beijing will also deport two scholars convicted Tuesday on charges of spying for Taiwan.

Li, who was convicted July 14, left Beijing on a flight to San Francisco. Talking briefly to reporters during a stopover in Tokyo, he said, "I am happy to return home."

"I'm thankful for my government," he said. Li said he was "stressed out" and did not answer questions.

The spying trials added to strains in U.S.-Chinese relations.

Storms give thirsty crop drink

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Late-evening thunderstorms have dropped about 1.5 inches of rain on Sherman County this week, pushing the area slightly over the average rainfall mark for this time of year and giving a sip to thirsty fall crops.

Sven Nelaimischkies, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Goodland, said a cold front has moved in from Canada and stalled over the central High Plains, allowing thunderstorms to develop easily. Moisture from the Gulf of Mexico, he added, is feeding the storms and causing high humidity, which makes the weather feel hotter.

Nelaimischkies said the southern states usually benefit most from the Gulf moisture, but a ridge of high pressure over Texas and Oklahoma is stopping thunderstorms from developing

there and allowing the wet air to flow through.

"There is so much more moisture in the air," he said. "The humidity is not normal for this time of year."

Because the air is wetter, Nelaimischkies said, temperatures don't have to drop much before it's cool enough for the moisture to condense. At this time of year, he said, the dewpoint in Sherman County is usually between 30 and 40 degrees, but now it's in the 60s to 70s.

It all means more thunderstorms and rain.

A violent storm Monday night, producing lightning, hail and high winds, dropped about 1.39 inches of rain on Goodland, forming rivers in streets and nearly saturating the ground. Nelaimischkies said people reported wind gusts up to 75 mph.

While Tuesday night's storm, again

bringing lightning, wind and hail, was calmer in Sherman County, it hit hard in surrounding areas, causing the weather service to issue tornado and flood warnings to the south, north and east.

The rain Monday night nearly saturated the ground, Nelaimischkies said, making conditions prime for flash flooding. He said there were reports Tuesday night of flooding in counties to the east and north, into Nebraska.

While Sherman County received less than a half-inch of rain, Sharon Springs reported 1.34 inches and areas of Tribune received almost an inch. Tornado warnings were issued in Wallace and Greeley counties and in Kit Carson County in Colorado, Nelaimischkies said, but no twisters were spotted.

There were reports of 75 mph wind

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Thunderstorms push rainfall above normal

Rain the past two days has pushed Sherman County slightly over the average yearly rainfall for this time of year — something that has been rare in this area the past couple of years.

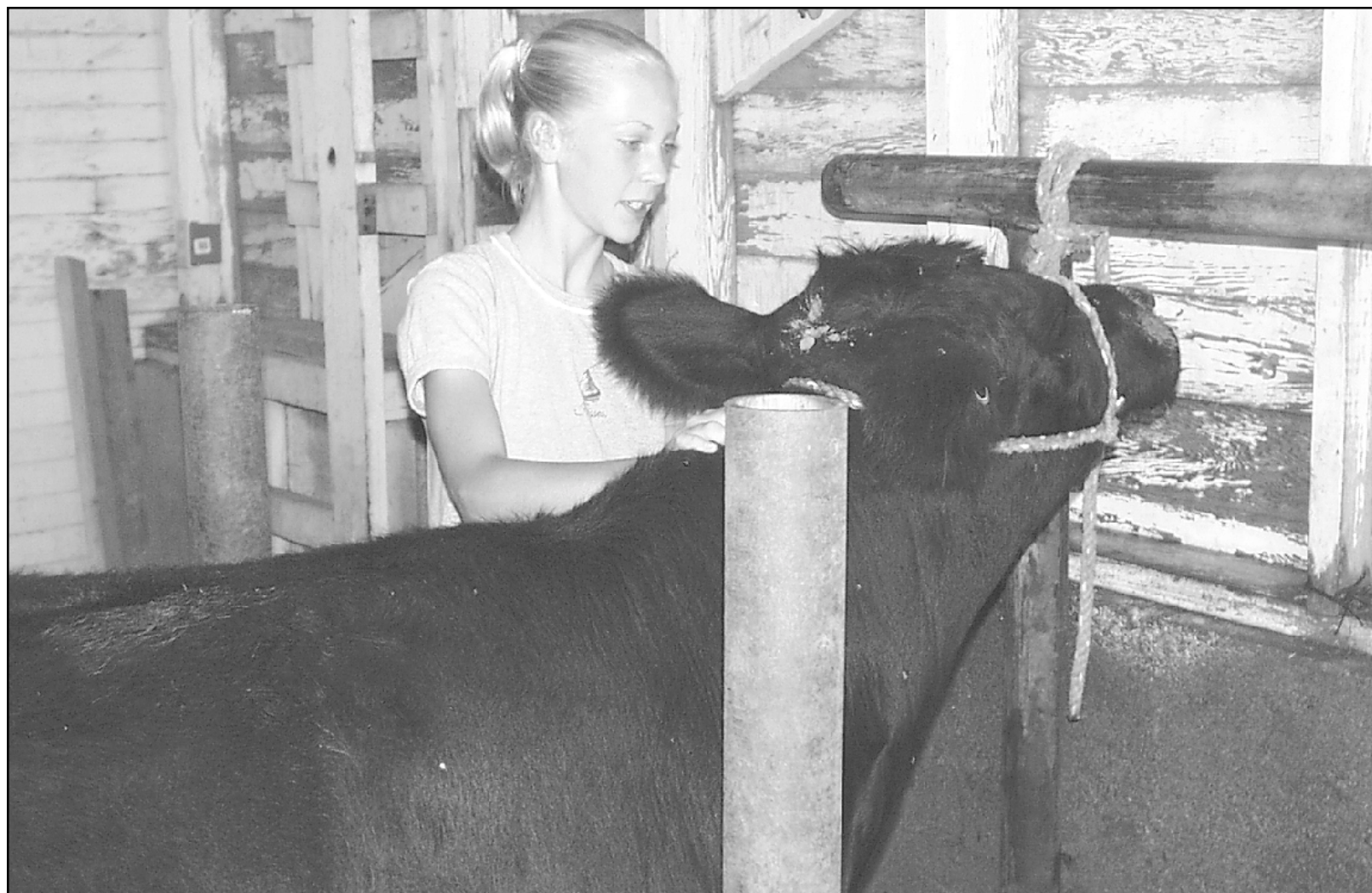
With drought-like conditions last summer, farmers and most everyone else welcome the moisture and hope it keeps coming.

Sven Nelaimischkies, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Goodland, said 12.52 inches of rain has fallen so far this year, which is a quarter of an inch

above normal. He said the annual average for Sherman County is 18.2 inches of rain.

Almost half of that moisture, Nelaimischkies said, has fallen in July, with 6.03 inches of rain hitting the ground here this month. He said the average rainfall in July is 2.3 inches.

It may keep coming, as he said a cold front and moisture from the Gulf of Mexico is making conditions prime for thunderstorms tonight and Thursday night.



Kali Reitcheck, a member of the Sunflower 4-H Club, petted her heifer J.J. to calm her down during the annual 4-H tour to her family's farm this month. During the tour, 4-Hers showed off the projects they will enter into the fair this year. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

4-Hers view peers' fair projects on tour

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

Sunflower 4-Hers and their parents spent a Sunday afternoon traveling to farms and around the Sherman County Fairgrounds to see 4-H projects that will be entered in this year's fair.

The 4-Hers saw livestock projects and looked at smaller animals, like cats and dogs. The annual 4-H tour

was held on Sunday, July 15 and ended with the 4-Hers enjoying an ice cream social in the 4-H building at the fairgrounds.

Members of the Sunflower 4-H Club showed each other how their projects for the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair were progressing. The fair will be held on Aug. 6-11.

The tour began at the 4-H building, with some of the members giving pre-

sentations of their projects in front of the group.

The 4-Hers and their parents drove to members' farms to see the livestock projects.

After the tour, the group met back at the 4-H building to see more presentations and eat ice cream.

Christopher Irvin told the group about his fish and said he also had baked muffins for cooking and was

reading some books. His brother, Ryan, showed his cat, Midnight, and the rocket he planned to enter. Ryan said he has a project for cooking as well.

Christy and Alicia Studer showed off their dogs. Alicia said she also has a guinea pig to enter in the handpets category, a pig and a project for foods

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Runaway car



Workers cleaned up at the Total/A & W store on K-27 this morning after a 1991 4-door Mercury, owned by Jesse Sandoval, crashed through the north window around 7 a.m.. J.R. Johnson, a Goodland police officer on the scene, said apparently the car jumped into gear while the driver was inside paying. Police would not release the identity of the driver, as they said the incident is still under investigation. Photo by Reaghan Smith/The Goodland Daily News

Tiny quake shakes up two cities

ELDORADO (AP)—A small earthquake Tuesday morning shook up the communities of El Dorado and Augusta, but caused no injuries or damage.

The 9:02 a.m. quake, measuring 3.0 on the Richter scale, was centered 10 miles west of El Dorado along the Humboldt Fault Zone, said Rex Buchanan, associate director of the Kansas Geological Survey.

The Humboldt Fault Zone runs southwest from Nemaha in northern Kansas down as far as Sumner County. He says the fault usually generates a small quake about once a year.

A 3.0 quake is considered on the "dividing line" — anything above it is usually strong enough to be felt, while anything less is usually too weak for most people to feel it, Buchanan said.

Butler County Emergency Management coordinator Jim Schmidt said they have not gotten any reports of damage.

Report suggests changes

By Reaghan Smith

The Goodland Daily News

Representatives from Via Christi, a Wichita hospital, attended the Goodland Regional Medical Center board meeting on Monday to give members advice on how to improve the doctor's clinic here.

At the regular meeting, the board also discussed the hospital's new mammography machine and financial reports, which showed a loss for the month. Members held an election for three spots on the board.

Kay Myrtle and Doug Hanson, representatives from Via Christi, presented an evaluation of Rural Health Ventures, which is a doctor's clinic in the east part of Goodland's hospital. Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, said the evaluation was a routine review of operations to show where improvement is needed and how to improve overall efficiency.

Hanson said the clinic should find ways to improve leadership among the physicians and get them more involved with the decision-making process. He suggested that physicians and management work more closely together.

He also mentioned problems in patient flow and suggested reassigning some duties now handled by the receptionists at the front desk to other office personnel. By doing this, Hanson said, the receptionists could focus more on the patients, have less work to do and, therefore, possibly be more friendly.

Another suggestion was to devise a new scale in which to evaluate the physicians' productivity.

Hanson said the new scale would rate productivity by the number of people seen in the clinic, hospital and emergency room. Physicians, he said, would be paid based on that scale of productivity. Basically, Hanson said, it would be more pay for more work, encouraging doctors with low productivity to work more and rewarding those with high productivity.

The representatives, who had to leave early because of a storm, left written summaries of the evaluation and said they would call soon.

Jolly gave a report on the new mammography machine, saying that in August the American College of Radiology, one of only two organizations that get involved with accreditation, will be here to do a certification check.

After that, he said, an additional 30-day wait is anticipated before the machine is accredited and can be used. The board held an election for three positions. Chairman Doug Irvin said he wished to step down, but was voted back in. Lynn Hoelting will continue as vice chairman and Joyce Moore was voted Secretary/Treasurer.

In a financial report, Andy Laue, the financial officer, said the hospital is at a loss of \$34,498 for the month, but almost half of that, \$14,885, is due to building additions. So, he said, overall, the hospital is slightly ahead of where they thought they would be at this time.

The board went into closed session for an hour and a half without action.