

weather report

55°  
at noon

Today

- Sunset, 5:57 p.m.
- Tomorrow
- Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:56 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 58 degrees
- Humidity 19 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds n 27, gusting to 33 mph.
- Barometer 29.96 inches and rising
- Record High 85° (1952)
- Record Low 20° (1975)

Last 24 Hours\*

High	78°
Low	38°
Precipitation	—

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly cloudy, low 25, winds northwest 15-25 decreasing to 5-15. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high 55-60, wind northwest 10-20.

Extended Forecast

Friday: mostly sunny, highs near 60. Saturday: mostly clear, lows 30-35, highs 65-70.

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

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.59 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.57  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.96 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.72  
Loan deficiency payment — 27¢  
Milo — \$1.68 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$3.59 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.53  
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.39  
Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$7.50 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.36  
Confection current — ask  
Pinto beans — \$19 (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.

U.S. attack kills fighters

TORKHAM, Afghanistan — A Pakistani militant group said today that 22 of its fighters were killed in a U.S. attack on Kabul — the deadliest known strike against a group linked to Osama bin Laden since the air campaign began Oct. 7.

A group was seen bringing the bodies of 11 of the dead Pakistani militants to the Torkham border crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan, hoping to bury them in their homeland. The Pakistani border guards refused to let them cross, said a local Taliban security chief, Noor Mohammed Hanifi.

“They said, ‘You wanted to fight with the Taliban then you can bury your dead in Afghanistan,’” Hanifi said. U.S. jets kept up heavy night-and-day pounding of the Afghan capital today, with huge explosions in the direction of Taliban military sites on the outskirts.

# Anthrax scare arrives in Goodland

**By Rachel Miscall**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

The anthrax scare sweeping the nation made its way to Goodland, as an office at the hospital was cleared Monday and a hazardous materials team called in after an employee found a white, powdery substance while opening mail.

Jay Jolly, administrator at Goodland Regional Medical Center, said hospital officials believe the letter was a hoax. Nine employees had nasal cultures, he said, and all tested negative for anthrax.

The disease, mailed to media offices and government officials in Washington, Florida and New York, has killed three people — including two postal workers — and infected millions with

fear. Many have been hospitalized with symptoms, however, there are only 12 confirmed cases.

People in Goodland are realizing they’re not immune.

About 2 p.m. on Monday, Jolly said, an employee in the hospital’s business office was opening mail when he or she discovered the white powder.

“We’re assuming it was in one of the envelopes,” he said.

The office was immediately cleared, he said, and law enforcement officers were called in to investigate.

Sheriff Doug Whitson said he called Police Chief Ray Smee, who contacted Fire Chief Dean Jensen, the hazardous materials team coordinator in Sherman County.

Whitson said team members put on

protective gear to collect the powder, which is being held at the Sheriff’s Department.

The sheriff said the Kansas Department of Health and Environment requires law enforcement officers to hang on to the substance for a week to see if anyone gets sick.

“If no one gets sick,” he said, “then it’s not anthrax.”

If someone does show symptoms, Whitson added, then the substance will be tested.

The sheriff said law officers believe the incident — the first of its kind reported in Sherman County — was a hoax, but noted that any incident possibly involving anthrax or any other

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## Center prepares for attack

**By Sharon Corcoran**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

The Goodland Regional Medical Center board heard from the hospital’s Safety Committee about the disaster readiness plan and got September’s financial review at a meeting Monday.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, the American Hospital Association has provided members with a list of steps recommended to prepare in case there are future attacks — chemical, biological or nuclear.

There is a higher possibility of a hoax than an actual emergency in Goodland, said Dale Schields, head of the committee, but if a threat is called in, hospital officials and law enforcement officers would have to consider it to be real until it is proved otherwise. (The hospital reported a possible anthrax hoax on Monday.)

The committee has worked on a revised plan, Schields said, and plans to co-ordinate with other agencies in the county in line with one of the

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## Board stretches its policy

*District will pay for out-of-state trip*

**By Rachel Miscall**  
*The Goodland Daily news*

The Goodland School Board bent its policy against paying for out-of-state trips Monday, agreeing to spend about \$2,400 to send the Goodland High School X-Pressos to a national competition in Branson, Mo., this spring.

Randy Berls, high school vocal music teacher and director of the X-Pressos, the high school show choir, came to the meeting with about 16 choir members and several of the students’ parents.

The group asked the board to pay about \$2,400 to send the 20 singers to the National Show Choir Invitational, saying the singers plan to raise enough money to pay for the rest of the 1,234-mile trip, which will cost more than \$10,000. Transportation costs include use of the district’s activity bus and gas, but no pay for a driver, as Berls said licensed people have volunteered to drive.

Berls said the choir is the only one from Kansas picked to attend the competition.

Parents said the district pumps money into the sports teams and should support other programs. They said the singers have earned the right to attend the competition.

The request usually wouldn’t be a big deal, Superintendent Marvin Selby said, but the district, which is losing students, is facing serious financial trouble. He said the board agreed earlier this year not to pay for out-of-state trips to save money.

School administrators had to cut \$42,000 from the budget this year, as enrollment took a bigger dive than expected, and the budget depends on student numbers. The board opted to make cuts instead of raising property taxes this year.

Selby said he had refused to give money to a group that wanted to attend an event in Tennessee. He told the board that the district can afford to pay for the choir trip, but thought that members should make a decision and stick with it.

“I think they are really a neat group of kids,” he said, “but how do you determine who gets to go and who doesn’t get to go? We need to be consistent as a board.”

While members said they agreed with the superintendent, they said they felt this was a special case.

“It’s not like they are just representing Goodland,” member Kathy Russell said. “They are representing the state.”

Terry Richardson, father of Darin Richardson, an X-Presso member, said the board should support the choir as much as it supports the sports teams.

“We need to look at our priorities,” he said, “because these kids have earned everything that the football team and the volleyball team have earned.”

Superintendent Selby said the district isn’t neglecting the choir.

“We just ordered new dresses for the

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## Seat belt cutters to help in rescue

Bruce Gleason, a Goodland emergency medical technician, demonstrated how to use new seat belt cutters at an accident scene with the help of Don McKenzie and Bob Daise. McKenzie, a past exalted ruler of the Goodland Elks Lodge, presented ambulance volunteers with a special seat belt cutter. The cutters look like large envelope openers with a sharp blade designed to quickly cut a seat belt. They are part of the National Elks Hoop Shoot Program, which is part of the lodge’s “Just Say No to Drugs” national campaign.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

# Fall harvest brings mixed bounty for farmers

WICHITA (AP) — As fall harvest nears its end, Kansas farmers are bringing in a mixed bounty in the wake of this summer’s extreme heat.

Hardest hit were farmers in south-central Kansas, where seemingly unending days of triple-digit temperatures and little rain in June and July devastated much of the corn, milo and soybeans, industry experts say.

But in northeast Kansas and the northern tier counties of the state, the harvest has been very generous.

“It is a much better year for most people in Kansas ... a few more people have a few more smiles on their faces,” said Dennis Morrice, executive director of the Kansas Soybean Association.

The October government forecast for the state’s soybean crop was pegged at 87 million bushels.

That falls closely to the estimate released this week by William Tierney, agricultural economist at Kansas State University.

In his last forecast of the season,

Tierney pegged this year’s soybean crop in Kansas at 86 million bushels, about 36 million bushels more than last year’s drought-damaged crop.

The northeast parts of the state had abundant, timely rains — and the soybeans there are showing it: yields of 60-plus bushels an acre on mostly dryland acres are common, Morrice said.

Southeast Kansas got rains in mid and late August that helped crops there, and while some areas are still a week away from much of their soybean har-

vest, those already harvested are coming in at a decent 40-bushel range for them, he said.

This season, the heat wave hit Kansas two weeks earlier than last year — striking corn crops at a critical time in their development. But widespread rains in mid-August saved the state’s soybean crop in most areas other than south-central Kansas.

“It was a very critical rain, and it came at a very critical point in time,” Morrice said.

# Going digital could save clinic time and energy

Rural Health Ventures, the clinic associated with the Goodland Regional Medical Center, may put patient charts on the computer to save time and boost efficiency.

Hospital Board member Mary Ann Elliott told the board Monday that officials from the clinic will meet with a computer systems vendor to discuss updating the system at the clinic so they

can put charts on-line.

The system would save time because there would be no need to search for charts, Elliott said, and would improve accuracy, as doctors would enter information on pocket computers as they talk to their patients rather than writing things down later.

The computer would keep a list of medications that have been effective

for each patient, she said, and would check to make sure any medicines the doctor prescribes are compatible with others the patient is taking.

There would be no need for written prescriptions with this system, Elliott said, as the prescription could be sent to the pharmacy electronically. And the clinic could integrate with the hospital on this system.

The system would hold an enormous amount of information, she said, and it would be kept private with a password that only the doctors and nurses would know.

The clinic may not be able to afford this update, Elliott added, as there is a charge for the service, a \$60,000 lease on a scanner and the need to purchase monitors.