


weather report

52°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 5:54 p.m.

Tomorrow

- Sunrise, 7:08 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:53 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 52 degrees
- Humidity 22 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds nw 12 mph.
- Barometer 30.36 inches and steady
- Record High 88° (1959)
- Record Low 18° (1997)

Last 24 Hours*

High	58°
Low	31°
Precipitation	—

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, low in mid 20s, wind north 5-15 changing to southwest.

Tomorrow: sunny, high 60-65, wind north 5-15 changing to easterly.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: mostly sunny, highs in the lower 70s. Sunday through Monday: partly cloudy, lows 30-35, highs 70-75.

(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 — \$2.57
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$1.99 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.75
Loan deficiency payment — 24¢

Milo — \$1.69 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.64 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.55
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.37

Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight
Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$07.55 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



1 p.m. More disease found in office

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans taking anthrax-fighting antibiotics at the government’s urging neared 10,000, while inspectors found more of the deadly bacterium in a Senate office building.

The Postal Service prepared to issue masks and gloves for its 800,000 employees and was testing ways to sterilize the nation’s mail.

Federal health officials announced Wednesday that a deal had been struck with the Bayer Corp. to buy 100 million tablets of Cipro, the antibiotic that more and more Americans are popping to ward off anthrax disease. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said the government would purchase Cipro for 95 cents a pill, or about half the price it usually pays.

Powder source unknown

Sheriff says letters are sealed for week

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

Hospital officials are assuming white powder an employee found on her clothes and chair after opening mail on Monday fell out of an envelope, but officers will have to wait a week to look for a suspicious letter that could lead to a culprit.

“We don’t know which envelope it came from,” Jay Jolly, administrator at Goodland Regional Medical Center, said, adding that the employee noticed the white powder about 2 p.m. after opening a stack of mail.

The office was immediately cleared and law enforcement officers called, on the assumption that the powder may have contained the deadly disease anthrax. Nine hospital employees had nasal cultures and all tested negative for anthrax exposure.

Sheriff Doug Whitson said the department has sealed “a wastebasket full” of mail, and is being told by the state to wait a week before inspecting or testing the envelopes. Kenton Krehbiel, postmaster in Goodland, said postal employees here check all mail before it is delivered, and didn’t notice any suspicious packages or envelopes on Monday.

Two months ago, the employee might have just brushed the powder away, but that was before the anthrax scare. Actual anthrax powder, found in less than half a dozen letters sent to East Coast media and government offices, can mean serious illness or death. The

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Workers take pills for safety

TOPEKA (AP) — Dozens of people who work at a Topeka postal repair center have been prescribed preventative doses of antibiotics as health officials determine if they have been infected with anthrax.

Dr. Larry Rumans of the Shawnee County Health Agency said Wednesday that at least 40 percent of the 175 employees at the U.S. Postal Service Central Repair Facility had been tested for anthrax and given the antibiotics.

It will be today before preliminary tests show if any workers at the repair center have been infected, officials said.

Nasal swabs taken from the workers were being tested by Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Rumans said.

The tests were conducted after it was learned the facility had received equipment parts from five locations that had tested positive for anthrax contamination in New York, Maryland, Washington and Florida. Two employees of the Brentwood facility near Washington have died of anthrax.

The Topeka facility repairs about 70 percent of all Postal Service equipment nationwide. Jim McConnell, director of the repair center, said the facility had received more than 100 boxes of equipment and parts from the east coast locations since Sept. 18. All of those boxes had been opened and 16 pieces of equipment had been repaired. Thirteen had already been sent out for re-use, he said.

“I’m a little worried,” said Robert Dempewolf, who works in one of the postal service buildings next to the repair facility. “They’re testing several individuals and so then I guess we’ll know whether we should be more worried.”

McConnell said he spoke Monday with a manager in Norman, Okla., both realizing there could be the possibility of contamination in Topeka. They contacted URS, an environmental testing company, to conduct tests.

Under cover



A worker for Cover-all Building Systems put ropes in place to pull vinyl Fertilizer plant Monday. The company says it has put up 60 of these structures in Michigan. Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

New rust-proof fabric roof covers plant

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Daily News

Workers for Cover-all Building Systems put the roof on the Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizer plant south of the Kyle Railroad yards on Monday.

The crew started putting up the metal arches that hold up the fabric roof at 8:20 a.m. on the new structure on 19th Street west of the new Cherry Avenue, and were pulling up the roof by 4:30 p.m.

The vinyl fabric for the roof was threaded with ropes on each side of the panels that go through clasps attached to each of the arches and was piled up on the north side of the structure waiting to be pulled over the arches.

A worker threw a rope over the poles that cross the arch on the east end of the structure one by one. The rope was attached to a tractor on the south side of the structure and after being pulled over the arch, was attached to the end of one of the vinyl panels. The caterpillar was used to pull on the rope to pull the panel over the arch.

After the panel was stretched from one side of the arch to the other, poles were put through folds at the ends of the fabric. Then 10,000-pound wenches were used to secure the poles to the structure to hold the fabric down.

Then the crew could move on to the



The vinyl fabric for the roof of the Agro Culture Liquid Fertilizer Plant was ready to be pulled over the steel arches Monday. The roof is ideal for the plant, as it will not rust when exposed to the fertilizer.

next arch and the next panel of fabric. Six panels were needed to cover the roof.

The structure may seem a bit unusual, as it is the first of its type in this area. But Cover-all, based in Zeeland,

Mich., has put up about 60 of these structures in Michigan in the last three years, Al Kaptein, president of the company, said. The structures were familiar to officials at the corporate office of Agro-Culture in St. John, Mich., who chose the structure for the plant here.

The air and fertilizer mixed in the plant would cause most metal buildings to corrode, Kaptein said, but the galvanized steel resists rust and the fabric will not be damaged by the fertilizer.

The fabric roof allows natural light in, he said, giving the inside of the plant an atmosphere similar to the outdoors.

The fertilizer company has operated a storage facility on the site since 1999, originally designed to serve producers in Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Oklahoma. The company now delivers to most of the western United States and needs a larger facility. The company plans both a manufacturing plant and warehouse in Goodland to meet the demand.

Grading for the plant began in the middle of August and a concrete foundation and walls were then built.

A dry run for fertilizer production is scheduled right before Thanksgiving, plant Manager Russ Paz said, with the real thing beginning after that.

Man’s life still matters after death

Heart is gift of life to young Minnesotan

By Patty Decker
Colby Free Press

Michael Diederich of Colby died almost 12 years ago, and every year as his family mourns the anniversary, they are comforted in knowing that a part of him lives on, that his life mattered.

Michael, at age 30, died on Nov. 7, 1989, and it was in death that he was able to give the gift of life to a young man in Minnesota who was dying of an enlarged heart.

For Michael’s sister, Carmel Summers, and his mother, Carolyn Miller, who both live in Colby, the hardest part of seeing him die was in knowing how much he suffered in life. When he

was 4 years old, Carmel said, Michael started getting bad seizures, which later resulted in mental retardation.

“Prior to the seizures, my brother was normal in every respect,” she said. “After the seizures started happening, the doctors told us he had a calcified brain and pressure was building on that part of the brain that controls development.”

Carmel said the doctors told her family that the seizures were getting so bad that Michael would probably not live past the age of 18.

“God blessed us (and Michael) with 12 more years,” she said. “I can remember thinking that there just had to be a reason and purpose for this.”

Reflecting back on the six years prior to Michael’s death in 1989, Carmel said she was beginning to

wonder why her brother was having to suffer so much of the time.

“He was just alive,” she said about those years. “He had no quality of life left and he appeared to be in so much pain.”

It wasn’t always that way. Carmel talked about how Michael was a year younger than she and while her mother was working, she felt a responsibility to take care of him.

“I admit, I did lose a lot of my childhood,” she said.

She said that one time she was getting ready to go to her piano lesson and none of her other siblings was home.

“All of sudden, Michael went into convulsions and was thrashing all around,” she said. “It lasted 15 minutes, and suffice to say, that was the

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Opposition urges U.S. to act fast

JABAL SARAJ, Afghanistan (AP) — U.S. jets bombed the front lines north of Kabul today, setting off huge orange fireballs and columns of black smoke near Taliban positions. Some opposition commanders urged America to send ground troops and liquidate the Taliban quickly.

American jets were also in action near the other major front south of the strategic northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif, according to Taliban and opposition officials.

The Afghan Islamic Press agency, quoting Taliban officials, said U.S. jets conducted 26 separate raids today in

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