

# The Goodland Daily News

Volume 70, Number 101

Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

## weather report

73°  
at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 7:59 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:27 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:00 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 63 degrees

• Humidity 14 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds west 13-22 m.p.h.

• Barometer 28.76 inches

and falling

• Record High 97° (1939)

• Record Low 30° (1931)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 80°

Low 49°

Precipitation none

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low lower

40s, winds northwest 10-15 m.p.h.

Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high upper

60s, low mid 40s, winds northwest

10-15 m.p.h., 20 percent chance of

rain in the night.

### Extended Forecast

Friday: mostly cloudy with 50 per-

cent chance of scattered showers,

high upper 60s, low lower 40s. Sat-

urday: clear, high lower 70s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$2.48 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.45

New Crop — \$2.50

Corn — \$1.85 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.88

Loan deficiency payment — 11¢

Milo — \$1.54 bushel

Soybeans — \$4.28 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.32

Loan deficiency payment — 60¢

Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.70 cwt.

NuSun — \$9.85 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 36¢

Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$27

(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.

## Levy's body may be found

WASHINGTON — Askull and other human bones were found in a park early today and police are trying to determine whether they are the remains of Chandra Levy, the 24-year-old former intern who disappeared more than a year ago.

"The possibility exists that it's a female based on some preliminary work," Terrance W. Gainer, Washington's deputy police chief, said in a telephone interview from Rock Creek Park. "They have been here for some time."

Gainer said he has no idea whether the remains are those of Levy, but said the park has been an area police have searched extensively for Levy's body. The former U.S. Bureau of Prisons intern disappeared May 1, 2001.

Levy's case drew national attention because of her connections to Rep. Gary Condit, who told police he and Levy were having an affair.

# High wind takes down trees, power

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

Goodland was a wind-blown mess this morning.

Wind gusts reaching 60 m.p.h. ripped through the city Tuesday afternoon, breaking off tree limbs, knocking out power and flinging around dust and trash.

The National Weather Service in Goodland issued a wind advisory early in the morning, said Scott Lockhart, senior forecaster. At 6 a.m., he said, winds were already blowing at 33 m.p.h. and stayed steady through the day, reaching a peak at 4:20 p.m. at 60 m.p.h.

The wind shut off power in part of the town for 47 minutes, said Ed Wolak, city public works director. He said the wind broke a jumper wire, a connection to a power cable and a utility pole, at 16th and Walnut.

"The wind will work it, and even though it's pretty thick, will knock it loose eventually," Wolak said.

To repair the damage, he said, a city crew had to temporarily shut down power to other sections of town.

Broken tree limbs knocked out power lines at 15th and Montana, Wolak said, and a crew checked connections at 9th and Broadway because the county courthouse was having internal electrical problems.

A large tree limb fell onto 12th Street between Clark and Caldwell about 5 p.m., blocking traffic until a city police officer moved it out of the street and a city crew came to haul it away. It was only one of several large branches that fell off trees into the street.

Tree limbs littered Chambers Park and front lawns all over town this morning. Wolak said he's not sure how much damage was caused, but it was considerable.

Trees weren't the only plants hurt by the wind. Dana Belshe, county exten-



City workers removed a large tree branch from 12th Street between Clark and Caldwell that fell during a wind storm Tuesday evening and blocked traffic.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

sion agriculture agent, said high winds will deplete moisture in the soil, and can physically damage young crops.

"With the wind blasting new plants, there can be particle damage," he said. "It is not a real good scenario."

Blowing dust not only hurts crops, Belshe said, it means there is soil erosion, which can hurt crop production in the future. The region is already in a drought condition, he said, and stripping moisture from the soil is only

making a bad situation worse.

"It sapped quite a bit of moisture," he said. "The weather is not being easy on the farmers."

Lockhart said the winds were caused by a high pressure system over the Cen-

tral Plains meeting with a high pressure system from the Rocky Mountains, and is normal for this time of year.

"We usually have at least one strong wind like this each spring," he said. "It is a normal spring-time occurrence."

## School board won't bring in mediators

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

School board negotiators agreed Tuesday to shorten the process teachers must go through to file a complaint, but refused to bring in a mediator from outside the district to help settle disputes.

They were responding to a proposal the teachers union negotiating team made earlier this month to cut steps out of the grievance procedure and give staff the option of having their complaint heard by a mediator or arbitrator, instead of the school board. The teachers said the way the district handles complaints is unfair because it takes too long and doesn't involve an impartial third party.

Negotiating teams for the board and union met for a fourth time this year on Tuesday to decide what will be included in teacher contracts next year. They will meet again at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, to talk about staff salaries.

Wages is typically the most important topic, but negotiators couldn't talk about it until the state Legislature

decided how much it would pay schools next year. Lawmakers agreed last week to give schools \$20 more per student, but negotiators still put off talking about salaries because the teachers team said a computer glitch prevented them from having a proposal.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said if negotiations on the 2002-2003 agreement aren't finished by June 1 the teams will have to sign papers requesting an extension.

So far, negotiators have spent most of their meetings talking about how to handle complaints from staff, students and parents.

The teachers wanted to change the way the district deals with complaints from staff because they said the current process puts teachers at a disadvantage. They said they want outside input because often the person the complaint is lodged against is the same one to come up with a solution.

Kathy Russell, head of the school

See CONTRACTS, Page 4

## Skinned snake may be longest

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

When Stacy Casper ran over a snake on his way home from school Monday, he didn't consider that the longest bull snake ever found in Kansas could have just gone under his car tire. He was thinking maybe he found a new pet.

But after the bull snake tried to attack him and his cat, Casper, a 15-year-old ninth grader at Brewster High School, decided it might make a better dead pet than an alive one.

He gutted and skinned the reptile early Tuesday morning and brought the scaly hide to school, where he stapled it to a 10-foot long plank in the shop classroom.

That's when he noticed the snake was unusually long.

"He looked a lot smaller than what he was until I stretched him out this morning," Casper said.

Without the head and tail, the snake skin is 7 feet long — 3 inches shorter than the longest bull snake ever reported in Kansas.

Casper said the snake would probably measure 8 feet with the head and tail, but the animals on his family's farm likely ate those along with the reptile's body.

Leonard Hopper, district wildlife biologist in Colby, said there's no way of knowing exactly how long the snake actually was because the skin can sometimes stretch after it's removed from the animal.

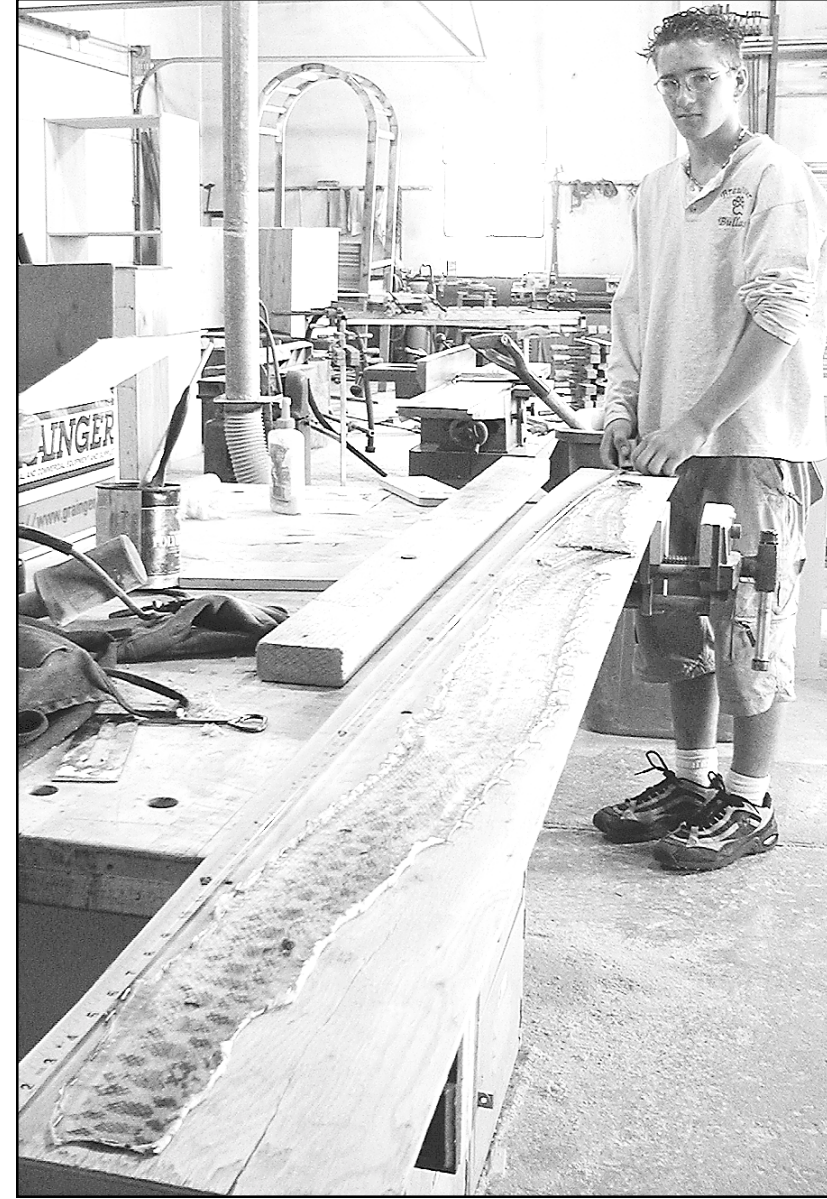
Hopper said Joseph Collins, a Kansas University biology professor, says in his book, "Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas," that the longest bull snake ever found in Kansas was 7 feet 3 inches long and weighed 8 pounds. He said it was a female snake found in Harper County in May 1981.

The book says bull snakes can grow up to 100 inches long, or 8.3 feet, Hopper said.

Casper said he had to kill the snake because it was too dangerous to keep in captivity alive.

The young man, who lives north of Brewster with his parents Bruce and Stephanie, said he was driving home from school at 4:20 p.m. when he ran over the bull snake about 8 miles north of town.

Casper said his father told him later that he thought he had also hit the snake on his way home from work.



Stacy Casper, who lives near Brewster, measured the skin from a bull snake he ran over Monday afternoon. It measured 7 feet, which is three inches shorter than the longest bull snake ever reported in Kansas.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

the snake was still alive and was very feisty.

Casper said he parked his car, popped the trunk and found the reptile in the road. He said he stepped on its tail and picked it up by the neck.

"That's when he got vicious," Casper said. "He wrapped around my leg and arm and tried to turn his head to get a good bite."

He said he's handled bull snakes before, and he knew to pinch the reptile's jaw bone to stop him from biting.

He said he put the snake in a feed sack he had in the trunk and tied the sack with rope. When he got the snake home,

Casper said, he put it in a trough and covered the trough with a piece of wood.

When the cat got curious and tried to take a peek, Casper said, the snake tried to attack it.

"I knew he was too vicious to keep around," he said, adding that he got up at 5:30 a.m. Tuesday morning to skin the snake.

Casper said he fed the body to the chickens and doesn't know what he's going to do with the skin.

He'll probably keep it, considering it could be the longest bull snake in Kansas.