

weather report

72°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:26 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 80 degrees
- Humidity 87 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds southeast 12 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.09 inches and steady
- Record High 106° (1964)
- Record Low 44° (1931)

Last 24 Hours*

High 87°
Low 62°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: low mid 60s, 60 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, winds south 10-15 m.p.h.
Tomorrow: cloudy with 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high lower 80s, low lower 60s, winds south 10-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly sunny with 20 percent chance of showers, high upper 80s, low lower 60s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

- Wheat — \$3.12 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.99
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$2.13 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.10
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Milo — \$0.00 bushel
- Soybeans — \$4.79 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.89
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Millet — \$4.25 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$10.70 cwt.
- NuSun — \$10.90 cwt.
- Loan deficiency prnt. — 0¢
- Confection current — inquire
- 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.

Plane crash kills four

SAN DIMAS, Calif. (AP) — Richard Kang had just eased into his folding chair beside a lake, looking forward to a July Fourth picnic that he hoped would lift his family's spirits following his mother's funeral earlier in the week.

Hearing a noise in the distance, Kang looked up to see a small white airplane, apparently out of control, flying straight toward his crowded picnic area.

"We couldn't get away," Kang said. "We heard the noise and then boom! It hit."

The twin-engine Cessna slammed into the ground at Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park in this Los Angeles suburb, killing four and injuring a dozen, including Kang and four relatives. The accident hit a region jittery over Independence Day terror warnings and stunned by a deadly shooting.



Lighting up the Fourth



Vanessa Perez (right), Sandra Redlin and Cassie Copper, all 11, enjoyed the Tilt O' Whirl ride during the Freedom Fest celebration at the

Sherman County Fairgrounds Thursday evening. A fireworks display capped off the festival that night. See more pictures on page 8.

Photos by Rachel Miscall and Tom Betz/The Goodland Daily News

Thousands enjoy festival and fireworks

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The audience gasped, clapped, pointed, whooped, hollered and finally cheered as the patriotic lights flashed above their heads.

Red, white and blue exploded in the night sky as fireworks formed an American flag and the word "good night" in front of the grandstand.

The 20-minute fireworks display, put on by Goodland native Joe Diaz, capped Sherman County's annual Freedom Fest celebration Thursday night, commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Before making their way into the grandstand, people spent the evening eating barbecue and watermelon, visiting with friends and family, watching area entertainers perform and

riding carnival rides at the Sherman County Fairgrounds, where the festival is held each year.

As usual, the event attracted young and old people from across the state and country. Visitors from as far away as New York and Michigan came to the fairgrounds to celebrate the Fourth of July. Some had family here and others were just passing through on vacation.

After days of temperatures reaching into the 90s and 100s, the weather cooled down for Independence Day. The National Weather Service office in Goodland said the high Thursday was 87 degrees, but temperatures dropped into the 70s in the evening as an upper level disturbance brought in cooler air.

Jo Simmons, office manager for the Goodland Area Chamber of Com-

merce, which sponsors the festival, said about 5,000 people attended the event and watched the fireworks.

There's always a big crowd at the festival, she said, but the turnout seemed even better this year. Simmons said it was probably a combination of the cooler weather and a barbecue high school band members held to raise money for their trip to the Alamo Bowl in December.

"People wanted to help the band with their fundraiser," she said.

Simmons said she believes the Chamber brought in enough money to pay for the \$7,500 fireworks show, which Diaz puts on each year for a discounted price. More than 150 businesses and individuals donated money, and spectators each gave \$2 before watching the show.

"I think we've got it paid for," she

said, adding that to be able to keep the event going every year the Chamber relies on donations from businesses and individuals. Simmons thanked everyone who attended and donated money. She gave a special thanks to Diaz, who runs a fireworks company in Colorado, and the people who help him put on the show.

"He has done such a great job providing us with an excellent display at such a good cost," she said. "We just can't say enough thanks to Joe. I think people really appreciate it."

That was apparent Thursday night as people whistled and clapped around the grandstand, watching blue stars, red hearts and gold comets sparkle above. An audience member turned to the person sitting next to him and whispered, "I told you this was going to be good."

FBI says gunman Egyptian

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A shooting at a ticket counter for Israeli airline El Al threw the nation's third busiest airport into turmoil and left three people dead, including the Egyptian gunman.

The attack came on the Fourth of July, a day when the possibility of terrorism had put security on high alert around the country. The FBI, however, was withholding judgment on whether to label the airport attack as terrorism.

The shooter was identified as Mohamed Hadayet, 41, who listed July 4 as his birthday on one of two driver's licenses. He opened fire in the international terminal of Los Angeles International Airport and was shot dead by an El Al guard.

"We can't rule that out, but there's nothing to indicate terrorism at this point," FBI spokesman Matt McLaughlin said, suggesting it might instead be a hate crime.

"We'd have to find some connections to a terrorist group," he said.

Israel's foreign ministry blamed terrorism, but didn't offer any evidence.

Travelers dove to the ground or scattered for cover when gunfire erupted at the El Al counter. Ticket agent Victoria Hen, 25, and Yaakov Aminov, 46, a jeweler and father of eight who was dropping off a friend, were fatally shot before two El Al guards overwhelmed Hadayet.

The guards and a woman were wounded; another woman suffered heart problems.

The FBI released the gunman's name late Thursday as police in suburban Irvine, 35 miles southeast of the airport, searched his apartment. Police Lt. Sam Allevato said they were looking for his wife and two sons.

Storm brings a little rain to dry city

Goodland got a little bit of rain this morning, but it wasn't much.

The light rainfall lasted about 30 minutes, said Scott Lockhart, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office here. He said the storm only dropped a trace amount of moisture, starting at 6:38 a.m. and ending at 7:09 a.m.

We might get a little more today and through the weekend, he said. There is a 60 percent chance of rain and thunderstorms tonight, a 50 percent chance Saturday and 20 percent Sunday.

If no rain falls, temperatures should be about normal, the weather service says, otherwise, highs will be 5 to 10 degrees below normal.

The rain, Goodland's first since Wednesday, June 19, when there wasn't enough to measure, was caused by a flow of moisture through Texas and Oklahoma, mixing with a low pressure system from New Mexico.

Freedom Fest attracts tourists from all over the country

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Bob and Malinda Mortell of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., happened to be in Goodland on the Fourth of July and were looking for someplace to eat dinner. Lloyd Holbrook told them to go to the fairgrounds for some barbecue and fireworks.

Bryan and Mary Bowler of St. Peters, Mo., were staying at Goodland's Buffalo Inn and saw signs advertising Freedom Fest, the annual Independence Day celebration at the Sherman County Fairgrounds. They decided to check it out.

That's one way this small-town festival attracts many people from bigger cities around the state and country each year. They see the signs, read the pamphlets and articles and hear about it on the street.

After attending Freedom Fest, they say they're glad they stumbled upon it. Bob and Malinda were standing in front of the pavilion at the fairgrounds on Thursday evening surrounded by Sherman County residents who grew

up in New York or New Jersey. Bob had their 1-year-old son Peter strapped to his back.

"We didn't mean to be a novelty," said Malinda, standing next to Marti Scott, who is originally from Buffalo, N.Y., but has lived in Goodland for 38 years. "We're just enjoying your little community. Everyone is so nice."

People from New York and New Jersey are just coming up and introducing themselves, she said, as another person approached her for a handshake.

Malinda said her and her husband's unique approach to family vacations is what brought them to Goodland and Freedom Fest.

Almost every vacation, she said, they drive a different federal highway from start to end. She said they follow the numerical order of the highways, from U.S. 1 up, and always travel from east to west or north to south.

This year, Malinda said, they are traveling U.S. 24, which begins in Detroit and ends in Vail, Colo. She said



Bob and Malinda Mortell and their 1-year-old son Peter from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., were welcomed visitors at the Sherman County Independence Day celebration Thursday evening.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News