

It's election day. Don't forget to vote.

Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

TUESDAY

August 6 2002

The Goodland Daily News

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Goodland, Kansas 67735

50¢

weather report

91°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:55 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:52 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:53 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 81 degrees
- Humidity 28 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds south 20-26 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.13 inches and falling
- Record High 106° (1938)
- Record Low 48° (1990)

Last 24 Hours*

High 101°
Low 61°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low upper 60s, winds south 10-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny and breezy, high near 101, low upper 60s, winds south 15-25 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: partly sunny with 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening, high near 104, low mid 60s. Friday: mostly clear, high lower 80s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.56 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.41
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$2.37 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.29
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Milo — \$2.04 bushel
- Soybeans — \$5.07 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.03
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Millet — \$7.00 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil/NuSun — \$12.00 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Confection current — inquire
- Pinto beans — \$25

(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.

Risky surgery separates girls

LOS ANGELES — In a risky procedure that took 22 hours, surgeons separated 1-year-old Guatemalan twins joined at the head, a doctor said today. One of the girls returned to surgery later.

The girl, Maria Teresa, developed a hematoma related to surgery and was brought back into the operating room at 9:17 a.m., doctors announced.

"Despite the complication involving Maria Teresa, we feel the outlook for both twins is positive," said Dr. Jorge Lazareff, lead neurosurgeon.

Lazareff said the hematoma was a collection of blood on the surface of the girl's brain that increases pressure.

City to punish water wasters

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

With city wells pumping more than twice their licensed rate, Goodland turned the tap on water users, limiting watering to just six hours a week and threatening stiff fines for violators.

The Goodland City Commission declared a water emergency Monday, ordering people to water their lawns no more than two days a week and no more than three hours per day, and imposing fines and possible jail time for those who break the rules.

After learning Monday that the city

pumped 93 million gallons of water in July, the most in the city's history, the commission cut watering times to 6 to 9 a.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. Homes with addresses ending in odd numbers can only water on Monday and Thursday, and even-numbered homes on Tuesday and Friday, for no more than three hours a day. There should be no lawn watering on other days, including weekends.

Flowers, trees, shrubs, and vegetable gardens can be watered any day, but only during the morning or evening hours. People can only wash cars at car washes, which are more efficient than

using a hose and bucket. Wasting water is prohibited.

The first time people are caught breaking the rules, they can be fined \$100, and \$200 each time after that. After the second violation, their water can be disconnected, and they will have to pay \$50 for reconnection.

The second time service is shut off, it will cost \$200 to start up, and \$300 the third time.

The municipal court can also sentence water-wasters to up to 30 days in jail for each offense, but City Manager Ron Pickman said that would be a last

resort.

At its last meeting on July 15, the commission learned the city had already pumped 47 million gallons in 14 days and asked people to cut down on how much water they use.

Although some people cut back, Pickman said others ignored the warnings. In the second half of July, people used 46 million, for a total of 93 million. The city is only supposed to use an average of 45 million per month under the state's guidelines.

See WATER, Page 4

City roundup

At a meeting Monday, the Goodland City Commission:

- Restricted lawn watering and instituted fines for people who break the rules. See story at left.
- Decided not to raise rates for people who use the most water. See story on Page 4.
- Went over proposals from two companies interested in taking over the city's trash service. Story to come.
- Approved the 2003 budget with a slight tax cut. Story to come.

Late ballots may decide races

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — With at least two statewide races expected to be close, candidates and election officials faced an unprecedented wrinkle in how a few primary ballots will be handled.

County clerks and election officers must accept ballots mailed by military personnel and Kansans living overseas through Aug. 12, six days after the polls in the state have closed.

As far as the secretary of state's office knows, it will be the first time county officials have accepted any ballots after polls have closed. The extended deadline was the result of a federal lawsuit over congressional redistricting.

The number of ballots to be counted late is likely to number only in the hundreds. But with Republican primaries for governor and attorney general hard fought — and, according to the last media poll, too close to call — those ballots may be crucial.

The situation creates a scenario under which the GOP might not be certain of which candidate is its nominee for one or both of the offices until late-arriving ballots are counted.

"It's not impossible," said Senate President Dave Kerr, of Hutchinson, one of the three Republican gubernatorial candidates.

Polls opened at 7 a.m. today and were to remain open until 7 p.m., and voters were able to submit ballots to county election officials in advance starting July 24.

Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh

predicted a record low turnout, 24 percent of the 1.59 million registered voters, or about 381,000. Candidates continued their campaigning today.

Reports on turnout varied this morning. In Finney County in southwest Kansas, Clerk Carol Brown said turnout seemed low. She cited a lack of enthusiasm among voters for statewide Republican races and few local contests.

In neighboring Ford County, the report was much the same.

"It's slow," said County Clerk Vicki Wells. "It's going to be a low turnout."

But in Sedgwick County, Election Commissioner Marilyn Chapman said she would stick with her prediction that about 40,000 Republicans and 20,000 Democrats, or about 40 percent and 30 percent, respectively, would vote.

She said it was difficult to predict turnout but added, "So far, it looks pretty good."

Federal law requires states to give military personnel and residents living overseas 30 days to return their ballots, from the date they are mailed. Kansas law is more generous, allowing 45 days. However, election officials didn't begin mailing the ballots this year until July 12, only 25 days before today's primary election.

The reason was congressional redistricting. Attorney General Carla Stovall filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Topeka, challenging the validity of the law redrawing the state's four U.S. House districts. A three-judge panel upheld the law on July 3, then candidates had until July 9 to file.

Sign of a voter



Sharon Deeds of Goodland placed a sticker on her shirt to show she voted in today's primary election. County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she expects a low turnout despite the close statewide Republican races.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News



A clown at the Kids' Rodeo Monday night teased a girl who had just fallen off a sheep during the mutton bustin' contest.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Rodeo thrill, fright all at once

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Volunteers wearing red-white-and-blue ball caps lifted Aaron Avelar onto the closely sheered sheep, telling him to hold on tight to the rope around the animal's neck.

The 6-year-old, who couldn't weigh more than 60 pounds, must have listened.

When the gate opened, the sheep darted into the corral, bucking a little as it raced south, then suddenly turned around and headed north.

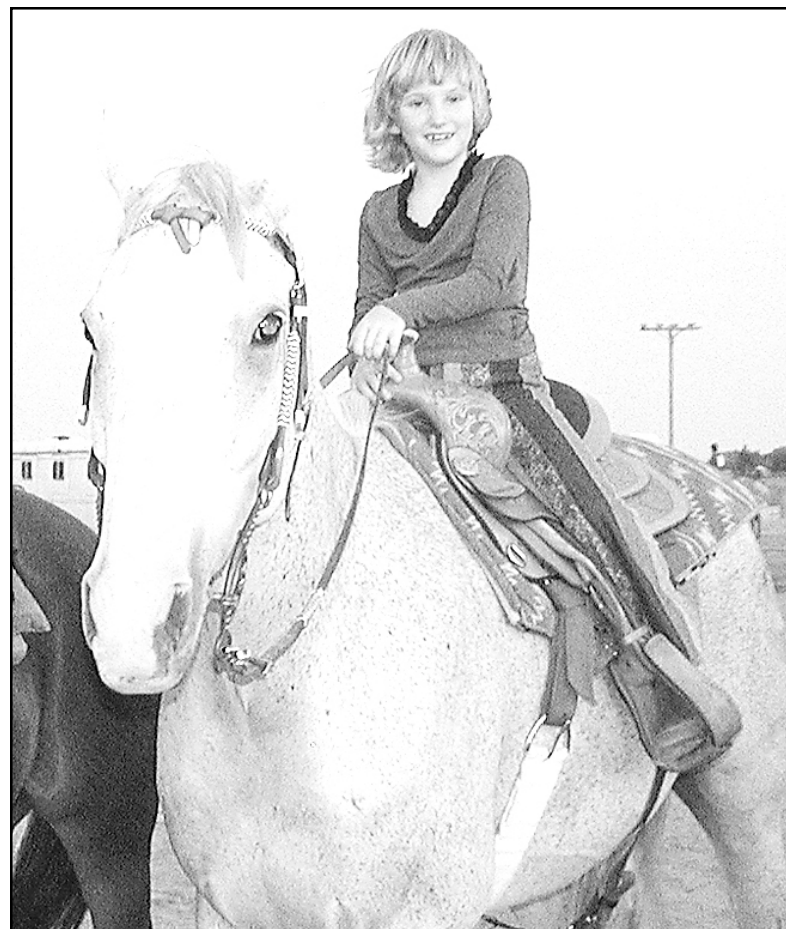
While most of the mutton bustin' contestants had been left in the dust a few feet from the gate, Avelar clutched the rope and refused to fall off. He wouldn't even let go when spectators yelled "get off, get off," or when the sheep slammed head first into the fence on the north side of the corral.

It was certainly a rough ride, but it was worth it. Avelar wasn't hurt, and he won the first place medal in the 4-to-7-year-old division in the Kids' Rodeo mutton bustin' contest.

How did he hang on for so long? Avelar shrugged and then said, "I held on to the rope."

He was one of about 65 kids between the ages of 4 and 18 in the Kids' Rodeo on Monday night at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

The rodeo is an annual event at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair, which shifted into high gear on Monday, attracting a crowd to the fair-



Taylor Peden, 8, and her horse "Apache" waited for their turn during the barrel races at the Kids' Rodeo Monday night.

grounds with food, rides, shopping and a bunch of games involving farm animals.

John Dautel, fair board member in charge of the Kids' Rodeo this year, said events include calf and steer riding, a pig catch, goat-tail tie and three-man calf tying.

Participants are divided into three age groups, he said, and while each has different events, all of the kids can do the horse contests, including barrel and flag racing and lead back. Dautel said participants pay \$2 for each event.

See RODEO, Page 8

Find fair schedule on Page 8.