



Even addresses can water lawns today.

Odd addresses can water Monday, Thursday, even Tuesday, Friday, for three hours each day. No watering on Wednesdays and weekends.

TUESDAY

August 27
2002

50¢

The Goodland Daily News

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Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

72°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:27 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:11 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:25 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil Temperature 76 degrees
- Humidity 65 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds south southeast 13 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.14 inches and steady
- Record High 102° (1960)
- Record Low 45° (1964)

Last 24 Hours*

High 88°
Low 60°
Precipitation .30

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: 70 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, low upper 50s, winds southeast 15-25 m.p.h. Tomorrow: 70 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high lower 80s, low near 60, winds southeast 10-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: cloudy with 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high upper 80, low mid 60s. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Farmers plead for help with drought



Jerry Schmidt, with the Kansas Farm Bureau Communications Division, and Melanie Musselman, farm director for KFRM Radio in Clay Center, interviewed Ross Davidson, administrator of the U.S. Risk Management Agency, after the Kansas Drought Forum on Monday. More than 300 farmers attended the event, which many farm reporters covered.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Wind, hail cause damage

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

The thunderstorm that flashed through Sherman County Monday brought up to 4 inches of rain, winds up to 89 m.p.h., grapefruit-sized hail and maybe even a tornado to the area.

The storm must have had a hole in it, though, because areas around Sherman County were drenched while this county stayed relatively dry.

We didn't get much rain, but wind and hail pounded Kanorado, where the roof on an old school building was blown into a transformer and power was out for over three hours. Wind and hail broke windows on cars and homes and ripped large branches off trees. One strong gust pushed over several railroad cars at an elevator in Wallace.

Goodland and most of Sherman County were spared both the damage and the rain.

While parts of Thomas, Cheyenne and Rawlins counties north and east of Sherman County received up to 4 inches of moisture, the Goodland area got only between .25 and .90 of an inch on parched crops and lawns.

"We really kind of missed out on the rain," said Scott Mentzer, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service

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Farmers share drought woes with officials

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

Ralph Unger, a Decatur County farmer and rancher, compared the drought in northwest Kansas to the cancer doctors found in his body about three years ago.

He told a panel of state and federal officials at the Kansas Drought Forum on Monday that like a disease, drought is spreading across the state, killing crops, making it tough to raise livestock, forcing family farms out of business and ruining the economy.

A teary-eyed Unger, who is also a Decatur County commissioner, said he's on the road to being cancer-free, but northwest Kansas farmers have hit a

dead end.

"I'm sorry I'm getting emotional," he said, "but we need help. I too think this is a disaster, the same as a wildfire, hurricane, flood or F5 tornado."

Unger was one of more than a dozen farmers and ranchers to plead for help from the government during the forum on Monday morning at the Goodland Elks Lodge. The response they got was that federal officials understand what they're going through and Congress is planning to find a solution soon, but until then, all anyone can do is pray for rain.

Ken Palmgren, a Sherman County farmer and chairman of the Kansas Wheat Commission, was a main orga-

nizer of the event, which was sponsored by the commission, the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers and several other farm groups and businesses.

The three-hour event attracted more than 300 farmers and ranchers from across the Tri-State area and a few approached the podium set up in the middle of the crowd to tell how drought has devastated their operations. Many of these became emotional while sharing their story, some raising their voices in anger, others blinking back tears.

Sitting on a stage opposite the podium was Ross Davidson, administrator of the Risk Management Agency for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington; Eric Depperschmidt, a

staffer for U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran in Hays; Mel Thompson, a staffer for U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts; and Jamie Clover Adams, the Kansas secretary of agriculture.

The panel heard how drought is strangling dryland and irrigated crops, forcing ranchers to sell their herds, hurting custom cutters' businesses and affecting all aspects of life in northwest Kansas. They also heard that without money from the government, many farmers and ranchers will be forced to declare bankruptcy or sell their farms to pay debts.

"It terrifies me to death to see what

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School meeting

The Goodland School Board meeting Monday night was canceled because of bad weather and has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. tonight at the district office building on Main Avenue.

Pat Juhl, board clerk, said the agenda will be the same.

Colorado not paying for water

By John Hanna
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — The Kansas attorney general's office still doesn't expect to get any money out of Colorado anytime soon in the long-running dispute over the Arkansas River.

And some Kansas legislators are frustrated.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1995 that Colorado diverted millions of gallons of river water to which Kansas was legally entitled. That decision came 10 years after Kansas sued, claiming Colorado violated a 1949 river compact.

Last year, the court ruled Kansas is entitled to money as well as water from Colorado. But since then, the two states have been arguing before a special court-appointed master over how

much.

Colorado's figure for monetary damages is between \$20 million and \$25 million, while Kansas puts the number at \$53 million. Kansas has spent roughly \$17 million on the lawsuit.

John Campbell, senior deputy attorney general, said the master's next report to the justices isn't expected until the fall of 2003 — months after the 2003 fiscal year ends. It's possible the Supreme Court may not rule before the end of the 2004 fiscal year, he said.

"In litigation, you never really know how fast it's going to go," Campbell said.

Campbell spent a half-hour Monday with members of the Legislative Budget Committee, briefing them about the state's lawsuit against Colorado and another against Nebraska over the Re-

publican River. That session was closed to the public.

The chairman, Sen. Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, said he is frustrated by the delay in getting the case resolved, adding, "It just seems like it's taking forever."

Another committee member, Rep. Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, said: "Colorado hired the best lawyers money can buy to stall. If they were inclined to get it settled, it could be done relatively quickly."

In Denver, Joan Padilla, assistant attorney general, said Colorado officials anticipate a ruling from the special master by year's end.

"There is still a significant issue as to the amount of money to which the state

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Walkers raise \$14,800 to help cancer victims

The final results are in for the Relay for Life cancer walk Friday night, and the payoff is higher than anyone expected.

Michelle Shoff, director of the event, said \$14,800 was brought in by 12 teams, all of it going to the American Cancer Society. Originally, only eight teams were signed up for the event, she said, and were expected to raise just over \$5,000.

The money will go to the Heartland Region of the society, she said, which covers four states, including Kansas. The money is given out to areas where it is needed, she said,

including hospitals in Kansas City and others where Goodland patients may go for treatment.

About 60 cancer survivors walked the opening lap, and the 15-person teams tried to keep someone walking from 7 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. the next day.

This is the third year the fund-raiser has been held in Goodland. The event was started in 1985 by a colorectal surgeon, who held a 24-hour relay in Tacoma, Wash.

Volunteers in over 3,000 cities around the world hold the event every year now.

Bowl-a-thon to raise money for Big Brothers/Sisters here

By Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News

The recently formed Sherman County Big Brothers/Big Sisters will hold their biggest event yet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, a bowl-a-thon which could raise \$9,000.

Five-person teams are raising \$500 each to compete in the event at Bowladium Lanes. Cris Lovington, a board member of the one-year-old organization, said 18 teams are expected, but there is still time for more to sign up.

"It's not too late," Lovington said. "If someone can put together a team and raise the \$500, we still have plenty of room."

Next week's event is a trial run, she said, to get ready for the main bowl-a-thon in February. The fund raiser is usually a chapter's biggest of the year, Lovington said.

"We wanted to see how smoothly this would work," she said, "and find out how much support we are going to have. It ought to be a lot of fun."

The organization has nine board members, Lovington said, and about 25 volunteers. Since the group started, it has put together a booth at a craft fair, and done some smaller activities, she said, but nothing big.

"It's been a long process," the board member said. "It is taking a while to put everything together, but we are doing it, little by little."

The group is planning to hire a director in the

next few months, Lovington said, and soon after that will start matching kids with mentors.

The group has a list of 24 kids to be matched,

she said, but that is only a fraction of the 300 kids in the county the organization wants to help.

Usually the program looks at kids from one-parent homes, she said, but kids who are struggling for any reason can often be helped by a mentor.

The 24 kids were referred by the schools, she said, but churches, parents or other people also can refer a child.

"The schools usually know who would benefit from having a mentor," she said. "They've been wonderful working with us."

Besides kids to help, the group is looking for

adults to do the helping, she said, especially men.

"It seems a lot easier to find females," Lovington said. "We are in desperate need of male mentors. It seems it is young boys who most need a role model."

Mentors have to go through a background check, she said, and have to have interests which match a child's. It takes a lot of time to make sure everything matches, she said, which is why the group will be looking for a director.

"It will be a lot of work, so this is a job that deserves to be paid for," Lovington said. "We need someone who will be able to concentrate on everything, not a volunteer who has another full-time job."

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.82 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.77
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$2.57 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.44
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Milo — \$2.27 bushel
- Soybeans — \$5.19 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.03
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Millet — \$15.00 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$11.55 cwt.
- Oil new crop — \$11.00 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
- 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.

Saudi leader meets Bush

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush opened his ranch to Saudi Arabia's ambassador, hoping to thaw relations chilled by the Sept. 11 attacks and questions about the kingdom's commitment to defeating terrorists.

Bush met today over lunch with Prince Bandar bin Sultan, and top items on the agenda included the war on terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Those discussions were likely to turn to Iraq, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Just hours before the meeting, a Saudi official said the kingdom opposes military action against Iraq.