



Lawn watering is prohibited today.

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

WEDNESDAY

August 28
2002

The Goodland Daily News

Volume 70, Number 169

Ten Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

50¢

weather report

69°

at noon



Today

Sunset, 7:25 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:12 a.m.

Sunset, 7:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 71 degrees
- Humidity 90 percent
- Sky overcast
- Precipitation .022
- Winds southeast 10 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.25 inches and steady
- Record High 100° (1954)
- Record Low 40° (1964)

Last 24 Hours*

High 80°
Low 50°
Precipitation .08

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy with 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, low lower 60s, winds southeast 10-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny with 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, high upper 80s, low lower 60s, winds southeast 10-40 m.p.h.

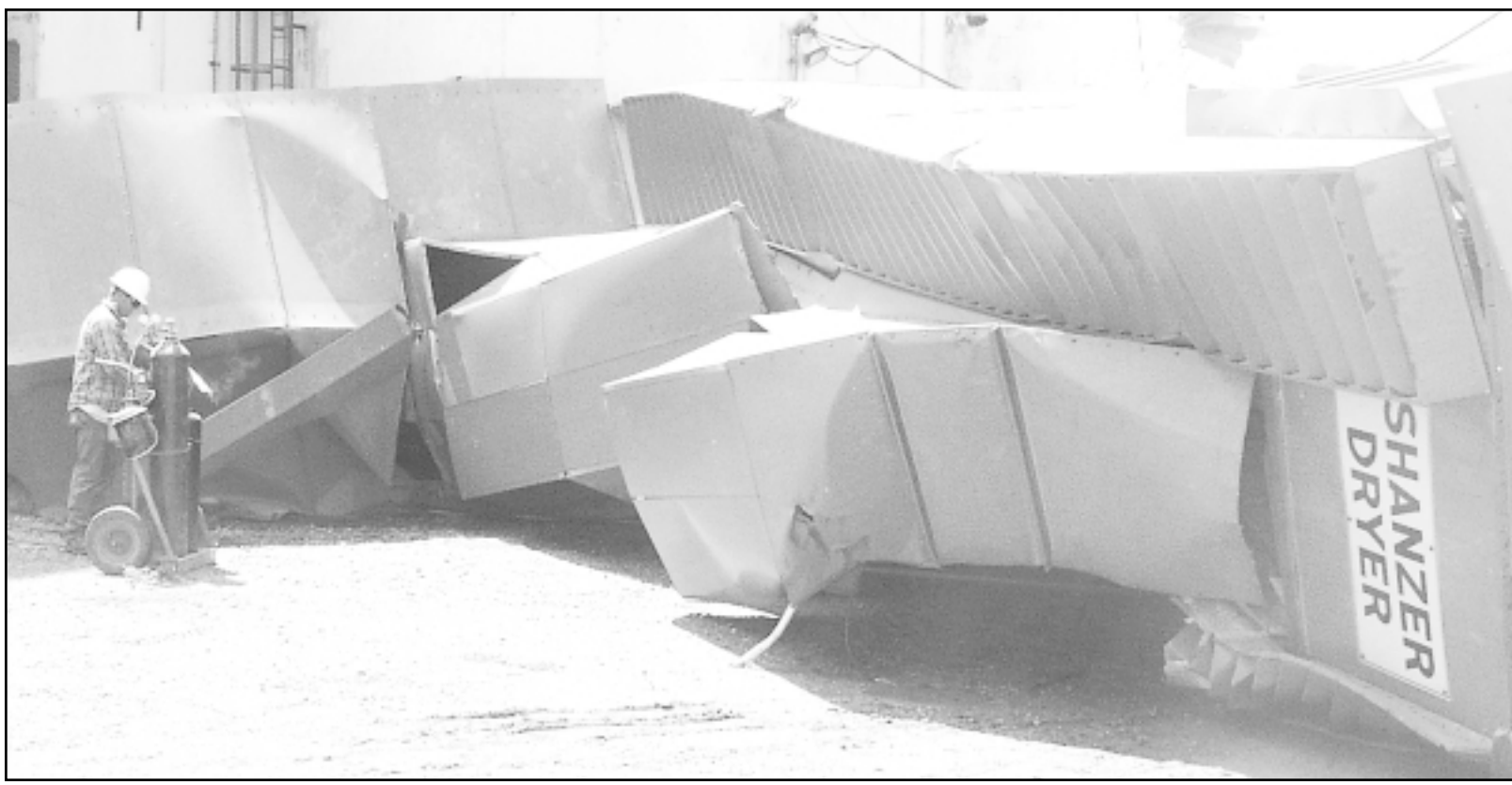
Extended Forecast

Friday: partly sunny, high mid 90s, low mid 60s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.



The day after the big storm

Kanorado residents were cleaning up Tuesday afternoon after a thunderstorm with strong winds and hail did major damage on Monday night. Brad Ensign (above), a Collingwood Grain employee, used a cutting torch to disassemble a grain dryer that blew into a transformer at the elevator. The power in town went out about 10 minutes before the accident, as tree branches and power lines were blown down. Part of the roof on the old school building (right) blew across the street landing on a school bus and other vehicles.

Photos by Sheila Smith/The Goodland Daily News



County roundup

At their meeting Tuesday, Sherman County commissioners:

- Lifted the 2-month-old burn ban following a general soaking over the weekend. Story below.
- Continued their budget review, trying to hold down any tax increase. Story at bottom.
- Heard that new state rules will require new voting machines and consolidated voting sites. Story to come.

Burn ban in county is lifted

Storms this weekend and Monday night soaked most of Sherman County, and Tuesday the commissioners allowed the countywide burn ban to die without an extension.

The ban was imposed on June 28 at the request of Rural Fire Chief Ken Griffith, because of the extreme hot and dry conditions.

Griffith called the commissioners Tuesday to say he felt the ban had served its purpose.

"I think we can lift it with these rains," he told the commissioners, "but if it dries out again, we may need to re-instate it."

The commissioners said they were glad to lift the ban, and they were pleased with the efforts of the citizens which held down the number of rural fires during the drought.

Griffith said he would like to add his and the firemen's thanks.

"It is good to have some relief from the extremely dry conditions of this summer," he said, "but we are not out of the woods yet, and would ask people to continue to be careful with any fire they set."

Scandals may raise taxes here

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

County Clerk Janet Rumpel opened the budget discussion with county commissioners Tuesday with a bit of bad news: The county has been hit by national accounting scandals and may have to raise taxes to keep revenues up.

A drop in assessments came as commissioners were fighting to hold down a projected 10 percent tax increase fueled by higher costs for employee health and liability insurance.

Rumpel said the total assessed valuation would be a bit smaller than she had estimated because of a drop in state utility assessment for a firm called Networks Services, a unit of Tulsa energy trader Williams Companies which operates fiber optic lines along the firm's pipelines in the county.

Last year, she said, the assessed valuation for this was over \$700,000, and the state notified her the company had changed its name to Williams Communications, and the new assessed valuation would be \$184,000.

When she asked the state person why the large drop he said, "Those accounting things you have been reading in the paper. What was listed as billions last year is now less than millions."

He told her companies had overvalued their property on paper, and were now having to lower the values because of new federal regulations.

Rumpel said the county's assessed

Storm drops over an inch of rain in areas

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

In less than 40 minutes this morning, parts of Goodland got an inch of rain and Ruleton reported an inch and a half, but the north part of town only got about a fifth of an inch.

Randy Coleman, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office here, said the service near the airport only measured .17 of an inch, but the KLOE/KKCI/KWGB radio station south of the interstate reported a full inch.

There was standing water on County Road 10 by Ruleton, Coleman said. A few streets in the west part of Goodland were flooded, with water overflowing the curb.

The thunderstorm passed over Goodland about 9:40 a.m. this morning, and the rain slowed to a light sprinkle about 10:20 a.m., but the weather service expects more rain this evening and into the night.

"There will probably be at least a couple hours when the rain stops and the sun will come through," Coleman said, "then we'll get some more after this afternoon."

The storm formed in northeast Colorado about 7 a.m., the meteorologist said, and moved southeast.

The northern part of town, including the weather office and airport, was barely hit.

"The weather service probably got less than anyone else in town," Coleman said.

The storm provided the only rainfall in the area, he said, and Goodland was



Workers from Ritchie Paving covered freshly poured cement with tarps during a thunderstorm this morning. The crew was pouring the cement on Cattletrail between 15th and 16th streets.

Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

the only town to benefit from it. A storm which came through the city on Monday brought about .25 to .90 of an inch,

even though parts of Thomas, Cheyenne and Rawlins counties got up to four inches.

Goodland should get showers off and on until Friday, Coleman said, then the Labor Day weekend should be sunny.

Hospital picks \$1 million computer system

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Regional Medical Center board chose a \$1 million computer information system at their regular meeting Monday despite board members' qualms about the cost, but still needs to get financing for the actual purchase.

Hospital Administrator Jay Jolly presented a list of features, costs and pros and cons of two possible providers and after some discussion, the board chose the Siemens Medical System 4.

Jolly said he had looked at other sys-

tems that he passed up as too technical. He said the hospital staff would need too much training help to use them.

As the board members looked over the information Jolly gave them, several said they were concerned about the hospital spending nearly \$1 million on the new system. The hospital has \$245,000 in tax credits and \$100,000 from the county and some money saved, but so far only has \$450,000 total for a system estimated at well over \$900,000.

"Who is this for?" Board Chair Lynn Hoelting asked. "How will we afford

it?" The hospital is already spending this money, Jolly said, in inefficiencies and duplication of data.

"We're spending this money now," he said, "only it's being wasted."

Nursing Administrator Sarah Detmer said she feels it is for the patients. It will improve patient care and safety, she said, and will be more timely and accurate than the present system of handwritten charts.

Though the hospital has a computer system, Jolly said, the operation is not automated. There are a lot of handwrit-

ten records, he said, and it is not possible to comply with the new Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPA) Act with the present system.

The law, passed to crack down on fraud in healthcare, says repeated billing errors are considered possible fraud, Jolly said. With the present system, the hospital often makes billing errors, and they are difficult to detect.

Jolly assured the board that the present decision is only which system to pursue and that the financial arrange-

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local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.81 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.77
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$2.60 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.43
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Milo — \$2.25 bushel
- Soybeans — \$5.18 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.09
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Millet — \$15.00 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$11.55 cwt.
- Oil new crop — \$10.95 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.

Senator wants Iraq hearing

WASHINGTON — The senior Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee said today he wants Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld to appear before the panel to present the administration's case for invading Iraq.

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., said in a letter to the panel's chairman, Carl Levin, D-Mich., that "there appears to be a 'gap' in the facts possessed by the executive branch and the facts possessed by the legislative branch." The letter was dated Tuesday and released today.

Warner called for hearings to be scheduled after Congress returns from the August recess.

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