

weather report

67°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 7:00 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 6:27 a.m.
- Sunset, 6:59 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 67 degrees
- Humidity 70 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds variable 4 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.95 inches and falling
- Record High 98° (1955)
- Record Low 34° (1974)

Last 24 Hours*

- High 79°
- Low 59°
- Precipitation .03

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly cloudy with 20 percent chance of showers, low mid 50s, winds north 5-10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high mid 70s, low upper 40s, winds north 10-20 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly sunny, high lower 70s, low lower 50s. Monday: mostly clear, high lower 80s. Tuesday - Thursday: partly cloudy, high lower 80s, low mid 50s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$4.22 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.35
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$2.68 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.57
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Milo — \$2.43 bushel
- Soybeans — \$4.97 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.29
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Millet — \$13.00 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$10.60 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.

Bush doubts Iraq will act

NEW YORK — President Bush said today it is "highly doubtful" that Saddam Hussein will comply with demands that he disarm and avoid a confrontation with the world community. Bush also mocked Democrats and other lawmakers who want U.N. action before a congressional vote on confronting Saddam.

"Democrats waiting for the U.N. to act?" Bush asked with a chuckle. "I can't imagine an elected ... member of the United States Senate or House of Representatives saying 'I think I'm going to wait for the United Nations to make a decision'."

Democrats said the administration must provide more information on threats posed by Saddam and U.S. plans for military strikes to remove the Iraqi president. They say that must take place before military action.

Gas line ruptured; school evacuated

Streets blocked off for a time

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

A crew working on the new S&T Communications building on Main Avenue apparently cut a gas line this morning, causing the city police and fire departments to evacuate a school, a senior center and several businesses.

In the alley between Main Avenue and Center on 14th Street, gas bubbled to the surface and the fumes could be smelled a block to the west.

About 10:20 a.m., police officers started sealing off the area between 14th and 15th streets and Main and Center. Central Elementary School students were told to leave the building and lined up along the fence surrounding the playground at Broadway. People in the Goodland Senior Center were asked to evacuate and stay in Chambers Park.

Jan Zwetzig, a member of the center, said she asked if she could move her car from the area.

"They told me 'no,'" she said. "They

didn't want any sparks around."

About 10:25, the police asked the fire department to help seal off the streets. A fire engine was parked at 15th and Center and the fire chief's vehicle was parked on Main.

A man in a pickup pulled into the parking lot at Kansasland Tire and was immediately told by the fire chief and police officers to turn his truck off and get out of the area. The man started to put his vehicle in reverse, but the police told him to just get out of the truck and leave it where it was.

Volunteer firefighters, off-duty police officers and even the area game warden helped block streets and direct traffic until about 11 a.m., when the leak seemed to be under control. Most of the streets were opened up, although the fire engine stayed on Broadway and the immediate area stayed blocked off while city crews worked on the line.

The fire and police chiefs were at the site this morning and were not available for comment.



Fire Chief Dean Jensen showed Police Chief Ray Smee where gas was coming out of the ground in the alley on 14th Street between Main and Center this morning. The police and fire departments blocked off the area and evacuated Central Elementary School and the Goodland Senior Center after a construction crew accidentally ruptured a gas line.

Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Center working with less

Despite budget cut, art center still busy

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Despite a big budget cut, things are still busy down at the Carnegie Arts Center.

The center, 120 W. 12th, has a new show, event and sign and the director is preparing for fall and winter festivities, all the while trying to keep costs down.

Tina Goodwin, the center's director, said the state grant the facility receives each year was 15 percent less this year because of the state's budget problems.

"We're suffering cutbacks just like everyone else," she said. "We're running on a very slim budget."

Despite that, she said, the center is doing its best to arrange entertaining art shows and events for the public and put its best face forward. The way it's looking, Goodwin isn't going to be searching for things to do this fall and winter.

The center is holding its first "Junk Art Show" this month, inviting the public to enter artwork made from trash. Participants will receive prizes during a ceremony at 2 p.m. Saturday at the art center.

The art show was to be held in conjunction with the second Junk Parade, which was recently canceled, but Goodwin said the center was planning to hold the show before it became a part of the parade. A dispute between the city and county over dumping trash at the landfill sparked the idea, she said.

"All you ever read in the paper was what to do with the trash," she said, "so we decided to make it art."

So far, Goodwin said, the center has received sculptures welded from scrap metal, outdoor candle holders made from coffee cans, a trash collage from the employees of Knott Just Books and a wind chime made from an old bicycle wheel and silverware. She said other people have told her they plan to bring by more entries before the ceremony on Saturday. All entries are currently being displayed at the center.

Goodwin said she wants to make the Junk Art Show a yearly thing.

"I'd like to see it become annual," she said, "there are tons of projects that can be done with trash."

The center has new art displays almost every month, but Goodwin said this month's show is extra special.

Goodland native Greg Todd, who now lives in Greeley, Colo., is displaying his bronze sculptures at the center through September. Two of his sculptures of young girls playing with a puppy and kittens are sitting on concrete benches in front of the center.

Goodwin said she's grateful Todd, whose parents are Bob and Ione of Goodland, hauled his artwork all the way out here.



Courtney Sheldon (above, far left), Hazen Deeds and Parker Sieck practiced on Thursday for a play they will help put on during the Flatlander Fall Festival. The play is called "Jack in the Beanstalk," and Deeds was playing Jack, Sieck the golden goose and Sheldon the giant. A bronze sculpture (below) of a girl playing with two kittens sits on a bench outside the Carnegie Arts Center. It's one of several sculptures made by Goodland native Greg Todd now being displayed at the center.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News



"The two outdoor pieces are awesome," she said. "We're really very fortunate that he's willing to bring his art to Goodland. It's one of the better

shows we've had." Goodwin said Todd, who is a firefighter and a sculptor, is becoming well known in the art world and is still

River drops to low level

Situation parallels Dust Bowl crisis

By John Milburn

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Streamflow in the Republican River in north-central Kansas has been reduced to levels not seen since the Dust Bowl days gripped the Midwest nearly 70 years ago, the U.S. Geological Survey said Thursday.

Jim Putnam, a USGS hydrologist based in Lawrence, said flow on the Republican at Concordia was 6 cubic feet per second on Wednesday, 2 cubic feet per second lower than the previous record on Sept. 2, 1953. Minimum desirable stream flow on the Republican is 80 cubic feet per second.

Records show that the Republican has gone dry before, with no flow reported at Clay Center in Aug. 10, 1934, Putnam said.

The stream gage that monitors the Republican's flow at Concordia has been in operation since October 1945. The Republican is the main source of water for Milford Lake, which is down 5 feet and within 1.5 feet of its record low set in 1988.

Putnam said when stream flows were below the minimum desired level, water rights were restricted, meaning users along the river were not allowed to irrigate their crops.

However, conditions on the Republican were not isolated.

In the latest drought report from the Kansas Water Office, as many as 60 of the 106 gage stations have reported below normal flows, a number that has been steadily increasing since late August. Those stations are primarily in eastern and central Kansas.

"About 70 percent of the USGS stream gages in Kansas with more than 30 years of record are flowing below normal," Putnam said.

Other lakes with low levels included Tuttle Creek near Manhattan and Perry Lake, both of which were down close to 5 feet. The water office said the lower water levels had posed problems for recreational use at Milford and Perry lakes.

Putnam said Perry was less than half a foot from its record low set Nov. 14, 1991. However, up to 3 feet of the deficit is attributed to a release of water to aid navigation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to maintain navigation downstream on the Missouri River in July.

According to the Palmer Drought Severity Index published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 11 of 12 river basins in Kansas were experiencing some level of drought. Five areas, including the Upper and Lower Republican basins in northwest Kansas, were in extreme or severe drought conditions.

well known in Goodland. She said more than 100 people showed up for the show's opening earlier this month.

"I think it's great so many people remember him as a kid and in high school," she said. "It's just really neat he can share that with his hometown."

Goodwin said she's busy preparing for future events, too.

For the second year, she and Jessica Cole are putting together a play for the Flatlander Fall Festival on Sept. 28 and 29.

The actors are all between the third and sixth grade and this year's play is called "Jack in the Beanstalk." Goodwin called it a "fractured fairytale," saying the play is a spoof of the Jack in the Beanstalk children's story.

The main character Jack is a little dense, she said, and the cow in this story doesn't want to be sold so it is continually running across the stage followed by a line of people trying to catch it.

"It's pretty funny," Goodwin said.

The play will go on at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Sherman Theatre on 12th and Main, she said, and tickets will be \$1. There will be no advanced ticket sales, she said, and children under 12 will get in for free.

Goodwin said she and Cole started a production company called "Little City