

weather report

58°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:26 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:04 a.m.
 • Sunset, 7:27 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 49 degrees
 • Humidity 45 percent
 • Sky mostly clear
 • Winds east 12 m.p.h.
 • Barometer 30.01 inches and steady

• Record High 91° (1987)
 • Record Low 14° (1944)

Last 24 Hours*

High 61°
 Low 34°
 Precipitation .68

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: mostly cloudy with 30 percent chance of showers, high upper 60s, low upper 30s, winds southeast 10-20 m.p.h. Saturday: mostly cloudy with 20 percent chance of rain, high 50s, low lower 30s.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly clear, high upper 60s. Monday: mostly cloudy, high upper 60s, low upper 30s. Tuesday: mostly cloudy and breezy, high lower 70s, low lower 40s. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high near 70, low lower 40s. (National Weather Service)
 Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
 * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

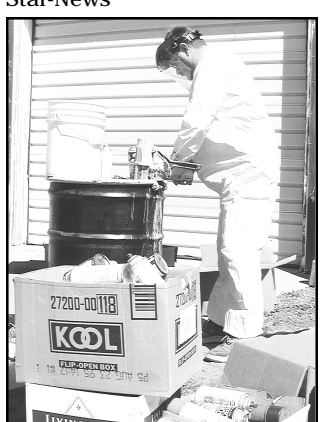
local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.07 bushel
 New crop — \$2.75
 Corn — \$2.44 bushel
 Posted county price — \$2.22
 Milo — \$2.23 bushel
 Soybeans — \$5.73 bushel
 Posted county price — \$5.43
 Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 Sunflowers
 Oil current crop — \$9.50 cwt.
 Oil new crop — \$10.15 cwt.
 NuSun — \$10.10 cwt.
 New crop — \$10.85 cwt.
 Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.
 New crop — \$17/\$10 cwt.
 Pinto beans — withdrawn
 (Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Homeowners rid of waste

The county's household hazardous waste program collected 5,413 pounds of paint and chemicals, nearly three tons, Saturday. Ninety-five people participated. Supervisor Crystal Linsner said the collection was not as large as the first one in September, but there was a steady stream. See Page 3.

Insurance, count pinch schools

By Steve Haynes

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland Schools are facing yet another round of budget woes next year, as rising insurance costs and shrinking enrollment might combine to force up to \$410,000 in cuts.

That would be about 6.4 percent of the district's total general fund budget, which is roughly \$6.4 million

Superintendent Marvin Selby told the Goodland School Board on Monday that he wanted them to know what it might be facing before teacher contract negotiations start later this month.

First, he said, enrollment looks to be down by about 20 students from the first of the year, and if that trend holds into the fall, the count

could be only about 1,000. That is down from 1,128 just three years ago.

Under the state's complicated school finance formula, Selby said, the district can figure its enrollment several ways and pick the best result. The law allows them to use the average enrollment over three years he said, which works out to 1,023.9 full-time equivalent students.

Under that projection, he said, the district could lose \$163,400 from the annual budget. If the losses continue, he said, they would use this year's official count of 1,021.7, which would mean a loss of \$171,900 as the worst possible case.

Selby cautioned that as enrollment shrinks, numbers in vocational, at-risk and long-dis-

tance transportation groups, which draw extra money, also go down, so the loss could be 4-5 "students" greater than the figures show.

But it gets worse.

Employee insurance costs through Blue Cross/Blue Shield are up 39.2 percent. Though the district may be able to shift to a less-expensive plan, the cost still we be up.

"You're looking at \$410,000 just to be even," he told the board, adding that he would be meeting Tuesday with the insurance committee to go over that situation.

The district's cash situation is OK, he said, even though the state so far has made only half it's April payment. Spending is within budget.

He said things could get tight if the Legislature adopts a plan to push the June payment

into July to balance the state budget. Because most teachers elect to take their summer pay in a single check, he said, on June 15, the district has to meet the equivalent of three monthly payrolls.

By juggling cash in some accounts, he added, the probably can do that without state money.

He said they will need to study the insurance problem, maybe looking at other firms or at the district paying some costs directly to save money. He suggested making Pat Juhl, board clerk, chair of the committee since she deals with the insurance plan and knows more about it than anyone else.

"We couldn't even close a building to recoup that much money," he said.



Moran stops off for visit

Rep. Jerry Moran talked with Postmistress Connie Sheldon (above) on Tuesday when he stopped in Kanorado on his way to Denver. While visiting businesses, he carried a banner supporting our troops for people to sign. Moran said he would deliver it to soldiers at Fort Riley when they return from Iraq. At the Kanorado Senior Center, Tammy Colby and Edna Bishop signed the banner

Photos by Sheila Smith
 The Goodland Star -News



Storm downs trees; rain tops normal

By Steve Haynes

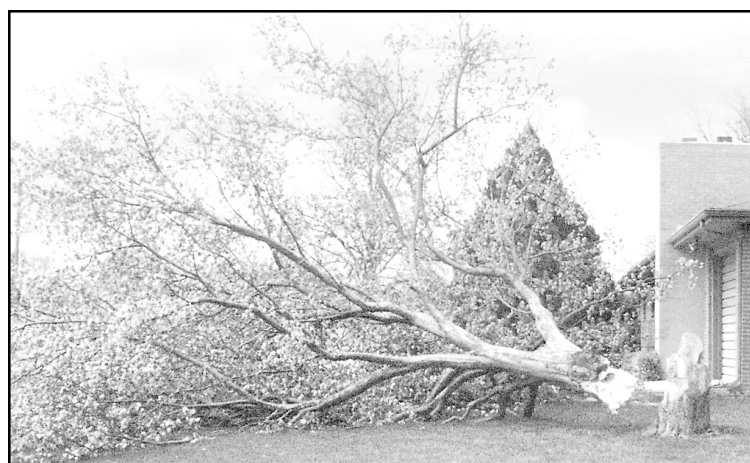
The Goodland Star-News

Storms that passed through Goodland on Tuesday and Wednesday blew down trees and a carport, fences and signs, but blew in a few smiles by dropping .80 of an inch of rain, putting the area above normal in precipitation for the year.

With the rain and wind, the area went from balmy days and a record high on Monday to shivers and some chilly lows, though nowhere near the record.

Vic Stegemiller, an intern meteorologist with the National Weather Service office at Goodland's Renner Field, said the official measurement brought the total for the year 3.05 inches, which is .33 more than normal for this time.

That's almost three times as much rain as the area had by this time last



This tree at 628 Harrison was one of several down after winds swept through town Wednesday morning. A car port also was damaged, along with some signs. Photo by Phyllis Hadley/The Goodland Star-News

year, at 1.07. Stegemiller said we could finish the month slightly above or slightly below average,

depending on how much rain falls in the next few storms.

A thunderstorm Tuesday after-

noon left just .11 of an inch of rain with some small hail. By the time it reached Herndon, in Rawlins County, though, it dumped a reported two to three inches on some farms. Later, McCook, Neb., got more than an inch from the same storm.

Early Wednesday, a cold north wind brought gusts up to 58 m.p.h., downing large trees all over town. Signs and carports were down along with limbs. Stegemiller said there was damage all over the region, the worst of it a semi-trailer truck which was blown over on U.S. 34 near Trenton, Neb., at 12:24 p.m. In Colby, there was damage to a new home under construction, while in Oberlin, the wind ripped part of the facade off of a jewelry store.

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