

weather  
report

92°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:05 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:23 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:06 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 66 degrees
- Humidity 29 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds south 12 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.93 inches and falling
- Record High 96° (1934)
- Record Low 39° (1946)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 87°

Low 56°

Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: partly sunny and cooler with 30 percent chance of thunderstorms at night, high upper 80s, low mid 50s, winds north 10-20 m.p.h. Saturday: partly sunny and cooler with 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms late, high mid 70s, low mid 50s.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy with chance of showers and thunderstorms during the day, high upper 70s. Monday: partly cloudy, high mid 80s, low mid 50s. Tuesday: partly cloudy, high upper 80s, low upper 50s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.19 bushel

New crop — \$2.95

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.44 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.32

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.17 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.76 bushel

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$6 hundredweight

New crop — \$5

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.35 cwt.

NuSun — \$9.90 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Pinto beans — withdrawn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



Outlaws lose  
final games

The Outlaws baseball team lost a pair of games, 10-6 and 2-1, last week to the McCook, Neb., Bisons in McCook.

The Outlaws Second baseman Jake Alandar tried to pick off a Bison (above).

See Story and photo on Page 10.

Handling the flags for our veterans



Cub Scouts Cameron and Michael Mouchette helped Scout Master Bill Fulcher lower one of the 54 flags the Veterans of Foreign Wars raised at Goodland Cemetery on Monday as part of the Memorial Day holiday. Fulcher said about 20 cub and boy scouts were out at dawn to help put the flags up, and then helped

take them down in the afternoon. The flags were carried to the Veterans of Foreign War building where the scouts and their advisors helped fold the flags so they could be put back in the special case until next year.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

School  
keeps  
schedule

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Principal Harvey Swager and several high school teachers convinced the Goodland School Board on Tuesday to give them at least until December to study the block schedule question.

At an earlier meeting, the board had asked the high school staff to look at whether to stay with the block schedule, which has been used for three years, or to return to a more traditional seven-hour day.

Under block scheduling, the school has eight periods on Monday, and then the classes alternate on "Gold" and "Black" days, but on those days they only have four longer periods.

On Tuesday through Friday the seminar period begins at 10:40 a.m. and until 11:12 a.m. students have a reading program and watch current events on television. From 11:15 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. is the rest of the seminar period when students can study, hold club meetings or talk to other teachers about their school work.

Swager had requested for time to meet with the staff. He told the board that after the meeting, a majority of teachers felt that it would be better to keep the block schedule. He said the staff has some ideas about revising the seminar period, which has been a bone of contention with many people, including board member Kathy Russell.

"Schedules, there are a ton of them," Swager said. "Blue Valley has a modified block. We could have a seven-hour day and a seven-hour block. Wamego has a different type of block where they run regular classes in the morning and block in the afternoon.

"All we ask is that we are allowed the time to look at these schedules to try to determine what would work best for the students here at Goodland. Possibly try different blocks for short periods of time and then make a recommendation for the next school year."

When the staff met, Swager said, there were two main questions. One was what type of schedule to look at and how to re-enroll the students for the upcoming year.

He said the seminar period issue was turned over to a committee to see if changes could be made before

See BLOCK, Page 3

New season begins for West Nile horse virus

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Get ready for another round of West Nile virus.

Experts at Kansas State University want people to report newly dead birds among species known to spread the mosquito-borne disease, while a Goodland veterinarian has been vaccinating horses to protect them.

Dr. Gary Smith, veterinarian at Prairieland Animal Clinic, said he has vaccinated between 200 and 300 horses since the West Nile outbreak last year.

Smith said he treated a Wallace County horse with the virus and there were a couple of cases in Sherman County horses that were treated by other veterinarians.

"We didn't get hit hard last year," he said, "but we may see an increase this year."

There's really no "cure" for the virus, Smith said, just the usual treatment for viral infections, a lot of fluids and antibiotics. Then hopefully the horse builds up enough resistance to fight it.

There's really no way to look at a horse and know it has West Nile, Smith said, because other viral infections, such as rabies, encephalitis and in some cases tetanus, have the same symptoms.

The veterinarian said when he sus-

Watch out for newly dead birds

Ludek Zurek, medical-veterinary entomologist for Kansas State University Research and Extension, says West Nile virus usually strikes bluejays, crows, ravens or raptors (birds of prey).

You can help scientists track the disease this year by reporting newly dead birds. Zurek requests that before or soon after people make a report, they collect and freeze the bird they find, following this set of guidelines:

- Report only dead birds of prey (eagles, hawks, owls) or members of the Corvidae family, including bluejays, ravens and crows (not starlings). The virus in birds becomes increasingly hard to identify as time passes and air temperatures go up. Under outdoor conditions, more than 24 hours after the bird's death is always too long.
- Don't report birds killed by accident or in groups. (Mosquitoes don't swarm to attack whole

flocks.)

- To collect a sample, insert your hand into a plastic bag. Pick up the bird with that plastic-covered hand. Peel the bag inside out (off your hand and onto the bird), never touching the bird or exposing yourself to any parasites and bacteria it may be carrying.
- Seal or twist-tie the bag. Then insert it into another bag, which you also seal or tie.
- Get the double-bagged sample into the freezer as soon as possible. It cannot harm frozen foods.
- Call K-State Research and Extension's West Nile virus hotline at 866-452-7810. Be prepared to describe the bird and the circumstances under which you found it.
- For help or more information, go to <http://www/oznet.ksu.edu/westnilevirus> or call the county Kansas State Research and Extension agents.

humans, too.

To avoid mosquitoes, he said, keep pools and puddles cleared up, and avoid standing water. Mornings and evenings are the times when the most mosquitoes are out, he said.

There are chemicals, Smith said, that can be put in water to kill mosquito larvae. These are safe for livestock consumption, but it may not be safe for humans to drink. It hasn't been approved for that, he said.

In rare cases, the mosquito-car-

ried virus can lead to serious disease for infected humans. It kills about 30 percent of unvaccinated, infected horses, said Ludek Zurek, medical-veterinary entomologist for Kansas State Research and Extension. But each year's first victims of the virus are likely to be susceptible birds, including bluejays, crows, ravens or raptors (birds of prey).

Entomologists started trapping Kansas mosquitoes for study in March, Zurek said, and will con-

tinue monitoring the situation through fall.

Other than birds, the state's first known West Nile virus victim was a Cowley County horse that died Aug. 8, 2002. Kansas State's College of Veterinary Medicine labs confirmed it as positive for the virus Aug. 9.

By last year's end, the disease had infected 793 horses in Kansas, at least 170 at-risk birds and 22 humans. No one knows how many of the horses died, Zurek said. All of the birds had succumbed, however, and all of the humans recovered.

Entomologists discovered that more species of the virus-carrying Culex mosquitoes live in Kansas than previous records indicated.

Some species prefer breeding in rural areas, particularly where farmers irrigate crops or natural wetlands occur. Some breed in dumps and debris, where empty containers can collect rainwater.

Others breed in home gutting, bird baths, pet bowls, moisture-collecting leaves, potted plants or heavily watered landscapes.

Two other ways Kansans can help the state in dealing with West Nile virus this year are by getting rid of potential breeding sites and protecting themselves outdoors with DEET- or permethrin-containing repellents, Zurek said.