

weather report

81°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:44 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:00 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:42 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 78 degrees
- Humidity 34 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds south 22 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.32 inches and falling

- Record High 106° (1937)
- Record Low 49° (1978)

Last 24 Hours*

High 86°
Low 52°
Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high near 90, low lower 60s, winds south 10-20 m.p.h. Saturday: mostly sunny, high mid 90s, low lower 60s.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly clear, high mid 90s. Monday: mostly clear, high upper 90s, low lower 60s. Tuesday: mostly clear, high upper 90s, low near 60. Wednesday: mostly clear, high upper 90s, low lower 60s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

West Nile virus cases confirmed

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

An elderly woman from Kanorado has been confirmed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as the first case of West Nile virus-caused encephalitis in Sherman County, and the second human case in the state.

Dr. Robert McCullough, the county health officer, said he had the confirmation Tuesday. He said the woman, in her 70s, was improving and doing physical therapy.

The state Department of Health and Environment on Wednesday confirmed two more human cases of West Nile virus encephalitis or meningitis in the state, bringing the total to four.

One case involves a 54 year old in Gray County with West Nile virus meningitis. The individual had the first signs of illness on July 22, but is now out of the hospital and recovering.

The other case involves a 2 year old in Ford County with West Nile virus meningitis. The first signs of illness appeared July 29.

The department said the Sherman County woman first had signs of encephalitis and ascending paralysis on July 24. The first confirmed case was a 38 year old from Gray County, and he had signs of meningitis on July 20. He is recovering.

"This is one of those rare times when West Nile virus resulted in a serious illness," said Deputy State Epidemiologist Dr. Gail Hansen. "Even though it doesn't happen often, it is extremely important that everyone take precautions to avoid mosquitoes."

Evidence of West Nile virus in animals or mosquitoes has been found in 43 counties so far this year. The state has been monitoring birds, mosquitoes, and horses in Kansas for the presence of West Nile since May. It was first confirmed this year in a mosquito pool collected May 28 in Crawford County. West Nile virus was first discovered in Kansas last summer.

"I know there have been other positive blood tests in the county," McCullough said, "but none of those have exhibited symptoms of meningitis or encephalitis."

"No matter whether these are confirmed by the state or not, it is good for the people to know there is a possibility (of contracting West

Nile) and to take precautions against mosquitoes."

"That human cases have been confirmed in Kansas really came as no surprise," Dr. Hansen said, "since it has been found in birds, horses and mosquitoes already in the state this year and we had 22 human case last year."

"Even if an infected mosquito bites you, your chances of becoming seriously ill are small. Nevertheless, we are urging Kansans — particularly older adults and people with compromised immune systems — to take seriously the precautions against being bitten by mosquitoes and to make these precautions a regular part of their daily activities and lifestyles."

Dr. McCullough said that when there are symptoms of encephalitis or meningitis, spinal fluid is drawn for testing, and that is what the state uses to confirm West Nile virus cases.

"The patient may have symptoms of the flu," McCullough said, "and the blood test may be positive for West Nile, but if they do not develop more serious symptoms, no additional testing is required."

Ed Wolak, city public works director, said the city has been spraying for mosquitoes for about a month, and is putting larvacide in pools of standing water to reduce the breeding area. He said the city has a "fogger" mounted in the back of a pickup and the spraying is being done in the evenings.

West Nile virus is primarily considered a disease of birds. It can be transmitted to humans, horses and other animals when a mosquito bites an infected bird and then bites a human. Usually, the virus only causes mild illness in humans, but in rare cases it can cause swelling of the brain (encephalitis) or the covering of the brain (meningitis) and even death.

Mosquito control and protection is the best defense against West Nile virus, the state says. The department recommends avoiding mosquito bites by wearing long sleeves and pants and using a repellent containing DEET as instructed on the label.

Avoid outdoor activities in the evening, when mosquitoes are most active. Check around their homes and empty containers holding water such as old tires, birdbaths, pool covers and buckets to minimize mosquito breeding habitat.



Last splash of summer

Hagan Hoss, 4, (top) swam underwater Wednesday with his shark fin goggles and friend Simon Bassett, 4, at Steever Water Park on the last day the pool was open for the summer. Keaton Sloan, 9, (right) and Sindney Dirks, 9, swam underwater with their snorkels and masks.

Photo by Shannon Davidson
The Goodland Star-News



Subregion summit Tuesday

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland will host one of seven regional economic summits on Wednesday, Aug. 27, and subregional summits will be held in Colby on Tuesday and in Hays next Friday.

Lt. Gov. John Moore, who serves as state secretary of commerce, announced the dates and locations of the seven regional mini-summits that will be held prior to a statewide Prosperity Summit in Wichita on Oct. 1.

"These regional summits are intended to identify ways by which the economies in these various areas of the state can be stimulated to create and retain jobs," Moore said. "Each of these meetings will allow area residents to propose possible enhancements to their economy or identify existing barriers to economic growth."

The northwest regional summit is being headed by Larry McCants, president of the First National Bank of Goodland. It will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mountain Time at the Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

McCants said the subregional sessions in Colby and Hays are being held to lay the groundwork for the regional summit.

"The idea of having two subregional summits is so people won't have to travel so far," McCants said, "as our region runs from Smith County to Wallace County."

He said he hopes that community leaders from all 21 counties will take part in one of the subregional sessions in Colby or Hays or the regional meeting in Goodland.

"We are trying to develop ideas for a regional strategic plan, and these sessions will lay the groundwork for the regional summit. We

want to put ideas together at the regional summit to try to develop a coordinated plan for this region to be presented at the statewide summit in Wichita.

"We want to develop a positive strategy for the future of the area," he said, "and look at what will work out here, not what they think is good in Topeka. We want to be able to be more specific than saying we need the state to give us more money."

"One idea would be to take more local control of the development of the empty buildings in our cities by purchasing properties that are owned by people who do not live in our area. These people do no have a stake in what happens in our cities, but are looking to make money on the sale of their property."

"Collaboration is a huge issue that

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local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.31 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.16
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.26 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.84
Loan deficiency pmt. — 12¢
New crop — \$2.11 bushel
Milo — \$1.90 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.22 bushel
Millet — \$4.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.50 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.38
NuSun — \$8.75 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



Bait program working well

Daryl West, head of the county noxious weed department, loaded up three pallets of prairie dog poison to take to the northeast corner of the county Wednesday afternoon as part of the countywide prairie dog control program. See story on Page 3.

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Thirteen quilts that have been traveling around the country arrived in Goodland Tuesday and will be joined by three local quilts for a display this weekend at the Carnegie Arts Center.

"The American Quilt Collection" comprises 13 quilts born out of the events of Sept. 11, 2001, assembled by the Quilt Heritage Foundation of Omaha which have been displayed in many U.S. cities and in Canada.

The quilts will be on display from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. today, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday at the center.

The quilts were a group effort, made by many women from around the country and even a third-grade class, and it was a group effort to get the display to Goodland.

Carol Tupper, a Goodland quilter, said a friend of hers saw "And Our Flag Was Still There," a quilt by Linda Greenberg Loper, on the Internet.

"She showed it to me," Tupper said; "I showed it to Joan Reid, who told Jo Ann Clouse."

Clouse did the work to bring the display to Goodland, Tupper said.

The show is sponsored by the Prairie Piecemakers, a Goodland quilting club. Tupper said the club was born out of the Sunflower Festival Quilt Committee. The group was just formed in the last two months, she said, and so far has no dues but is trying to recruit members.



The group paid \$250 to display the quilts, Tupper said, from money raised at last year's Flatlander Fall Festival. That money is about to run out, she said, so donations would be welcome. There is no charge to view the display, however.

When the Piecemakers asked which days the collection was available for display, Tupper said, it just happened to be available during the weekend the quilters usually have a display for the Sunflower Festival.

She said that is good timing, since it offers the opportunity for visitors from the surrounding area to see it while here for the festival.

"It's a plus for the community," she said, "for others to be able to come and see something so dynamic."

Tupper said she thinks it is an

honor for Goodland to be able to host this traveling display.

"I know we live on the Topside of Kansas," she said, "but it's still exciting to have this quilt display come to Goodland."

A quilt from the "Topside" could join the display. Tupper said she talked to Lois Jarvis, the quilter who makes the arrangements for the traveling display, and described her own Sept. 11 quilt, which will be on display in Goodland.

Tupper said Jarvis told her that if any of the quilts drops out of the display, Tupper's may be selected to replace it. Besides Tupper's quilt, a patriotic wall hanging by Florence Meissinger of Goodland and a quilt by Janet Graham of Wray, Colo.,

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"And Our Flag Was Still There," (top left) a quilt by Linda Greenberg Loper (above), will be on display at the Carnegie Arts Center this weekend as part of the "American Spirit Quilt Collection." The 13 quilts in the collection were born out of the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and are touring the country and will appear in Canada as well. Carol Tupper (above) of Goodland folded the quilt (right), showing the "U.S. landmark" fabric on the back.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News