

weather report

32°

noon Monday

Today

•Sunset, 4:52 p.m.

•Sunrise, 7:03 a.m.

•Sunset, 4:53 p.m.

Midday Conditions

•Soil temperature 34 degrees

•Humidity 81 percent

•Sky overcast and cloudy

•Winds south 12 mph

•Barometer 30.01 inches and falling

•Record High today 72° (1986)

•Record Low today -17° (1962)

Last 24 Hours*

High Monday 34°

Low Monday 29°

Precipitation none

The Topside Forecast

Today: clear, high near 35, low around 20, winds southwest 7-11 mph. Tuesday: mostly cloudy, high near 35, low near 19, winds north northwest 7-10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: partly cloudy, high around 39, low around 18, winds north northwest 7-13 mph. Thursday: partly cloudy, high around 43, low around 19. Friday: partly cloudy, high near 50, low around 18. Saturday: partly cloudy, high near 50, low around 18.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.73 bushel

New crop — \$3.51

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.60 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.43

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.46 bushel

Soybeans — \$7.71 bushel

Posted county price — \$7.76

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$11.45 cwt.

NuSun — \$11.70

Confection — \$19/\$6 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Pinto beans — Withdrawn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

Cowboys win, 70-33

Senior Jared Doke scored two of his eight points in the first period of Friday's 70-33 win over the Buffaloes of Atwood. See story and photos on Page 12.

Congressman makes stop on tour

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

Healthcare, a proposed energy bill, Veterans Administration outpatient clinics, farming and even “mad cow” disease were among the topics discussed when Congressman Jerry Moran stopped in Goodland last Monday as part of his eighth annual “Big First” Listening Tour.

About 30 people turned out for the Congressman’s visit in the community room downstairs at Western State Bank.

“Bringing numbers into the district is difficult,” Moran quipped. “I usually tell my constituents to have more kids.”

Moran said sometimes most of his audience is too old to have more kids, but then joked, “This is an election year; no one is too old.”

Moran acknowledged his former intern, Dan Rasure, who is running for Kansas State Senate for the 40th District and said his own interest in politics had been sparked when he served as an intern.

After joking about the bad timing of his press releases asking for interns, around the time news broke of President Bill Clinton’s affair with his intern, Moran began addressing the issues.

Not passing an energy bill has huge consequences for this area, Moran said. The bill was filibustered but may come up for a vote today. The bill promotes energy efficiency and the use of more biofuels like ethanol to reduce U.S. dependency on Middle Eastern oil.

Moran said he is addressing healthcare concerns. Managed care won’t work in this area, he said, because there aren’t enough providers for that to be successful.

Bills related to health care don’t address the underlying cost of health care or of prescription drugs, Moran said, adding if anyone has thoughts on that to be sure to let him know.

Moran said he is concerned about how media portrayals, particularly in *The New York Times* and on the nightly news, of the “mad cow” scare will affect beef producers. He said he and his family went out for beef to show constituents they have no fear about beef safety.

But media images may have their affect. Moran said his family received a box of steaks for the holidays, and while they were eating them, the “spastic English cow”



Travis Gattshall visited with First District Congressman Jerry Moran last Monday when the Congressman stopped in Goodland at Western State Bank as part of his eighth annual “Big First” Listening Tour.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

came on television, did a dance and then fell down.

“My 13-year-old had her hands over her eyes,” Moran said, “couldn’t even watch. That’s what we have to deal with.”

Fielding a question from Economic Development Director Carolyn Applegate, Moran commented that proponents of outpatient Veterans Administration Clinics in Goodland have done well in keeping the issue to the fore.

Efforts to establish such an outpatient clinic in Goodland has been stalled up on numbers, he said, the low number of veterans in the area who would benefit.

He said it wasn’t determined whether veterans in Nebraska or Colorado who would come to the clinic had been counted.

Veterans who go to Wichita were counted, he said, but not veterans who don’t go anywhere because they couldn’t get there.

The outpatient clinic is needed in the area despite the low number of veterans, Moran said, because of the distance some have to travel for

healthcare.

The Congressman said what would be ideal would be for each veteran to have a card and go wherever they want. That would keep their dollars in local hospitals and clinics which so desperately need it, Moran said.

The Kansas Veterans Administration didn’t want financial responsibility for another clinic, Applegate said, but sharing the responsibility with the Nebraska and Colorado Veterans Administrations is a possibility to be explored.

When asked about the money being sent to Iraq, Moran said he voted for the \$87 billion in appropriations to Iraq and said a portion of that was for U.S. troops there.

As for money to help rebuild Iraq, the Congressman said it would be hard for the Iraqi people to support U.S. troops there if they have no jobs, no food on the table, no electricity and they’re scared the troops will walk away and leave it that way.

The Bush Administration said it would be paid back out of oil revenues, Moran said, but then later

insisted it be a gift. Taxpayers have a right to expect it to be paid back, Moran said.

Several people in attendance expressed concern about farming practices required to receive insurance money during the drought. The county will end up a dirt pile, one man said.

“We need to figure out what to do in multi-year droughts,” Moran said. “Insurance isn’t working.”

Moran said the practices in question were set up to prevent abuse but said the problem could be fixed if someone would just do it. One woman in the audience said there are other ways to prevent abuse, such as showing proof the farmers bought seed and fertilizer and did normal practices.

The Congressman said he is working on the problem but doesn’t know whether he will be successful.

Some think because the farm bill passed, Moran said, all the money went to farmers’ pockets. Only 16 percent went to farmers, he said, while the rest went to social programs, such as welfare.

“We need a national spokesman for farmers,” Moran said.

There’s a double standard when it comes to disaster relief, he said; if there’s a flood or hurricane, the Federal Emergency Management Agency doesn’t say the money has to come from somewhere else. But it’s a different story with disaster relief, he said.

“The only way I see we get drought assistance,” he said, “is if there’s a drought in Iowa before the caucuses.”

Some in Washington have the view farmers are doing fine, he quipped, since they all drive Cadillacs.

Many think farming is an area that can be cut to balance the budget, he said.

Moran said his mail is all sent to Ohio to be irradiated because of Anthrax, so it takes an extra two weeks for him to get letters.

He gave out cards with phone and fax numbers and his e-mail address and recommended contacting him through those channels, so he would get the messages quickly.

Volunteers, control officer work together

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

The Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter and Goodland’s animal control officer work together to protect and control the city’s animal population and are now asking for help from animal owners.

People need to be more responsible, Animal Control Officer Leslie Knitig said. Of the 180 animals picked up in 2003, Animal Shelter President Sandy Rodgers said, only 41 percent went back to their owners; 75 percent should.

With the shelter having more animals than it should financially care for, Rodgers and Knitig are asking people to give more thought to the decision to get a pet, to take better care of their animals and to be sure to call about missing pets.

Both organizations are here to help you retrieve your dog, Rodgers said. We want to get it to a loving home. Owners of lost pets can call the shelter to ask if the pets are there, she said, or they can call the police.

A lot of people don’t know they can call the police department, Knitig said, to ask about a missing pet, but she urges people to do so quickly. If your dog is lost, she said, call right away.

If a pet owner calls the police, she said, he can go see if the animal has been picked up. Even though there’s a leash law, Knitig said, animal control doesn’t just pick dogs up. If a dog is at large, she said, they try to find the owner.

The owner isn’t usually given a ticket on a first offense, she said, and if a pet owner calls to ask the police to look for their dog, they don’t have to pay for it.

Getting a city dog license helps too, Knitig said. The dogs have to have shots, she said, and the license on file with the city lists the breed. Then there’s a tag on the dog, she said, that animal control can just check and know whose it is.

That makes it easier, Knitig said. Instead of not knowing whose dog it is, the officer can just take it home.

Dogs need a new license each year, Knitig said, but they aren’t expensive. If the dog is spayed or neutered the tag is \$5, she said. If not, it is \$10, and the city has one day a year when dog owners can get free licenses. The city gave out about 200 free licenses this year, she said.

When animals are picked up, Rodgers said, the city has to keep them three days, then they go to the shelter. But the shelter doesn’t have a lot of room, she said. There are 80-some animals in the shelter now, she said, and financially, the shelter probably shouldn’t be handling that many.

It’s a no-kill shelter, Rodgers said, but if there’s no room for new animals picked up, the city has to put them to sleep.

“We are a safe haven for animals,” she said, “but there are only so many we can afford to take care of.”

Spaying and neutering is the only way to control the pet population, she said. People need to give more thought to the decision when thinking of getting a pet.

Do some research, Rodgers said. It costs money to have a pet, money for food, medical care and other needs. They’re wonderful to have, she said, but to think it’s not going to cost is not realistic, and just to chain a dog up in the yard and throw food out to it once in a while is not



“Let’s dance,” said one of the dogs in the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter’s care when Lorna Thorpe came into the pen. Roommate, Jilly, didn’t want to be left out.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

much of a life, she added.

“They are not disposable,” Rodgers said. “They are living,

breathing things. If you don’t want a 15-year commitment, don’t get one.”

Knitig wants people to understand the purpose of the leash law isn’t to punish pet owners. It is to protect the animals and people, she said. Animals running loose could be attacked by another animal or hit by a car. Animal control is a friendly department, Rodgers said.

“Leslie does this because she loves animals,” Rodgers said, “and the people on the animal shelter board do this because we love animals.”

People need to be reasonable when it comes to the weather, Rodgers said. Animals don’t have to have a fancy shelter, she said, but do need a place to go when it’s cold.

And when it’s cold, she said, the animals’ water will freeze outdoors. You can buy a heated dish, she said, or break the ice three times a day so the dogs can get a drink. The animal shelter volunteers do that for 80 dogs, she said.

Also, she said, when it’s cold, animals need more food to burn more calories in order to stay warm.

By law, Knitig said, animals have to have food, water and shelter. If you feel an animal is being abused, Rodgers said, or doesn’t have the right things, call Leslie.

Since the shelter has so many animals, Rodgers said, it doesn’t have room to take in animals that are being surrendered. But if someone has a pet they want to give away, she said, they can call. The shelter may know someone who is looking for one or may be able to hook them up with another shelter that has room.

If there’s no other solution, she said, the owner should have the ani-