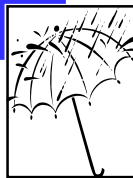


weather report

45°

noon Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 6:10 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:58 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:08 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 48 degrees
- Humidity 79 percent
- Sky cloudy with light rain
- Winds west 15 mph.
- Barometer 29.94 inches and falling

• Record High today 89° (1938)

• Record Low today 16° (1966)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	52°
Low Wednesday	31°
Precipitation	.013
This month	2.04
Year to date	19.22
Normal	17.88

The Topside Forecast

Today: partly cloudy, high near 61, low near 35, winds north-northeast 9-19 mph. Saturday: partly cloudy, high near 71, low around 41, winds east 7-30 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers at night, high near 68, low around 41. Monday: partly cloudy, high near 67, low near 39. Tuesday: partly cloudy, high around 71, low 40. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.01 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.12
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.94 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.69
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.57 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.49 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.36
Loan deficiency pmt. — 32¢
Millet — \$4.75 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$10.95 cwt.
NuSun — \$11.05 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Confection — \$19/\$13 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$25
(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



Cross country meet Saturday

Senior James Cearley led a runner from Hugoton on his way to a ninth-place finish in the boys junior/senior race at Lakin. The teams will be in Quinter Saturday for the league meet. See story, photo on Page 12.

County gets much needed rains

By Kathryn Gurfinkel

The Goodland Star-News

“Rain, rain go away” is not a phrase you normally hear uttered in northwestern Kansas — residents and farmers normally pray for rain.

Suffering from a moderate drought for the past three years, people have been rejoicing as 5.27 inches of rain have fallen since the beginning of September.

David Floyd, warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service office here, said the last few weather systems to move through the area have moved slowly enough to drop more rain.

“We just had a couple of slow-moving systems,” he said.

Starting with 0.34 inches of rain on Sept. 4, the Weather Service reported rain an average of once every three days. In one of the wettest day of the period, the 1.07 inches of rain that fell on Oct. 6, shattered a record of only 0.36 of an inch set in 1954.

The region surpassed the 1.05-inch average for the month with 2.04 inches in October alone.

“We exceeded the entire month’s amount just in the first 11 days,” Floyd said.

The rain has brought the area above the yearly average for the first time since August 2001.

“We’re above normal for the first time in a few years,” he said.

So far for the year, the Weather Service record shows 19.09 inches fell at Goodland, a full 1.27 inches above the 30-year average of 17.82 inches for this time of year. The average rainfall for the entire year is 19.76 inches, just 0.67 inches more than we have already.

Floyd said last year, the region was down more than 6 inches from where we are now.

“That’s quite a bit of improvement,” he said of. “We’re basically a little ahead of the game.”

Although the rain is a positive step towards getting out of the moderate

Rain totals for six weeks

Rainfall over the past 42 days, measured in inches.

Sept. 4 — 0.34

Sept. 5 — 0.03

Sept. 14 — 0.38

Sept. 19 — 0.21

Sept. 21 — 0.41

Sept. 22 — 1.01

Sept. 24 — 0.50

Sept. 30 — 0.35

Oct. 1 — 0.01

Oct. 2 — 0.02

Oct. 6 — 1.07

Oct. 11 — 0.81

Oct. 13 — 0.13

A total of 5.27 inches of rain fell over the six week period.

drought, Floyd says not to get too excited.

“It’s not necessarily turning the drought around,” he said. “We’re finally just creeping towards normal.”

If the rainfall continues the way it has, he said, we have a better chance of pulling out of the drought. He said the rainfall was timely, helping out the spring wheat crop and replenishing the subsoil for next spring.

Floyd said he doesn’t expect much rain in the near future. For the long term, he said, the outlook doesn’t have any large cues or significant patterns to determine a swing one way or another.

“We happen to be in a part of the county where we can’t say either way,” he said.

Looking at the numbers, he said, his prediction is that we remain around normal to finish out the year.

Floyd said the long-term outlook shows above-normal temperatures for the northern plains this winter.

And winter seems closer, with the high winds, chilly temperatures and the overnight freeze Goodland saw Wednesday.



Jordan McCombs, 9, (left) and Nathaniel Smith, 10, played in the overflow after heavy rains passed through the area Monday. Wet almost to the knee and dripping with damp hair, the pair held a race pitting pieces of paper against each other in the water as it rushed through the gutter.

Photo by Kathryn Gurfinkel/The Goodland Star-News

Three take EMT class with county, hospital help

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Three Sherman County residents are signed up for an Emergency Medical Technician class which began last week with the financial backing of the county and Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Bruce Gleason, head of the county ambulance service, met with the Sherman County commissioners Tuesday, along with two of the three in the class, to discuss having the county help pay for the training.

Glenn Hermanson, pastor of the Bible Baptist Church, and Angela Dikeman of Kanorado, were at the meeting to sign a contract with the county for half the cost of the class, which is being offered through Colby Community College.

Gleason said the third student is Nicki Gavin, who works at the hospital.

He said the total cost of the six-

Health department needs new doctor

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Dr. Robert McCullough is planning to retire at the end of the month and move out of town, leaving the Sherman County Health Department without a health officer or medical consultant.

Director Dorendo Harrel told Sherman County commissioners Tuesday that Dr. McCullough told her he will be gone after this month. He has been the medical

consultant and health officer since 1993.

She told the commissioners she has not asked any of the Goodland doctors about filling these positions.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said it doesn’t have to be the same doctor to handle both positions.

Harrel said the consulting doctor gets \$200 a month salary for being the county health officer, and a \$250 fee when there is a family planning clinic.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked

her about flu shots, and Harrel said she does not have any because she has been ordering from the Charron company. The firm’s vaccine has been held because of possible contamination.

She told the commissioners she has asked the state and the federal Center for Disease Control for some vaccine, but does not know when or if she will get any.

In other business, the commis-

See DOCTOR, Page 8

month class is \$987 per person, and the county would pay for half and the hospital the other half. In exchange, the three people agree to work with the county ambulance

service for a minimum of two years.

The class is being taught by Steve Evert and Greg Nemecek, who completed their instructor training earlier this year. This will be their

first class, and the instructor who taught them will be coming out to monitor the sessions.

“We agreed to do this before,” said Commissioner Mitch Tiede.

“I have no problem with our helping with this,” said Commissioner Kevin Rasure. “I think everyone needs to know it is a two-way street. We can help you, but you need to help us. You need to be sure this is what you want to do.”

Hermanson said he had been an EMT before, and wanted to get back into the program. Gavin said she had thought about this earlier in the year because her mother is one of the volunteers in Kanorado.

Gleason said there are about 10 people taking the class, with two from Wallace County, four from Thomas and the three from Sherman. He said there may be one or two more added this week.

Rasure asked if the three new people will bring the ambulance service up to the size crew they need.

Gleason said the service will still

See EMT, Page 8

Hazmat team inspects unknown pallets



Two Goodland fire fighters in breathing masks checked out a stack of pallets found at the site of the old Apple Trail truck stop on K-27 about 6 p.m. Wednesday. Firemen Sam Zelfer and Dave Avila approached the pallets as possibly hazardous after being called out by the Goodland Police. Owner Doug Irvin had found the stack, and told officers he did not know what it was or why it was there. The volunteers found a phone number and learned that the pallets were part of highway painting supplies Ritchie Paving will use on I-70 between Edson and Brewster. Fire Chief Dean Jensen said it was a good exercise for the firemen.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Chamber to ask city for fireworks money

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Chamber of Commerce plans to ask for more money to support the Fourth of July Freedom Fest when the city commission meets at 5 p.m. on Monday.

City Manager Ron Pickman said he had been asked to put the Chamber on the agenda to discuss the money for the annual fireworks dis-

play.

The group plans to ask the city to increase its budget for the Freedom Fest from \$250 the last couple of years up to \$1,500-\$2,000. The Chamber board is trying to get a head start on fund-raising for next year, and they plan to ask the Sherman County commissioners and

See CITY, Page 8

Annual meeting Tuesday

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

The 2004 annual meeting of the Sherman County Economic Development Council will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Elks Lodge, 1523 Arcade Ave.

One of the items on the agenda is

nominations for three board positions coming up for election.

Vice Chairman Dave Daniels said anyone who is interested in serving or wants to nominate someone should attend the meeting. Candi-

See MEETING, Page 8