

weather report

73°



noon Tuesday

Today

•Sunset, 7:11 p.m.

Wednesday

•Sunrise, 6:20 a.m.

•Sunset, 7:08 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 77 degrees
- Humidity 70 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds south, light, variable
- Barometer 30.20 inches and steady

• Record High today 102° (1939)

• Record Low today 37° (1956)

Last 24 Hours*

High Monday	91°
Low Monday	63°
Precipitation	.30
This month	.30
Year to date	12.82 (-3.80)

The Topside Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, thunderstorms likely (60 percent chance). Low in lower 60s. South wind 5-15 mph. Wednesday: Partly cloudy, slight chance of thunderstorms (40 percent). Southeast wind 5-15 mph. High upper 80s. Low upper 50s.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. High upper 80s. Low upper 50s. Friday: Partly cloudy. High lower 90s. Low around 60.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.09 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.03
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$1.77 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.59
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 35¢
- Milo — \$1.50 bushel
- Soybeans — \$5.42 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.30
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$6.50 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$9.80 cwt.
- NuSun — \$11.05 cwt.
- Confection — call.
- Pinto beans — \$20 (new crop)

(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



Cowboy is second

Junior Kerek Mason led Ogallala's Tanner Fruit and Chase Edwards around the one-mile mark of the junior-senior boys 5K race of the Goodland Invitational on Thursday. Mason led for most of the way, but finished second. Photo, story on Page 11.

County, city plan switch to S&T

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The office numbers won't change, but Sherman County and the City of Goodland will become "zeros," changing to the 890 prefix, later this month.

Sherman County decided Wednesday to switch to S&T Telephone after a presentation Wednesday by Don Newell, the firm's Goodland office manager.

At the same joint meeting, city commissioners had a consensus to make the switch. The city was expected to make the decision official

at the commission's regular meeting tonight.

Newell said the county is using 70 numbers in the 4800 range, and the city is using 67 of the 4500 range. He said the other numbers in each range would be reserved to the city and county for future expansion.

The city and county have shared a phone system through SBC (formerly Southwestern Bell) for several years, and the contract is to expire the first week of October.

Newell said the monthly price for lines would be \$886 for the county and \$850 for the city. He said they

would not need to buy any equipment, and the lines would all run through a Centrex system in the S&T office. He said the basic price is \$5.25 per line for both the city and county.

"I tried to make it as black-and-white as possible," Newell said.

Mary Ann Snethen, deputy county clerk, who handles the monthly bills, said SBC charges \$50 for the monthly statement and \$20 for another one. She said the total bill has been running about \$1,800 a month with the county paying \$1,000 and the city paying \$800.

Newell said S&T would not charge for the bill, and would set it up any way the city and county wants it done.

Newell said he hopes to make the switch the third week of September. He said it would take about two weeks to get the rewiring done.

"We don't want you to be out of service," he said. "It is going to take some time, but it makes the switch easier."

"We would put the recording on and pay for the advertising to let people know the city and county have been changed to 890. ... With

this many phone lines, there are going to be questions.

"I feel proud of our company. You can call us when there is a problem. We are in the community, and we want to know if there are problems and we will respond quickly. ... Our employees are local. We support the community, and the dollars being spent stay in the community."

Snethen asked about central dispatch, where there are six lines that are part of the city system, but the county pays for them.

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Storm damage reported

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Severe storms moved through northwest Kansas on Monday night, knocking down power poles with high winds, spawning a tornado and dumping enough rain to prompt flood warnings in Wallace and Decatur counties.

Dave Floyd, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Goodland, said winds normally have to reach close to 80 mph to topple a power pole. He said he measured 66 mph winds at his house just west of Goodland.

Floyd said poles were downed in Sherman County near County Road 28 and Road 71, about six miles north and nine miles east of Goodland.

Bob Helm, manager of corporate communications for Midwest Energy, said crews worked on four poles in Sherman County north of Edson and northwest of Brewster and 15 in Wallace County.

He said crews went out Monday night and had the power restored to everyone early Tuesday morning.

The outages, he said, were scattered, with mostly rural customers affected.

"It's kind of normal when thunderstorms go through," Helm said.

Power crews here got help from WaKeeney and Hays, since members from the Colby and Goodland crews had volunteered to help with the relief effort from hurricane Katrina in Mississippi.

Helm said as long as storms cause minor isolated damage, crews shouldn't have trouble keeping up even with the missing members. He said he doesn't think others crews or customers mind making allowances for the volunteers.

This area is more susceptible to high winds, Floyd said, since humidity at the ground is low. When a storm dumps rain that is quickly evaporated, he said, the air becomes heavy and falls to the ground, creating high winds.

A trained storm spotter reported sighting a tornado 8 miles south of Sharon Springs. While he is still filing his report, Floyd said the tornado seems to have touched down only in open fields.

The storm dropped 0.3 of an inch of rain at the airport here. Floyd said the office had a report of 4.3 inches in Weskan. Oberlin had 2.1 inches, with more than three recorded in northern Decatur County. The storms were moving slowly, he said, so many people got a lot of rain.

Some areas were hit with hail up to an inch in diameter that covered the ground and knocked out windows in Decatur County.

Other reports, Floyd said, included tree limbs down and reduced visibility.

The Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm warning around 6 p.m. and continued warnings until around 7:30 p.m. Floyd said urban and small stream flood warnings for Wallace and Decatur continued until 9 p.m.

He said the office put out a total

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Cowboys win opener



Senior fullback Bob Miller (with ball) bulled his way for a few yards during the first half of the Cowboys' 27-26 opening-game victory over Hoxie High on Friday at Cowboy Stadium. See story and more photos on Page 12.

Photo by Liz West/The Goodland Star-News

Energy crews head south to help in disaster

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Tyler Norris left his 11-month-old baby and young wife at home in Goodland last week to lend a hand to people down South who need of power after the destruction of hurricane Katrina.

Norris, a linemen with Midwest Energy based in Goodland, volunteered to spend three weeks helping to restore power to hurricane-damaged areas.

Tyler's wife Laura said the crew will have to start from scratch, since many power poles were split in half.

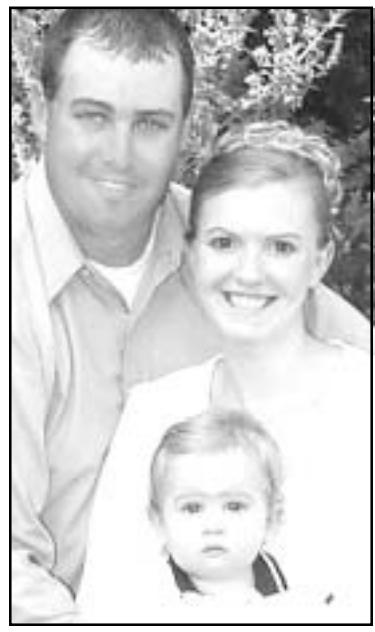
Bob Helm, manager of corporate communications for Midwest, said they estimate there are 30,000 downed power poles in the area.

He said the crews will be assisting Coast Electric Power Association, a rural electric like Midwest, which has offices in Bay St. Louis and Biloxi, Miss. He said the cooperative serves 63,000 customers over 4,900 miles of line. The lights were out, he said, for all of the association's customers.

"We have a mutual aid agreement," he said, adding that when the call for help came out, Midwest immediately had volunteers. "We had more people volunteer than we sent. We're pretty proud of the guys."

The Midwest group, 18 linemen from Colby, Hoxie, Goodland, Great Bend, Hanston, Lyons, WaKeeney and Hays, left in a long caravan on Friday morning.

After a 1,100-mile trip across the south, Laura said, they ended up in Picayune, Miss., about 50 miles



Tyler Norris, wife Laura and son Orinn

northeast of New Orleans, on Sunday.

As soon as they arrive, Norris said, they were put to work rebuilding the area's power system, working alongside crews from the local electric companies The Mississippi co-op assigned jobs.

Helm said when the crews rolled in, the lights were already on in Picayune, a welcome sign.

The volunteers moved into a big warehouse that will hold up to 400 people, he said. The warehouse is set up for hot showers and hot meals. Helm said crews are protected with 24-hour security.

The area where the men are working, he said, is rural with the guys

Hurricane Katrina gets close to home for family

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

A brand-new car floating in nine feet of water in the garage and a brand-new home in pieces, that's what a former principal of Rawlins County High School came home to after the Gulf Coast hurricane last week.

Debra Sivori, who worked at the Atwood high school for three years, from 2002 to last May, her husband Marc and daughter Ashley escaped Biloxi, Miss., ahead of the storm, fleeing to Mobile,

Ala. There the family is staying with Debra's niece, Alicia.

Joyce Meyer of Goodland, Debra's aunt, said she was worried about the family until she heard Tuesday they were safe.

"We were very concerned," she said. "We were just praying they got out."

Sivori is Meyer's niece through her late husband, LeRoy Ginther of Atwood. Debra's parents are

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working out in the country in dry conditions.

Helm said he men went out Monday and worked from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. to get a full 3 miles of line energized.

Norris said the rest of the rebuilding effort can't even start until the area has electricity, and the high-voltage feeder lines are down.

"The utilities have to go in first," she said, adding that crews will be in to install water lines and gas lines as well as power.

Most of the phone lines are out and cell phone towers have been toppled, she said, so there's not much communication between Laura and her husband. She said it

will be basically impossible to reach Tyler until sometime this week.

"I just hope he stays safe," she said.

In Mississippi, Tyler will face daily dangers including snakes — like poisonous water moccasins — along with disease from stagnant water in Mississippi. Laura said the snakes were swept onto land by the water and were left behind in the rubble. Each lineman was given a snake bit kit just in case.

She said Tyler needed vaccinations including hepatitis and tetanus shots before he headed south and was warned to avoid mosquito bites

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