

weather
report

62°

noon Monday

Today

• Sunset, 7:02 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:26 a.m.

• Sunset, 7 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 61 degrees
- Humidity 69 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds north at 7 mph
- Barometer 30.24 inches and rising

- Record High today 100° (1931)
- Record Low today 36° (1974)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	71°
Low Monday	52°
Precipitation	—
This month	.34
Year to date	18.54
Below normal	.12 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high 79, low near 50.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 85 with a low of 55. Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly cloudy, high near 86, low near 60. Friday: Partly cloudy, high near 84, low near 58. Saturday: Mostly sunny, high near 85, low near 52. Sunday: Partly cloudy, high near 77.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.20 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.35
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.26 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.06
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.85 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.63 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.61
Loan deficiency pmt. — 8¢
Millet — \$6.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
NuSun crop — \$11.50
Pinto beans — \$15.50 (new crop)

(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside
today

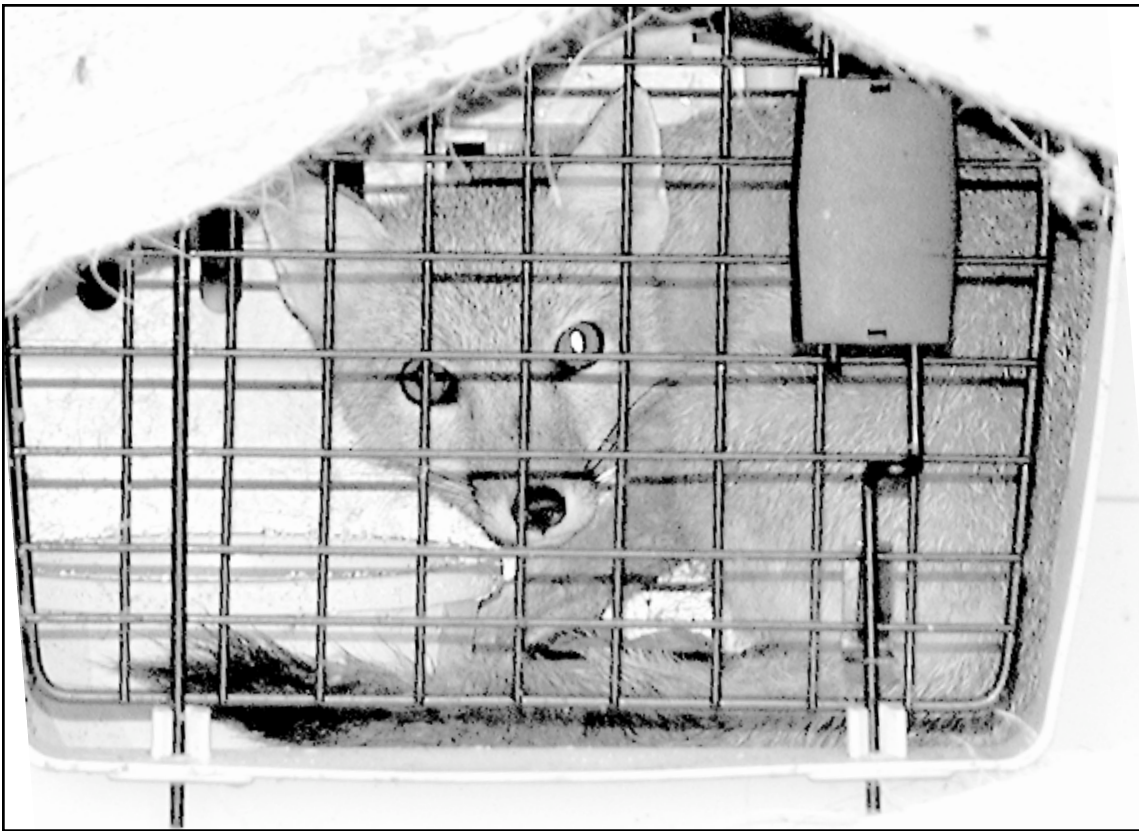
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Indians beat
Cowboys

Cowboy running back T.J. Hawkins tried to stiffarm Joel McAttee of St. Francis on Friday on a third-down play in the first half. The Cowboys lost to the Indians 55-6. See story, photo on Page 10.

Foxes headed to South Dakota



A female swift fox peers out from a cage at Scott Lake State Park on Saturday.

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The little female swift fox curled up in the farthest corner of the small cage and looked at the people who were talking about her future home.

The cages used to haul the captured foxes are kept covered in the back of a horse trailer parked under trees to keep the animals as calm as possible.

The swift fox (also called a kit fox) is mostly nocturnal, and one of the smallest foxes in the world. About the size of a small house cat, weighting five to six pounds, they are found in the Great Plains. The fox gets its name because it can reach speeds of up to about 25 mph. The foxes are a brownish grey with large ears, a long, bushy, black-tipped tail and black patches along each side of the muzzle.

The swift fox eats small mammals, rabbits, birds, insects and dead animals.

Last week, a team from the Lower Brule Sioux Reservation made Scott Lake State Park headquarters for

trapping 40 swift foxes to take back to South Dakota, where they have been gone for more than 200 years.

Shaun M. Grassel, a wildlife biologist with the tribe who is leading the project, said they plan to reintroduce the swift fox to the reservation as part the tribe's goal to have historic animals that have been on the reservation.

Grassel said the team, including Sheldon Fletcher, a tribal conservation officer; Vaughn Big Eagle, technician; and Josh Kiesow, another biologist, arrived at Scott Lake on Sept. 1, planning to spend up to two weeks trapping the foxes.

"It looked like it was going to be a quick trip," he said.

The team set out 75 traps on Sunday and Monday and caught 12 foxes each night. They caught nine on Tuesday and had 39 by Wednesday morning.

Grassel said they did not put traps out on Thursday, but they sent 30 foxes to South Dakota after they had been tested for plague.

With the cold weather and rain Friday, the traps were empty on Saturday morning.

"We are needing four more males," Grassel said.

There were eight foxes in the trailer at the Scott Lake campground, he said, but two females were to be returned to where they had been trapped on Wednesday.

"Our project is to take 20 pairs and release them on the reservation," he said. "We have permission from the Kansas Parks and Wildlife for taking 40 foxes a year for six years."

Fletcher said the Lower Brule Sioux reservation is in central South Dakota, southeast of Pierre, the state capitol.

Grassel said a team from Texas Tech University is trapping swift foxes for a genetic study. He said they let them go after taking blood samples. Dani Schwalm, a graduate student, and two technicians had 55 traps, which they used to help catch the foxes that have been sent to South Dakota.

The traps are set out in the late afternoon, and Fletcher said they use meat for bait. He said they found a road kill deer on the state park and Mike Peaks, a state wildlife officer there, gave them a salvage permit.

They used a cottontail brought by the Texas Tech team, and some meat they brought from the reservation.

The live-catch traps are designed to have the animal walk in and trip a door that drops down and keeps them from getting back out. To entice the animals, they use stink bait and put small pieces of mackerel on the front.

Fletcher said sometimes a fox comes up to the front and eats the



Sioux biologist Shaun Grassel (left) showed one of the live traps the team used to trap swift foxes to take to South Dakota. Team members include Vaughn Big Eagle (center) and Sheldon Fletcher a Lower Brule Sioux tribe conservation officer.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Man hurt as parachute hits power line

City Public Works Manager Richard Simon, 47, was recovering Monday after his powered parachute got tangled in a 7,000-volt power line Saturday about three miles east of town.

Kansas Trooper Eric Hodges of the Kansas Highway Patrol said Simon was doing touch-and-go landings at Renner Field about 6:48 p.m. when his parachute lines got tangled in the Midwest Energy line and crashed.

While the crash was serious enough, Simon went down just short of a 115,000-volt line serving the city of Goodland.

He was flown to the University of Colorado Hospital burn unit, where Monday his condition had been up graded from serious to good.

He was hit by electricity from the lines and has burns on an arm and chest, said City Manager Wayne Hill.

Sherman County Undersheriff Roger Studer said Monday he was the first one on the scene. He said Midwest Energy people told him their closest truck was in Hoxie, so he called Charlie Bandel, superintendent of the city electrical distribution department.

"I called Charlie, and he brought out a bucket truck," Studer said.

"With his helper, Dennis Fife, they shut off the power and helped cut him down," Studer said. "Everyone did what they needed to do to get him down. It seems like it takes forever, but you have to be careful. We got him down and to the hospital as soon as possible."

"I have known him for a long time, and am glad he is doing better. He was very lucky he didn't hit the power line on the other side of the road that provides the power to the city."

Studer said a Midwest Energy worker from Colby and one who lives in Goodland came out to help cut Simon free. Studer said Monday he heard that Simon was cracking jokes in the hospital.

Studer said a couple of vehicles drove around Sherman County fire trucks blocking the road during the rescue. He was able to stop one and gave the driver a ticket.

"We were out there for several hours," Studer said. "We had to keep it closed until the Midwest Energy people said it was all clear."

Simon was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center after he was freed from the line, then flown to Denver.

He is in the burn unit, said Tonya Ewers, a public relations person at

the hospital.

Goodland fire rescue and the Sherman County Rural Fire Department were called to help at the scene.

The powered parachute has a seat for the pilot with the engine behind to provide the power. In flight, the tricycle-like rig hangs from a wing-shaped parachute. The pilot steers by using the engine.

Trooper Hodges said the accident happened at old U.S. 24 and County Road 23, about two miles from the south end of the runway.

Hill said Monday he was thankful Simon survived, adding that the city crew is praying for his recovery.

"We had a staff meeting this morning," Hill said. "We are all concerned about Rich, and are glad he is doing better."

Hill said Simon's wife, Kody, called on the phone and said he was sitting up and feeling better.

Rich Simon in his powered parachute as he flew over the Cheyenne Pipeline southwest of town during construction in September two years ago.

Photo by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News



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