

weather report

64°

noon Monday

Today

Sunset, 7:25 p.m.

Wednesday

Sunrise, 6:06 a.m.

Sunset, 7:26 p.m.

Midday Conditions

Soil temperature 42 degrees

Humidity 42 percent

Sky mostly sunny

Winds northwest at 5 mph

Barometer 29.98 inches and steady

Record High today 90° (2004)

Record Low today 18° (1907)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 67°

Low Monday 40°

Precipitation —

This month .65

Year to date 3.86

Above normal 1.27 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: A 30 percent chance of showers. Cloudy, then high near 59, low around 38.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, high near 69, low around 42. Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, high near 68, low around 40. Friday: Mostly sunny, high near 66, low around 46. Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, high near 72, low around 42. Sunday: Partly cloudy, high near 65.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.59 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.64

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$3.44 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.36

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$3.19 bushel

Soybeans — \$6.38 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.44

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$7 hundredweight

Sunflowers

NuSun crop — \$16.35

Pinto beans — \$25 (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

Cowgirls lose to Colby

Lindsay Shields batted during cold and rain Thursday as the Goodland Cowgirls faced the Colby Lady Eagles at Centennial Park. The Cowgirls lost the game 6-0. See photo on Page 10.

Spring snow storm slides south

By Tom Betz ntbetz@nwkansas.com

A big snowstorm slid off to the south Friday, and the predicted 8 to 12 inches of snow didn't materialize here, but Goodland did get 4 inches of wet snow.

The National Weather Service reported the big storm passed about 100 miles to the south. The 10 to 12 inches of snow fell in southwestern Kansas and southeastern Colorado, tracing a band from Leoti east through Newton to Emporia.

The threat of deep snow caused many schools to close on Friday and plans for the citywide cleanup and the household hazardous waste collection in Goodland were put off.

The cleanup will be held Saturday and the household hazardous waste collection will be Saturday, April 28.

Snowfall was deeper going south. Syracuse reported 10.5 inches, Lakin 10, Tribune 6, Dodge City 10, Garden City 6, Scott City 10, Leoti 14.5 and Lamar and Holly, Colo, 6.

Snowfall was lighter moving north, with 3 inches in Sharon Springs, 4 in Colby, 2 in St. Francis and 2 in Atwood. East and north of Colby and Atwood, most of the moisture fell as rain.

The snow started in Goodland early Friday morning, and many people who got up thought the power problems were caused by the storm.

However, City Manager Wayne Hill said a power out-

See STORM, Page 9

Squirrel, not storm causes power outage

It may have been a little inconvenient for early risers in northeast Goodland on Friday, but it was a really bad day for one squirrel.

The squirrel got tangled up in a power line about 4 a.m. on Friday, tripping the breakers on the northeast circuit of the city power system for about two hours.

A worker at the National Weather Service office on Armory Road reported seeing flashes south of the office at 4:10 a.m.

Lights flickered across most of the town, resetting computers, clocks and televisions. The north loop was affected the most. Dispatchers got calls reporting low power and "brownout" conditions until the circuit was taken down to repair the line.

City Manager Wayne Hill said a cell phone beep, caused when the power went out, woke him. He said he got up and found there was no power, and went to the power plant to help with communications.

Hill said lineman Dustin Bedore went to the scene. For safety reasons, the circuit was turned off while he repaired the broken line.

The squirrel did not survive.

Power was restored by 6:30 a.m.



Wet snow clung to tree branches, grassy areas and some sidewalks on Friday, but city streets were mostly wet as a spring storm dropped about 4 inches in Goodland. The main storm slid about 100 miles south, forecasters said, spreading the deeper snow accumulation of 8 to 12 inches across the state from Leoti to Emporia.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Citywide cleanup on schedule for Saturday

By Tom Betz *The Goodland Star-News*

Goodland's fourth annual citywide cleanup — delayed one week by Mother Nature — will begin Saturday morning at 9 a.m.

Ken Clouse, co-chair of the Chamber of Commerce beautification committee, said plans for the cleanup included a backup date one week later, and he was glad they had included it.

Clouse said everything is in place for the cleanup, and he hopes a lot of people will show up.

"I have not had calls from a lot of volunteers this year," he said. "We need enough volunteers to make this work."

Clouse said volunteers will gather at the Northwest Kansas Technical College Student Union at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday to set up teams and split up the town.

He said they need volunteers with pickups and trailers, along with loaders willing to pitch in to pick up the trash piles.

"Calls are coming in (from people who need help with trash)," said Christie Rasure, committee co-chair. "I think we have had over 60 call. People appreciate what we are doing."

Rasure said the cleanup will run from 9 a.m. to noon. The teams will bring collected items to the lots west of Rasure Lumber to be separated and hauled to the county transfer station.

She said people who have things to be

picked up should have the junk on the curb by 9 a.m. If they are unable to move the junk themselves, they can call the Chamber at 899-7130, Schyler Goodwin at 821-4653 or Clouse at 890-3641 to get on the list for help.

People who want to volunteer for the cleanup should call the same phone numbers so the planners have an idea of how many will be available to help.

A barbecue will be held at noon at the Rasure Lumber lots for the volunteers.

Saturday also marks the beginning of the county's effort to keep electronic waste out of the landfill.

Sherman County commissioners contracted with Guaranteed Recycling Xperts

from Denver to take electronic equipment starting Saturday.

People who have computers or electronic devices like toasters or microwaves can take them to the transfer station north of town from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. There is no charge to county residents.

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said the company will collect computer hard drives, and will certify destruction of a drive for \$5.

The county household hazardous waste site will hold its spring collection from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 28, at the building on the west side of Cherry Avenue across from Pizza Hut.

Sherman County very wet based on area moisture index

By Tom Betz *The Goodland Star-News*

The National Weather Service office in Goodland says the moisture level in northwest Kansas is highest in the border counties and that there is no sign of a drought.

A drought statement released April 2, by Jerry Killingsworth of the National Weather Service, reported there is no sign of drought conditions in Sherman, Wallace, Greeley, Thomas, Sheridan or Gove counties. Drought recovery was reported in Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur and Norton counties.

His report shows the average precipitation across each county, and gives the average rainfall for 1 month, 3 months and a year.

Sherman is the highest, with a value of 200 percent for 1 month, which Killingsworth said would be considered very wet. The 3-month average for Sherman is 150 percent and 130 percent for a year.

Cheyenne County has a 175 per-

cent level for 1 month, 140 percent for 3 months and 115 percent for a year.

Wallace County's average is 140 percent for 1 month, 130 percent for 3 months and 110 percent for a year.

Greeley County has a 130 percent average for 1 month, 125 percent for 3 months and 115 percent for a year.

Gove County is the highest county to the east with a 150 percent average for 1 month 125 percent for 3 months and 120 percent for a year.

While Rawlins County shows drought recovery, the moisture average is 50 percent for 1 month. Thomas and Decatur counties moisture percentage for 1 month is at 70 percent. Sheridan County has a 90 percent average for 1 month, and Norton County has a 95 percent average for 1 month.

Killingsworth said a value of 50 percent would be considered dry while the value of 200 percent would be twice normal and considered very wet.

As an indication of the improving conditions, lakes and reservoirs in the Tri-state Area are showing slow improvements.

At the end of February, Bonny Reservoir north of Burlington showed and increase of 697 acre feet bringing it to 30 percent of average and 26 percent full. Swanson Lake east of Benkelman, Neb., had an increase of 2,631 acre feet, bringing it to 48 percent of average and 35 percent full. Keith Sebelius Lake near Norton had an increase of 2,655 acre feet, bringing it to 80 percent of average and 32 percent full. Harry Strunk Lake near McCook, Neb., had the largest increase of 7,363 acre feet, bringing it to 98 percent of average and 94 percent full.

The forecast for the next few months show equal chances for below average, average and above average moisture in the area. Killingsworth's report said the drought conditions should continue to improve.

Infant death syndrome awareness day on Friday

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, the name give to a mysterious killer that takes the lives of infants, has special meaning to the staff at JMC Engineering in Goodland.

The firm, *Spring for SIDS*, which is handling the construction of the Goodland Energy Center, is sponsoring a Spring for SIDS Day on Friday.

Teresa Sieck of JMC said the event is important to the company because one of their employees, Trevor Shaw, lost a baby to SIDS in January.

"Trevor and his wife Kendra were enjoying their 2 1/2 month old baby girl, Katilina Rose, when she was lost to SIDS," Sieck said.

To raise money for research on this baby killer, JMC employees who get a special Spring for SIDS

sticker will be encouraged to wear casual spring outfits on Friday for a \$5 donation.

"This is a great way to educate people about SIDS, raise money for research and have a lot of fun," said John McCulloch, president of the firm.

McCulloch said he expects to see many employees in Hawaiian shirts and sandals.

"We are proud to be a part of this nationwide event," McCulloch said.

Sieck said other businesses in Goodland would be participating, including Goodland Energy Center, Wal-Mart, First National Bank, Mann's Jewelry, Goodland Public Library, Teeters Abstract, Carnegie Arts Center, Kansas

See SIDS, Page 9

