


weather report

94°  
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:15 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:15 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 69 degrees

• Humidity 15 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds northwest 12 mph

• Barometer 29.63 inches and falling

• Record High 107° (1952)

• Record Low 41° (1989)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 82°

Low 49°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 30 percent chance for thunderstorms, low 50, winds northwest 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, high 70, low 45-50, winds north 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: chance for thunderstorms, high 70, low 45-50. Sunday: chance for thunderstorms, high 75-80, low 50s. Monday: dry, high 90, low 55-60.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.36 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.21

Loan deficiency payment — 24¢

Corn — \$1.86 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.63

Loan deficiency payment — 36¢

Milo — \$2.42 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.31 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.52

Loan deficiency payment — 38¢

Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.85 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.96

Confection current — \$13/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

High gas costs may cut travel

TOPEKA — High fuel prices may prompt some Kansans to drive less or cancel long trips. Farmers may feel forced to cut corners elsewhere to pay more to keep their machines fed.

Many Kansans are grumbling when they go to the pumps and pay prices that are 60 cents or more a gallon higher than they were a year ago.

The problem could persist for several more months.

“All the projections are that it’s going to go up and up and up,” said Cherie Sage, a spokeswoman for the AAA of Kansas. “Essentially, they shouldn’t expect relief for a few months.”

Average gasoline prices in Kansas are higher than the national average, according to a survey that the automobile association posts and revises daily on its Internet site.

# Office is matchmaker for farmers

**By Rachel Miscall**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

The Goodland Harvest Office, where farmers who need help cutting wheat meet up with traveling custom combine crews, will open Monday morning at Frontier Equity Exchange Co-op.

Gaynell Helweg, who has run the office for over five years, will once again take up the task of finding work for custom cutting crews, who haul combines across the nation each summer harvesting wheat.

Stephanie Koel, office assistant at the main harvest office in Colby, said that the Goodland office will be the last of four in northwest Kansas to open this year. Offices in Oberlin, Colby and Oakley opened this week.

Elmer Zodrow, who runs the Oberlin

Weather drying young corn crop

By Dana Sulsberger

*The Goodland Daily News*

Whether its dryland or irrigated, the Sherman County corn crop needs rain soon or it’s not going to make it.

Roger Stockton, manager of the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center in Colby, said he’s hearing the same story across the state.

He said drought is hurting fall crops, and without rain soon there will be more damage, but it’s not a lost cause yet.

“The crop looks better than it should with the conditions it has had

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Harvest Office in Decatur County, said it opened on Wednesday because there are custom cutters in town and wheat farmers have begun harvesting the crop.

Zodrow said drought and disease

temperatures and little rain have caused the plants to mature quickly.

“This is the earliest harvest has ever started as far as I know,” said the 75-year-old.

Koel said one reason the Goodland office is opening later than others is because Helweg is out of town. The office usually doesn’t open until late in June.

Although they have been calling to ask when harvest will start, Randy Schoenthaler, general manager of Frontier Equity, said he hasn’t seen any cutting crews in Goodland. He said they usually come in from Texas or southern Kansas.

The custom cutters will probably start arriving next week, he said, as harvest begins in Sherman County.

Cutters were working in Cheyenne County, north of Goodland, by today, however.

Tony Criswell, branch manager for Frontier Equity in Ruleton, said most combine crews are still in southern Kansas, where rain and cooler temperatures have slowed harvest.

Custom cutters have gotten to town late for the past couple years, Criswell said, because it was impossible to drive huge combines on rain-soaked fields in the south.

They could be even later this year, he said, since harvest will start a week or more early.

“This is way ahead of schedule for sure,” he said. “Local cutters will just have to start harvesting and wait for the custom cutters to get here.”



Workers for Koss Construction out of Topeka made adjustments on their equipment before starting work this morning. Work on the eastbound side of I-70 next to the Edson exit continues. Koss will begin pouring concrete on Monday.  
Photos by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

## Two exits will close Monday

**By Dana Sulsberger**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

Two I-70 exits to Goodland and Edson will be closed starting on Monday as work continues on both the freeway and K-27.

Construction on the two roads will continue through the summer. Ramps on the west side of Exit 17, the west Goodland exit at K-27, will be closed starting Monday for two weeks. This will create problems with eastbound I-70 traffic exiting in Goodland, and getting from Goodland to westbound I-70. Drivers will have to use the east Goodland or Ruleton interchanges.

Kristen Brands, spokesperson for the Kansas Department of Transportation district office in Norton, said that the department is aware of the problems caused by closing Exit 17, so they will try to complete the work as soon as possible.

Work will also begin Monday on Exit 27 at Edson, with the eastbound on and off ramps closed. The official detour will be at Brewster, which is nine miles to the east. Drivers from Goodland to Edson should use old U.S. 24 instead of I-70.

“I am not happy about it,” said Donna Armstrong, an Edson resident. “We use I-70 when we are going out of town, and a lot of people from Edson use I-70.”

“No one from the Kansas Department of Transportation contacted us about it. I was actually reading about it



in the paper this morning.”

Brands said the exit has to be closed for about three weeks to replace the pavement.

She said the department will try to get the project done as soon as possible in order to minimize the inconvenience to Edson.

“I guess I’ll accept it when it happens,” said Ester Elliott, another Edson resident.

“We usually use U.S. 24 so it doesn’t effect us that much.”

The Edson exit will be closed to allow crews to repair the subgrade of the

roadway and apply new pavement, said Construction Engineer Donna Binning, with the transportation department in Atwood.

Binning said that it would take about 20 working days to complete construction on Exit 27.

“There is a distinction between the two exits that are closing,” said Brands. “Exit 17 closing is a project done in conjunction with the city through the Geometric Improvement Grant, while Exit 27 is being worked on in correlation with the work on I-70.”

The Geometric Improvements Grant

is a program where cities ask the department for money to improve their highways.

Plans have to be approved by the department, but the city is in charge of the project.

The construction crew working on I-70 east of Goodland will start laying concrete on Monday, and on westbound I-70 they will install a sealant on the shoulder, which should take two weeks. After shoulder work is completed, all the lanes will be opened and permanent striping will be applied to wrap up this section of I-70.

## District makes offer on old shop Deal not done until owner agrees

The Goodland School Board decided at a special meeting Wednesday to make a \$65,000 offer on a vacant building north of the 8th street C-Mart that the district wants to use as a maintenance shop and storage shed.

The property, at 704 Caldwell, formerly housed an implement dealership.

President Dick Short said there wasn’t much discussion before the board decided to make J Reid, formerly of Goodland, an offer on the property.

He said they notified board members of the special meeting on Tuesday.

Member Mike Campbell couldn’t make it because he was out of town.

Short said this is the board’s first offer on the property, which has been listed at \$75,000.

The deal won’t be done until Reid agrees.

The motion, Short said, read that the offer was not to exceed \$65,000, including closing costs.

## Kitchen fire burns ceiling; damage minor

Reports of a kitchen fire Wednesday night sent fire engines screaming to 222 W. Ninth, where firefighters found a smoke-filled house but no blaze.

City Fire Chief Dean Jensen said the house, owned by Sue Smith, was full of smoke when firemen arrived, but the people who live there had already put the fire out.

No one was injured.

The chief said firefighters set up ventilation fans to air out the house.

They think the fire started when a pan filled with cooking oil that was sitting on the stove accidentally caught fire, said Jensen.

He said the fire burned a wicker wall shelf hanging above the stove and melted plastic pieces that hold in place gridwork which protects fluorescent lights in the ceiling. The gridwork fell to the kitchen floor.

The fire was not too serious, said Jensen, but did cause minor smoke damage in the house.

He said the residents did the right thing by calling the fire department before trying to put out the fire.

“They called the fire department, then went to try and put out the fire,” Jensen said, “which worked for them.”

The chief said many times people will try to put out a fire before calling firemen, and then the fire spreads out of their control and the damage ends up being more severe.