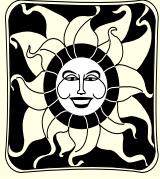


**weather report**

**72°**

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 6:47 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:34 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:46 p.m.

**Middy Conditions**

• Soil Temperature 60 degrees

• Humidity 33 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds south 30-40 mph

• Barometer 29.67 inches

and falling

• Record High 96° (1937)

• Record Low 26° (1983)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High 63°

Low 41°

Precipitation 0.32 inches

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 50 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 50, north winds 20-30 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, high 60-65, low 40-45, north winds 20-30 mph.

**Extended Forecast**

Saturday: chance of rain, high 45-50, low 40-45. Sunday: chance of rain or snow, high 55-60, low 30-35. Monday: dry, high mid 60s, low 30-35.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**

Wheat — \$2.47 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.34

Loan deficiency payment — 11¢

Corn — \$1.55 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.44

Loan deficiency pmt. — 55¢

Milo — \$2.33 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.32 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.04

Loan deficiency payment — 86¢

Millet — ask

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.20 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.38

Confection current — \$15/\$6 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$15

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean.

These may not be closing figures.)

**afternoon wire**

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

**Gore seeking to tap reserves**

HOLLYWOOD, Md.—Facing growing concern over the threat of high heating costs, Al Gore proposed tapping the government's emergency petroleum reserve to force down oil prices.

The Democratic presidential candidate also urged Congress to provide \$400 million in additional energy assistance for low income families and tax credits to oil distributors to help build up dwindling heating oil stocks.

"We need aggressive action right now," Vice President Gore said Thursday.

He said foreign producers must live up to promises to increase supplies.

Republican rival George W. Bush objected, saying, "The strategic reserve should not be used as an attempt to drive down oil prices right before the election."

## Officials meet for growth

### Focus of summit is development

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Representatives of the city and county commissions along with members of the economic development board will come together tonight to hear what Sherman County can do to grow.

Economic development committee members have organized a summit for Sherman County at 6:30 p.m. in the community room at the Western State Bank.

City and county officials will meet with Scott McGinley, director of economic development with Utilicorp United, or Peoples Natural Gas.

"Peoples Natural Gas wants to assist the communities that they work in with economic development," said Ron Harding, director of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

"He (McGinley) is a strong advocate of development in rural communities," said Stephen West, chairman of the economic development board. "We believe that he has knowledge to provide us with a clear understanding of the benefits of an Economic Development Program for our community."

The topic of discussion will be how to improve Goodland's and Sherman County's current economic development plan.

"From what I know of McGinley," said Harding, "part of the message will probably be about the value of further developing agriculture in the area."

Economic development committee members brought an economic development plan before the city commission in March. City Manager Ron Pickman said the city will set aside \$50,000 for the plan next year.

The summit was planned to further develop and discuss that plan, Pickman said, and all the members of the commission will be attending the summit, as will he.

"We don't really know what to expect yet," he said. "We are just going to hear McGinley's suggestions for Goodland."

"I would like to see as many of us as possible attend this retreat," said City commissioner Curtis Hurd when the

See MEETING, Page 7



Gary Trafcon (above), owner of Trafcon, a construction firm in Lincoln, Neb., used a machine to scrape temporary stripes from the westbound lanes of I-70 near Edson Wednesday afternoon. The firm is finishing the last phase of the I-70 rebuilding project that started a year and a half ago. Ernest Knight (below) used a power washer to blast away the striping tape. Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

## I-70 highway project coming to a close

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The bright orange barrels and signs, noisy yellow machines and men in hard hats and orange-mesh vests are expected to disappear along I-70 between Goodland and Edson next week, as the two-year repaving project ends.

Crews with Trafcon, a construction firm from Lincoln, Neb., are now using machines, a power washer and other tools to remove temporary striping, reflectors and barricades along the 10-mile project span. Work is confined to the westbound lanes of I-70, as the eastbound lanes were opened last month.

"The only phase left is permanent striping," said Kristen Brands, spokesperson for the Kansas Department of Transportation in Norton, adding that if the weather holds up the project will be done by the end of next week.

Forecasts, however, are gloomy, with a chance of rain or snow this



Brands, "it will put them back some." "If we have a wet weekend," said

Until the striping is finished, she

added, traffic will continue to be reduced to one lane.

When the eastbound lanes opened in mid-August, the department guessed the project would be finished within a week, but then the contractor had to redo part of the work.

Koss Construction of Topeka, the main contractor, repaved the east Goodland exit, Exit 19, last year, but the subgrade failed, and Koss was told to redo it in August.

The contractor also had to replace weak concrete on a six-mile stretch of the westbound lanes.

The I-70 rebuilding project began in March 1999, after years of planning. Koss ripped out two layers of old pavement, repaired the subgrade as needed and laid new, high-standard concrete pavement on the road and shoulders.

About three-quarters of the work was finished last year, including both east and westbound lanes through Goodland and the west and east entrance and exit ramps.

## Harvest is here



There are signs that corn harvest has started in Sherman County. Dave Smith, Frontier Equity employee, opened the bottom-dump hopper door on Doug Irvin's semi-trailer Wednesday evening to dump corn into the pit at the Ruleton elevator. Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

## Farmer says there's no proof seeding works

### Commissioners may put issue to a vote

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County Commissioners Tuesday discussed holding an advisory vote on the question of cloud seeding over the county as part of the experimental weather modification program.

Sherman County farmer Larry Enfield appeared before the commission during the regular meeting to ask them to consider holding the special election, and explained his concerns about the program.

"I don't want to spend hours giving you the wealth of information there is on cloud seeding," Enfield said, "but in all that has been collected over the past 30 years there is no conclusion that the process really works."

"A study of rainfall in Southwest Kansas over a 15 year period shows a deficit in rainfall," he noted. "The study does not show a large deficit, but it does not show any increase since the program began."

"In 1994 Sherman voters were asked about funding the program and it was defeated," he said. "Currently the program is funded one-half by the state and one-half by the special assessment of 18¢ per acre foot on water rights in the Groundwater Management District. Each side is paying \$181,000 for the

program.

"I called Senator Stan Clark and asked if there was any legislation on this issue and he said that since it was an experimental program there was no legislation, but that the issue could be decided on a county by county basis."

To add to his request for the vote, Enfield handed out a letter dated March 18, 1999, from Al LeDoux, director of the Kansas water office, in which LeDoux said "I want to give you notice that my staff and I have some serious concerns regarding the operation of the program in Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District."

"My staff and I believe that the weather modification program is beneficial, especially in the area of hail suppression," LeDoux wrote. "Taking this into consideration ... and my belief that local support is essential for a successful program, I request that each county commission in every county in which the Northwest Kansas Groundwater modification program is active, place the question of support before all voters in their jurisdictions."

Enfield asked commissioners Chuck Frankenfeld and Kevin Rasure if they had seen the letter before. Rasure said

See CLOUD, Page 7