

weather report

89°
at noon

Today

Sunset, 7:34 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:07 a.m.

Sunset, 7:33 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 73 degrees

• Humidity 25 percent

• Sky cloudy

• Winds north 12 mph

• Barometer 28.99 inches and falling

• Record High 102° (1938)

• Record Low 45° (1945)

Last 24 Hours*

High 95°

Low 66°

Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 50 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 60, northeast wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 80, low 55-60, east wind 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: dry, high 80s, low 50s.

Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, high 80s, low 50s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.51 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.52

Corn — \$2.01 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.88

Loan deficiency payment — 11¢

Milo — \$3.22 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.46 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.38

Loan deficiency payment — 54¢

Millet — \$4.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$8.15 cwt.

Oil new crop — \$7.25 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 95¢

Confection current — no bid

Pinto beans — \$16 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, 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.

Fires threaten more homes

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — More residents were evacuated from homes in rural areas west of Yosemite National Park as wind-whipped flames made northern California a focus of firefighting in the West.

Across the region, 44 fires were burning early today, two more than the day before, said Scott Sticha of the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho. Eleven of those were contained.

The fires active Tuesday had blackened 350,000 acres. Sticha said he didn't know how much had burned by today because he didn't know the size of the two new fires.

About 50 people were evacuated from several rural neighborhoods in Mariposa County, west of Yosemite, joining residents of more than 3,000 homes who had been urged to leave since the fire was discovered Saturday.

Fertilizer company expanding facility

Full manufacturing plant to be added to storage site

By Reaghan Smith

The Goodland Daily News

The official ground breaking ceremony for Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizer's expansion was held Tuesday at the site on 19th Street next to the existing facility, though grading for the plant has been underway for several days.

Agro-Culture, based in St. Johns, Mich., makes a high performance fertilizer product that the firms says has become increasingly popular because of its versatility and improved crop performance.

A storage facility has been operating here since 1999, originally designed to serve producers in Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, and Oklahoma, but demand has outgrown its capacity.

"We deliver to most of the western United States," said Brian Waugh, sales representative for this area.

Due to this increase in sales, the company plans both a manufacturing plant and warehouse here. The new facility will be build next to the existing facility, south of the railroad tracks on 19th Street.

A 100-foot-by-200-foot metal building, constructed by Cover-All Building Systems, will be made of steel trusses that resist corrosion, and the top will be of polyethylene, a light weight yet tough plastic, said Al Kaptein, president of Cover-All. The exterior colors will be Agro-Culture green and white. Inside will be the manufacturing plant and two storage and shipping warehouse areas.

The plant will be capable of making large volumes of all the company's major products. An increased storage

capacity of 1 million gallons will give the plant several times the capacity of the facility it is to replace.

The firm said that the construction will provide the capability to ship and receive more than 300 rail tankers of product a year to 13 states from Texas to North Dakota. Warehousing for raw materials and a side-by-side high volume truck load out will complete the expansion.

The ceremony was attended by officials of Agro-Culture; Mayor Tom Rohr, City Manager Ron Pickman and City Commissioners Chuck Luders and Dean Blume; Ron Harding, executive director of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce; Dan Barker and Bill Aston, aerial applicators of the product; Tony Witter, supervisor of logistics for Agro-Culture; John Golden, a member of Midstate Port Authority, which owns the railroad property leased to the plant; and Russ Paz, plant manager. There also were members of the Chamber; representatives of Rhoads Construction, which will be laying the concrete foundation; the president of Cover-All; and others.

During the ceremony, Witter thanked Harding for his help and support, and the support and positive reception from the people of Goodland during Agro-Culture's original move to Goodland and the expansion.

Along with the expansion comes the possibility for a few new jobs. Waugh said they may add up to four new warehouse and labor jobs by early next year.

The foundation is expected, weather permitting, to be completed and ready for building to begin in about six weeks,



Tony Witter of Agro-Culture talked to City Commissioner Dean Blume on Tuesday before the ground-breaking ceremony Tuesday at the site of the fertilizer company's new plant. Building is scheduled to begin in six weeks. Photo by Reaghan Smith/The Goodland Daily News

Phil Reitchcek of Rhoads said. Kaptein said that if the weather co- operates, the concrete should be done the middle of September, and the build- ing completed about four weeks later, around the middle of October.

Cherry may be open by Labor Day weekend

By Reaghan Smith

The Goodland Daily News

At least one of Goodland's traffic problems may soon be solved, as the Cherry Avenue project is expected to be done by the end of next week.

Venture Corp. started the project in June, and the road was closed in July in order to complete the work. The contractor is straightening Cherry and creating a more convenient entrance to Goodland.

If things go well, traffic will be allowed on the new pavement as early as the middle of next week, said City Manager Ron Pickman. The paving company will have to complete line painting and sealing after that, he said, but those are projects that can be done with the road open. In any event, it is scheduled to be open Labor Day weekend.

The annual street sealing project was finished this morning for another year, Pickman said. This project was started about the first of August by B & H Paving of Scott City. Every year about a third of the city's streets and avenues are chip sealed.

Even as street projects are ending, though, others are in the works. APAC of Hays (formerly Allied) has been contracted to lay new brick in the intersections of Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth on Main Street, where the base has failed and old bricks have settled.

This project has been planned for some time but there has been a hold up with the brick supplier. If all goes well, it is scheduled to begin by mid-September.



Crews were smoothing concrete today for the entrance to Grass Roots off the new street being paved as part of the Cherry Avenue project. Concrete entrances are being paved for all businesses along Cherry Avenue, and the side streets are being paved or overlaid. Workers at the site said

the 2-inch cap layer is expected to be put down beginning on Monday, and the street should be ready for traffic by Labor Day weekend. Work is being done on the north side of the railroad crossing, and the pavement on the old Cherry wye is being chewed up and removed. Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Attorneys, activists say licensing law discriminates

Hispanics complain

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Albert Herdoiza has lived in the Kansas City metropolitan area his entire life. He's an attorney with a statewide practice.

But when he went recently a state Division of Vehicles offices to replace a lost driver's license, he said he was asked to produce a passport or another document that would show he is a legal Kansas resident.

Tuesday for a legislative committee studying a 2000 law that requires immigrants to provide proof that they are legally in the United States.

Though a state official defended the law as protecting the integrity of the driver's licensing system, some activists and attorneys, like Herdoiza, says it leads to discrimination against Hispanics.

"You look Hispanic, you act Hispanic or your surname is Hispanic, and suddenly, there's questions," Herdoiza said. "I didn't know I was going to become a second-class citizen because of this stupid law."

The Legislature approved the law in the final days of its 2000 session, shortly after two Aurora, Colo., residents were caught in Salina, taking illegal immigrants from Colorado to Kansas to obtain driver's licenses. The two were sentenced to federal prison in January.

The Legislature's Special Committee on Judiciary is reviewing the law and plans to make a recommendation on whether it should be changed.

Sheila Walker, director of vehicles, told the committee that if lawmakers weaken the law or repeal it, "Kansas will again become a clearinghouse for

undocumented persons to obtain licenses."

But some Hispanics are angry about the law and view it as unfair. About 100 people attended Tuesday's hearing, sometimes holding up signs with slogans such as, "Driver's License for All. Safety for All," and "Si, Se Puede," which is Spanish for, "Yes, you can."

They argue that many immigrants enter the United States legally, on a work or student visa, only to remain illegally after the visa expires because the process of becoming a legal resident through the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service can take years.

Also, they argue, those immigrants still drive, just without a license and without insurance.

In addition, they told the committee that the law encourages different treatment of Hispanics and suggested that illegal immigrants who aren't Hispanic can easily obtain a driver's license.

"It's just very humiliating," said Tino Camacho, state director for the League of United Latin American Citizens.

Walkersaid division employees have undergone sensitivity training, adding, "I have never received a complaint that Kansas examiners have turned down authentic documents."