

weather report

68°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 7:25 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 6:06 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:26 p.m.

Midday Conditions
Extreme Fire Danger

- Soil Temperature 61 degrees
- Humidity 35 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds south 19-26 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.93 inches and falling
- Record High 87° (1994)
- Record Low 20° (1953)

Last 24 Hours*

High	82°
Low	36°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear and breezy, lows near 50, winds south 15-35 m.p.h.
Tomorrow: mostly sunny, 20 percent of rain showers from late evening on, high 65-70, low upper 30s, winds northwest 10-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Friday: mostly cloudy with 30 percent chance of rain or snow, high upper 40s, low lower 30s.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.64 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.52
 - New Crop — \$2.66
 - Corn — \$1.81 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.77
 - Loan deficiency payment — 22¢
 - Milo — \$1.50 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$4.06 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.00
 - Loan deficiency payment — 92¢
 - Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$8.95 cwt.
 - NuSun — \$9.10 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 91¢
 - Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$28 (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. Israeli soldiers may pull out

JERUSALEM — Ending a 10-day Mideast peace mission with little to show, Secretary of State Colin Powell said today that Israel had promised to withdraw troops from the West Bank within a week. He bluntly admonished Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat that he had to do more to fight terrorism.
President Bush said Powell had made progress, but made clear that much more remains to be done.
Israel and the Palestinians blamed each other for Powell's failure to achieve more. "Who can accept this?" said an angry Arafat of the Israeli siege of his Ramallah headquarters.
Powell, for his part, focused on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's promise to wind down the Israeli military offensive in Palestinian towns and villages, calling the operation an obstacle to starting peace talks.

Dust storm causes crash, kills man

26-year-old Gem man loses life

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

A 26-year-old Gem man died Tuesday after the car he was driving struck the rear of a semi-trailer rig on I-70 about 13 miles east of Goodland in a dust storm that cut driving visibility to almost nothing.

A report from the Kansas Highway Patrol says Jeffery Hopper was headed east in a 1996 Chevrolet about 3:45 p.m., when his car hit the back of an eastbound 1998 Kenworth tractor-trailer driven by Jay Johnson, 40, Daytona Beach, Fla.

The report says the semi had slowed because of blowing dust before the accident. Hopper was taken to the Goodland Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. Johnson was not injured and the report says he drove his truck on to Colby.

Scott Mentzer, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Goodland, said a thunderstorm that developed in north Sherman County and a cold front combined to produce high winds. He said gusts up to 60 m.p.h. were reported around 3:30 p.m. in Sherman and surrounding counties.

The winds kicked up a lot of dust, he said, because fields are dry from lack of rain and warm weather and many farmers have plowed their fields for spring planting.

Dennis Roemer, a farmer from Gove County, saw the accident.

He said he had been in Goodland to umpire a softball doubleheader between the Goodland Cowgirls and a team from Hays High School. Roemer said Dick Liess, Goodland High School's athletic director, decided to cancel the games.

"The wind was blowing pretty hard at the field," he said. "You couldn't see anything."

Roemer said as he drove east on I-70 in his Ford Ranger, he noticed traffic was heavy and the wind was blowing hard. Because of the wind, he said, he was driving about 10 m.p.h. under the 70 m.p.h. speed limit.

He said he could see what looked like a wall of dirt a few miles in front of him.



Glass flew as volunteer rescue workers struggled to free a 26-year-old Gem man from his car Tuesday after he rear ended a semi-trailer rig on I-70 in a severe dust storm. Jeffery Hopper later died at Goodland Re-

gional Medical Center. The rescuers were taking some risk working in the dust; at least two wrecks occurred due to the poor visibility.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Roemer said he decided to follow a bright orange truck because he could see it. The highway patrol said the truck was owned by North American Van Lines in Fort Wayne, Ind.

He said he turned on his lights before heading into the dust cloud. The truck ahead slowed down and moved over into the passing lane, he said, and he followed. Roemer said visibility was less than an eighth of a mile and it was hard to see anything.

Out of the corner of his eye, he said, he could see a blue car coming up fast in the right-hand lane. As the car pulled over behind the orange truck, he said, it hit the rear of the truck.

"That car was going way too fast," he said. "I don't know why he didn't slow down."

Roemer said he swerved to miss the blue car, which had stopped in the right-hand lane. He said he pulled over and had to swerve again to miss a white van parked on the side of the freeway.

The orange truck stopped and the driver got out, Roemer said. He said there were four people at the scene and

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Combo creates strong winds

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The combination of a thunderstorm and a cold front produced high winds in Sherman County on Tuesday afternoon, kicking up loads of dust off dry fields.

The storm was bad news because it didn't bring any rain for thirsty crops, caused a fatal accident on I-70 and canceled a high school softball game.

Scott Mentzer, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland, said the highest wind reported in Goodland was 47 m.p.h., but there were reports of 60 m.p.h. gusts in Sherman and surrounding counties.

He said the blowing dust reduced driving visibility to less than a quarter of a mile in some places.

The cause, he said, was a combination of a thunderstorm that developed in north Sherman County and a cold front moving in. The storm moved

east, Mentzer said, and died out in Gove County.

He said a severe thunderstorm warning was issued in Sherman County and a high wind warning was issued for surrounding counties.

While it had been windy in Sherman County all day, he said the thunderstorm didn't start developing until around 3 p.m. He said the winds had died down here by 4:15 p.m. and in Gove by 6 p.m.

The winds picked up dust off fields that haven't seen much moisture all year or this past winter.

Mentzer said it was worse because many farmers have plowed their dry fields recently. He said 1.07 inches of rain has fallen in Goodland this year, which is 1.65 inches below normal.

He said there were trace amounts of rain reported in the county but the storm didn't drop much moisture

anywhere.

"It was very light," he said, adding that it's dry in the lower levels of the atmosphere, too dry to produce much rain.

"With high-base thunderstorms," he said, "winds are usually the top problem."

Mentzer said there is a slight chance of rain later in the week.

"I wouldn't get excited about it to be honest with you," he said.

Mentzer said fire danger in Sherman County is extreme today because of the warm, dry weather. He said the county was in extreme fire danger on Tuesday, too.

Temperatures are supposed to cool down tomorrow, he said, which will lower the threat.

He said the weather service issues a fire danger statement when there is extreme fire danger saying that people should be careful when burning.

Sherrer says he won't seek GOP nod for governor

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer said today that he won't seek the Republican nomination for governor because of family concerns.

Sherrer, the state's longest-serving lieutenant governor, said last week he was considering running as speculation grew that Attorney General Carla Stovall would drop out of the GOP race. Stovall ended her campaign Monday and urged her running mate, House Speaker Kent

Glasscock, to seek the Republican nomination.

Sherrer said he wouldn't run because his eight years in state government, including six as lieutenant governor, had consumed too much time.

"I found, to be honest with you, too many days with my family that I've missed," Sherrer told reporters at a Statehouse news conference. "There are too many days gone by that I haven't seen friends."

"I owe my family some things," Sherrer did not endorse any other candidate and

said he would not run for lieutenant governor again.

He also ruled out serving as a cabinet secretary in the next administration and said he won't become a lobbyist.

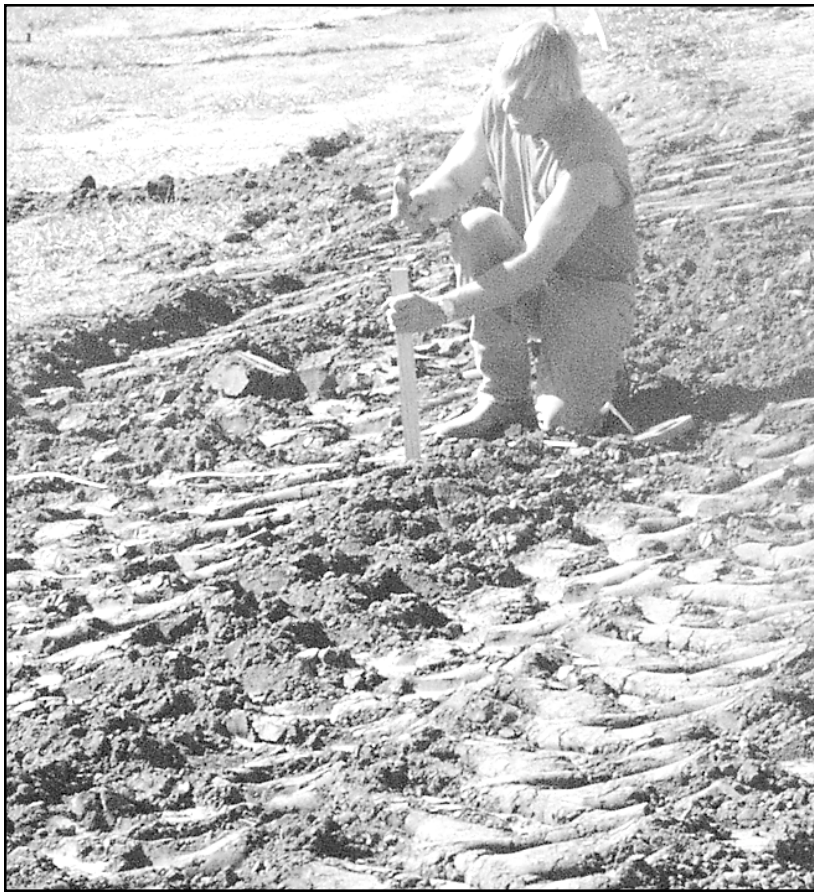
"You'll be hearing me say, 'Do you want fries with that?' before you hear me say, 'Will you vote for this bill!'" Sherrer told reporters.

Sherrer decided last year against running for governor and joined many GOP moderates in endorsing Stovall, whom many in the party consid-

ered the leading contender.

But he told reporters today that he had been encouraged to enter the race after Stovall dropped out. He said he believed he could have won the race and been a strong governor but, "It is not in the best interest of either my family or myself."

Before Stovall entered the race, Sherrer said moderates need to unite behind a single candidate to prevent State Treasurer Tim Shallenburger, considered the conservatives' choice, from winning the nomination.



Jim Riepl of Cahoj Earthmoving pounded stakes into the ground north of the K-27-U.S. 24 intersection Tuesday morning.

Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Road work is right on schedule; crew should begin paving soon

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

Road work in Sherman County seems to be moving right along on schedule, and paving at the intersection at K-27 and U.S. 24 should start soon.

On the west side of the intersection, crews are modifying the subgrade, the layer between the dirt and the concrete paving, said Donna Binning, construction engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation in Atwood. A machine mixes together dirt, a cement-like binder and an aggregate made of recycled asphalt with water, Binning said, and it binds together with a chemical reaction like cement.

Binning said her best guess is this step should be done in 5 to 6 days at the intersection, then the crew will move on to Cattletrail, which will take a week or two to complete.

Paving will begin as soon as the subgrade of the intersection is done and a concrete crew becomes available,

Binning said. Laying pavement is almost like laying a driveway, Binning said. Wet concrete is placed on the road, and a machine with rollers will flatten it out.

A crew comes behind the machine and hand finishes the concrete. The concrete is about 10 inches thick, and will support 4,000 to 5,000 pounds per square inch, Binning said, which is much stronger than someone would get in a driveway.

"It's also why it costs so much to pave these roads," she added.

The newly paved roads take four to seven days to cure, Binning said, and then crews will lay down temporary stripes.

Permanent markings will be put down when the whole project is complete, she said.

The first step of the construction was milling the roads, grinding up the asphalt so it can be hauled away.

The west side of the intersection is

completely milled, and there was a drop-off at one point of over three feet. It is currently about a foot, Binning said, but she says drivers still have to be careful.

Concrete road barriers were not necessary, Binning said, because of the short length of the drop-off, and the slow speed of traffic.

The west side of the intersection should be finished by May 15, Binning said. Workers will then close down the east side.

The new road connecting 19th Street and U.S. 24 will be finished by that time, Binning said, and drivers will be able to use it as a detour.

North of the intersection on K-27, crews are laying down the final pavement lift.

Crews started capping the highway at the Sherman-Cheyenne County line at the end of March, and have worked

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