

weather report

81°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:16 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 82 degrees
- Humidity 45 percent
- Sky partly sunny
- Winds southeast 12 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.22 inches and falling
- Record High 105° (1936)
- Record Low 40° (1946)

Last 24 Hours*

High 99°
Low 69°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly cloudy with 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, low upper 60s, winds south 10-20 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny with 20 percent chance of rain, high lower 90s, low mid 60s, winds south 15-35 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: partly sunny with 20 percent chance of rain, high 90s. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.90 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.79
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$1.96 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.87
- Loan deficiency payment — 12¢
- Milo — \$1.63 bushel
- Soybeans — \$4.24 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.36
- Loan deficiency payment — 30¢
- Millet — \$4.25 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$10.40 cwt.
- NuSun — \$10.55 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Confection current — inquire
- Pinto beans — \$27

(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.

Nearly 20 fires burn in U.S.

An out-of-control wildfire roared across 60,000 acres of forest in eastern Arizona today and began burning structures on the outskirts of a deserted community, officials said.

The town, Pineal, was one of three that were evacuated after the fire exploded on Wednesday. As many as 4,000 people fled Pinedale, Linden and Clay Springs as the fire swept toward their homes.

The fire was one of 19 major blazes burning across the nation today, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho. Overall, wildfires have scorched 1.84 million acres so far this year, more than double the 10-year average through this time of the year. In Colorado, veteran Forest Service worker Terry Barton was charged Wednesday with deliberately setting a wildfire.

Tornadoes in area do little damage

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

Tornadoes were spotted all over northwest Kansas on Wednesday night, including one six miles north of Edson, but little damage was reported. Another round of storms was expected today.

Thunderstorms covered the sky from McCook, Neb., to southwestern Kit Carson County in Colorado, bringing tornadoes and hail, but not much moisture.

"There was a lot of activity in the tri-state area last night," said Randy Coleman, meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Goodland.

The storms produced tornadoes near Oberlin, Atwood and Herndon from 4:45 to 6 p.m. Herndon reported some wind damage.

At 6:45 p.m., a weather spotter reported a tornado north of Edson, heading southwest towards Goodland. The storm soon weakened and a tornado warning for Sherman County expired at 7:30

p.m.

The thunderstorms didn't move much, Coleman said. They formed along a stationary front and spread slowly to the northeast and southwest. As one storm died, the one next to it built up.

Three-fourths of an inch hail was reported at 4:45 p.m. south of Sharon Springs, and two-inch hail fell at the same time near McCook. As late as 11 p.m., Coleman said, hail was falling in Cheyenne County in Colorado.

Goodland didn't get any rain. In Colorado,

Yuma received .65 of an inch, Wray got .28 of an inch, and Burlington had a trace.

"Precipitation was spotty," Coleman said. "It looks like we might get another round this afternoon. Some of them might become severe."

The weather service received many reports of the severe weather from trained weather spotters and other people, Coleman said.

"We appreciate getting calls from the public and weather spotters," he said. "It helps us serve everybody."

City to attract business

Law would reduce costs for companies

The City of Goodland is trying to encourage businesses to come to town with a plan to reduce the cost of permits and utility hookups.

The city staff is working on an ordinance which would reduce costs for companies that want to build a new building, City Manager Ron Pickman said at a meeting Monday, by paying for part of the permit and utility fees.

Work on the plan started last month when the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce asked the city to waive some costs for a new restaurant.

At first, Pickman said, the city came up with a plan which would allow companies to spread out payments for the fees over three years. He said, though, that he talked to the City of Colby and found that it is much cheaper to install utilities there. In one example, Pickman said, Colby would charge a new business \$4,800, and Goodland \$10,360. Goodland has to change its policies if it wants to attract businesses, he said.

"Before, the philosophy of the city was 'If somebody wants to put something in, they can pay for it,'" Pickman said. "Under the new proposal, the city would pay for a lot of the work."

He said that the cost of the materials and time will stay the same, but the city would help pay for some of it.

"We hope that we would make up the cost in sales taxes, user fees, utility fees, and increasing the tax base of the entire county," Pickman said.

The city commissioners agreed to let the staff work on the plan.

"We're competing with the people down the road," Commissioner Curtis Hurd said. "With these costs, I can see why people might want to go somewhere else."

Pickman said some items in the utility budget would have to be increased to cover the costs, but it should not be a problem.

"(Colby) pays for it by not subsidizing their general fund from electric as much as we do," he said. "Then they use the money to handle construction."

Commissioner Chuck Lutters said he endorsed the plan because there is no incentive now for businesses to come to town. The other commissioners agreed.

"I think Goodland would benefit from this more than it would lose," Hurd said.

"This is a good way to encourage economic development," Commissioner Rick Billinger said. "This is something we can do."



Quigg McCombs (left), an employee in Goodland Greenline's parts department, worked at a computer at the store this morning with a co-worker. The business was one of five that won an award from the state last week. Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Five businesses win state award

Firms honored for involvement

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Five Goodland businesses received awards from the state last week for working to improve the economy in Kansas and the lives of people in Sherman County.

Two of the businesses were singled out as making the largest contributions in northwest Kansas.

It was the most awards Goodland has received in the state's annual Business Appreciation Month program, which began about seven years ago, and the first time businesses here have earned regional achievement honors.

The Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing gave awards to 48 northwest Kansas businesses at a regional ceremony last Wednesday in Stockton.

There will be six regional ceremonies held across the state this month. The program, started by Gov. Bill Graves and Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer, is



Chad Tuttle (right) and Mike Briney, Bankwest commercial lenders, looked over paperwork this morning. Because of their efforts helping secure loans for small businesses, the bank won an award from the state last week.

one of the department's Business Appreciation Month activities.

Businesses are nominated by their city's Chamber of Commerce or other economic development organizations and the awards are divided into four categories: manufacturing, distribution, service and retail.

Three Goodland businesses received "merit recognition awards," including First National Bank, 202 E. 11th, and Mueller Grain, 17th and Center, in service and Knott Just Books, 1102 Main, in retail.

At the ceremony, one company in each of the four categories was picked

to receive a "regional achievement award."

Bankwest of Kansas, 924 Main, won in service, and Goodland Greenline, 1104 W. Hwy. 24, won in retail.

Only three businesses in this region won achievement awards because there were no nominations in the distribution category. Paul Wertenberger Construction, Hays, won in manufacturing.

The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce nominated Greenline and Mueller. Pioneer Country Development in Hill City, a non-profit organization that helps small businesses find money, nominated Bankwest and First National, and the Fort Hays State University Small Business Development Center, which helps owners manage their businesses, nominated Knott Just Books.

Ron Harding, Chamber executive director, said the department sends out a list of criteria businesses should meet including educating their employees, being involved in economic and com-

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Economic group meets with county, to hold public meeting

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Members of the new Sherman County Economic Development board met with the county commissioners Tuesday to present a budget, the list of board members and a request for the county to give money to the program.

The development group members will hold a public meeting at 7 p.m. tonight at the Elks Lodge to present their recommendations and plans and get public opinion before a resolution for the county is drafted.

Board member John Garcia told the commissioners the agency would like to operate under the county.

"We are at a crossroads," Garcia said, "and we need to approach this on a positive aspect to facilitate growth. We all must be on the same page,

and we want to thank the Goodland Chamber board members for their support of our program."

Garcia reported that the city commission had approved giving the new group \$12,000 remaining in this year's budget for economic development, and that they would consider more money in next year's budget. The group asked the city for \$50,000.

Garcia said the group was asking for \$43,000 remaining in the county budget for economic development, and asked that commissioners put \$50,000 in the next year's budget.

Garcia said the group's plan is to raise \$20,000 through donations and memberships.

"We are at a crossroads and we need to approach this on a positive aspect to facilitate growth."

— John Garcia
New economic group member

Frankenfeld said he thought the group was getting things in order, and he was in favor of what they were doing.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he was glad to see the effort of the group and that it appeared everybody was trying to cooperate.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure, a member of the group, said he was pleased to see the budget, and

would hope the group could get the resolution drafted soon to allow the commissioners to appoint the economic development board under the county.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she had been in contact with surrounding counties about how they have established economic development programs, and had provided copies of the information to Kim Bohme, treasurer of the new group.

Bohme said this information was being used to help write the resolution.

The next step is to have the economic development by-laws committee and County Attorney Bonnie Selby meet to draft a resolution for the commissioners to review and approve setting up the details of the agency. The plan is to have the resolution ready for the commissioners by their next meeting on Friday, June 28.