

weather report

78°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:59 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:48 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:58 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil Temperature 86 degrees
- Humidity 35 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds southeast 15 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.22 inches and falling
- Record High 108° (1938)
- Record Low 50° (1927)

Last 24 Hours*

High 83°
Low 57°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear with 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, low near 66, winds south 10-20 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny with 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high near 95, low near 64.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly sunny, high near 94, low near 64. Monday: partly cloudy, high mid 90s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.52 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.38
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$2.37 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.24
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$2.04 bushel
- Soybeans — \$5.03 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.17
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Millet — \$7.00 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
Oil/NuSun — \$12.05 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Confection current — inquire
- Pinto beans — \$25
(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.

Bush to widen U.S. markets

WASHINGTON — An elated President Bush promised to move quickly to expand American markets overseas after Congress voted to give him broad authority to negotiate global trade agreements.

"I look forward to bringing some trade agreements back to the Congress that will help workers and farmers and ranchers," Bush said in a call to Senate leaders after the Senate voted 64-34 to restore the trade negotiating, or fast track, authority that Congress has withheld from the White House for eight years.

The trade package also includes a 10-year, \$12 billion plan to help workers who lose their jobs because of trade and renews a program of low tariffs with Colombia and three other Andean nations designed to make them less reliant on illegal drugs.

Fair may cut voter number

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Although almost 80 percent of Sherman County adults are registered to vote, many may be too busy with the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair opening up to cast a ballot during the primary election on Tuesday.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said voter turnout could be low because people will be too involved with the week-long fair, which starts on Monday. She added it doesn't help that there are no Democratic races and no big contest in the county.

But Rumpel said she's staying optimistic.

"I imagine it'll be light," she said. "I hope it'll be better."

Rumpel said she's hoping 40 to 50 percent of registered voters come out. That would require at least 1,700 people to cast ballots, as there are 4,055 registered voters in the county.

Voter turnout varies with each election, Rumpel said, and is usually lower when there are no county contests.

There was a race for Chuck Frankenfeld's seat on the Sherman County Commission, but farmer Royal Reid decided to drop out for personal reasons. That leaves only Chuck Thomas, a farmer who lives southeast of Edson, seeking to represent people in District No. 1. Frankenfeld has to give up the office because he's moving out of the district.

Only people living in District No. 1 can vote, Rumpel said. The district covers an area east of Broadway Avenue to the Thomas County line and includes all of Ward 3, Ward 4 south of Sixth Street and Iowa, Itasca, Union and Washington townships.

There will be only one true county

See stories on county commissioner and state insurance commissioner candidates, plus a list of state and national candidates on Page 4.

race, Rumpel said, and not many people will get to vote in that one. Republicans Carol Gattshall and Judith Coon are both seeking a party county committee position in Voltaire township.

Democrats won't have any candidates to choose from at all, Rumpel said, because there are no Democratic races either at the state or national level. The Republicans will have to make some decisions.

At the state level, there are hot races for governor, attorney general, insurance commissioner, state treasurer and state board of education in the 5th District. There is also a national race for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Pat Roberts, though it's not considered close.

Voting booths will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

People in Ward 1 can vote at the city building, 204 W. 11th; Ward 2 and 3 at the United Methodist Church fellowship hall, 12th and Sherman; Ward 4 in the courthouse lobby, 813 Broadway; Kanorado city and Stateline township at the Kanorado Senior Citizen's Center; Itasca, Lincoln and Voltaire townships in the courthouse lobby; and Grant, Logan, McPherson, Smoky, Iowa, Llanos, Shermanville, Union and Washington townships at the Methodist hall.

City's budget comes with small tax cut

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland City Commission plans to pass a \$10 million budget Monday, up about \$128,000 from last year, about 1 percent, but including a small property tax decrease.

The city plans to spend about \$10,092,000 in 2003, up from \$9,964,000 from this year. A hearing to answer questions about the budget and to consider any objections will be held during the commissioners' meeting at

5 p.m. Monday at the city administration building.

The proposed property tax mill levy is \$49.989 for every \$1,000 of appraised property in 2003, a slight drop from this year's \$50.034. There will be more money to spend because the city's property valuation increased to about \$23.4 million from \$22.9 million this year.

During a budget workshop last

See BUDGET, Page 7



Sunflowers swayed in the wind as a storm brewed in the background this weekend at a plot east of Goodland. The clouds dropped a little rain, but not enough to bring the county out of its "extreme drought" classification. All fall crops are suffering, even the irrigated ones. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Drought killing fall crops

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

No amount of rain can save the dryland corn, Sherman County crop specialists say, and even irrigated plants that are watered every day are starting to die.

And it's not just the corn that's in danger.

Extreme drought and scorching heat are damaging and killing all of the fall crops, as Sherman County ended July more than 3 inches below the normal rainfall level for the month and almost 9 inches below normal for the year.

Mike Lammers, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Goodland, said it was the third driest July in history and if the dry spell continues, it could be one of the driest years on record.

"We're really, really getting dry," he said.

David Snyder, grain merchandiser at Frontier Equity Exchange, said it's safe to say all of the dryland corn is

dead or severely damaged from drought and hot weather. He said he hasn't taken a close look at the irrigated corn, but has heard it's suffering, too.

Snyder said all you have to do is look at a dryland corn field to know something is wrong. The plants are only about knee high, brown and shriveled.

"What you see is what you got," he said.

It's pretty much the same story for all of the fall crops, Snyder said, adding that the summer harvest was disappointing, and the fall picking likely will be, too. Fall crops include corn, sunflowers, milo, pinto beans, soybeans, millet and alfalfa, and are usually harvested around mid-September or later.

"It's going to be a pretty slim year all the way around," Snyder said.

Dana Belshe, the Sherman County agriculture extension agent, agreed.

He said the dryland corn has no

yield potential left, and the hot, dry weather is starting to kill the irrigated corn.

Belshe said some irrigated plants aren't getting enough water to survive because the heat is causing moisture to evaporate off the ground and plants quicker than the farmer can put it on.

"They're losing more moisture than they can put on in a rotation of circle," he said.

Several farmers have stopped watering part of each field, Belshe said, so they can devote more water to a smaller area.

Dean Graber, an independent crop consultant, said there is no irrigation system that can keep up with the current evaporation and transpiration rate. Some farmers have abandoned part of their corn crop, he said, and have been pumping as much water as they are allowed, but it's still not enough.

See CORN, Page 4

Mini model



4-Her Lacie Cowan modeled her fair entry during the 4-H Public Style Review on Thursday at the Sherman Theatre. The show's theme was "Proud to Look American," and the stage decorations reflected that. Participants' outfits will be judged and they will receive ribbons later. Find a schedule of other fair events on Page 7.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Parade grand marshal following in dad's path

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Marcia Evert said her husband, Steve, was bred to be involved in 4-H and the county fair.

Steve's father, LeRoy, helped start the Ruleton Eager Beavers 4-H Club, and was a leader for 10 to 15 years. He served on the fair board for 12 years. Because of his contributions to 4-H and the fair, LeRoy was named grand marshal of the fair parade in 1982, the year before he died.

Steve, a Sherman County native, has followed right in his father's footsteps.

When his dad went off the fair board in 1980, Steve said he took his spot, serving for 20 years, including 10 as board president. He was 4-H hog superintendent and 4-H pig project leader for 10 years.

On Saturday, Steve will be recognized just as his father was 20 years ago.

The 4-H Ambassadors have picked Steve and Marcia to lead this year's fair parade as grand marshals. The parade will start at 6 p.m. Saturday on 17th and Main Avenue, moving north up Main.

Jan Lohr, ambassador adviser, said as far as she knows this is the first time the grand marshal has followed a relative

in the honor.

Steve, who farms south of Caruso, said someone called to ask if he and his wife would be the grand marshals. He didn't hesitate in saying yes.

"I think it's a privilege and an honor," he said. "It's a combination of a lot of years of work they are honoring me for."

When asked what his duties were as fair board president, Steve said he did "everything and anything."

"A better question would be 'What has he not done?'" Marcia said.

Steve said he helped build new steel hog pens, move the show room arena and start the Catch-It-Calf and Catch-It-Pig contests, in which 4-Hers win calves and pigs they get to raise for the fair.

"I just tried to keep the fair going as much as possible," he said.

As hog superintendent, Steve said, he checked in the pigs, weighed them, helped to sell them and delivered them to packing houses.

Steve, who used to raise pigs himself, said as a pig project leader, he shared his knowledge of how to care for the

See MARSHALS, Page 7