

weather report

83°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:52 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:54 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:51 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 81 degrees
- Humidity 48 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds southeast 15 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.11 inches and slowly rising
- Record High 108° (1934)
- Record Low 46° (1939)

Last 24 Hours*

High 99°
Low 66°
Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high upper 90s, low mid 60s, winds southeast 10-20 m.p.h. Saturday: partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high upper 90s, low lower 60s.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly clear, high mid 90s. Monday: mostly clear with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms during the night, high mid 90s, low lower 60s.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Heat hurts crops

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

After a wet spring got their hopes up, Sherman County farmers are finding July's sweltering heat and lack of rain may bring a disappointing fall harvest.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius issued a drought warning for northern and western Kansas at the end of July, and the National Weather Service isn't able to offer a lot of hope for upcoming moisture.

The service, on its National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration web site, forecasts only a slight chance of rain for today and Saturday nights and Monday and Tuesday afternoons, but it only projects seven days in advance. If the needed rain is farther down the road, farmers will have to wait and see.

Sherman County farmers say dry-land crops are suffering. Irrigated corn yields will depend largely on when the plants tasseled out. When it's too hot and dry, the corn won't pollinate, producing ears with few kernels.

The drought is likely to affect next year's crops as well if subsoil moisture remains short. Besides that, a poor crop affects people and businesses not directly engaged in farming.

Dan Mangus, who farms five miles northeast of Kanorado, said his irrigated corn looks pretty good so far.

"It's hanging in there," he said.

Mangus said timing helped, as his corn pollinated later than some farmers' crops, when the temperatures were in the 80s and 90s, rather than the 100s.

Corn doesn't pollinate well in 100-degree weather, he said.

Dale Stephens, who farms 16 miles northeast of Goodland, agreed. He said his corn pollinated while it was hot, and the ears didn't fill out.

"There went about a third of the crop," he said.

After the corn tassels, said Lynn Hoelting, general manager of Mueller Grain Company, the farmers want cooler temperatures to allow

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Which way is up?



In the Howdy Rowdy Rodeo at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair, one youngster (above) in the 8-12 year old calf riding contest got bucked off a calf right out of the gate Tuesday evening. Casey Quagliano (right) held onto a goat while trying to untie a string from its tail. Photos by Shannon Davidson The Goodland Star-News



local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.15 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.12
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Corn — \$2.19 bushel
 - New crop — \$2.02 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.91
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 5¢
 - Milo — \$1.83 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$5.01 bushel
 - Millet — \$4.50 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$8.50 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.19
 - NuSun — \$8.75 cwt.
 - Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.
 - New Crop — \$17/\$10 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — Withdrawn
- (Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

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Ranch rodeo quite a show

The True Grit team from Cheyenne Wells, Colo., tackled a cow during the team doctoring competition of the Third Annual Ranch Rodeo Wednesday evening at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair. More rodeo photos on Page 10.

City budget adopted, airport project approved

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily-News

There were no questions or discussion from the audience Monday as Goodland city commissioners adopted a \$13.2 million budget for next year which includes a slight decrease in the property tax levy.

Commissioner Chuck Lutters made the motion to approve the budget. It was seconded by Commissioner Dean Blume and passed unanimously 4-0 with Mayor Rick Billinger and Commissioner John Garcia voting in favor. Commissioner Dave Daniels was absent.

The total budget for next year is \$13,270,413, but the property tax levy will be \$2,200 less than this year. In the budget workshops last month, the commissioners agreed to hold the property tax level and not ask for any increase.

The commissioners approved a

request for reimbursement from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for \$30,249 for water well drilling. City Manager Ron Pickman said the city efforts to find new sites for two wells were unsuccessful, and this payment is part of the \$2.4 water project loan the city received in April 1998.

The city has paid Clark Well and Equipment of Great Bend, Pickman said. The city has about \$40,000 remaining available on the loan, and will continue to look for water.

Looking at water usage reports, Pickman said the city pumped 39,562,000 gallons in June, but the July figure jumped to 91,851,350 gallons. He said this was not as high as last year, but close.

He said the income level for the water department was at 39 percent at the end of June. He said the jump in July water use should help boost

Water park closes Wednesday

Free admission for last few days

Steever Water Park will close after Wednesday because most of the life guards have gone back to college, but the City Commission decided that the last week of swimming is on the house.

Monday night, City Manager Ron Pickman told commissioners the water park will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday because there will not be enough life guards left to

keep it open. He said pool hours have been cut back to 1-5 p.m.

Mayor Rick Billinger suggested the city not charge any admission during the remaining days. He said it would not cost the city a lot of money, and be a way to give kids a chance to have fun before the water park closes for the season.

Billinger asked how many life guards it takes to have the pool open, and whether there were any adult certified life guards who might be willing to help keep it open for a few more weeks.

Pickman and Jason Hickson, city recreation manager, said most of the life guards are college students. He said there are several who have told him they will not be coming back next year because they will be graduating.

"We are hoping to put together a life guard certification course to run in May before the pool opens," Hickson said. "We would like to have some high school students as well as anyone else who might be interested."

"It takes at least three life guards to keep the main pool open."

Goodland Marine honored

The City Commission honored a Goodland man who has been serving with the U.S. Marines in Iraq at its meeting Monday.

At the opening of the meeting, Mayor Rick Billinger presented a key to the city and a pen to Jeremy Cloyd, who has recently

returned from overseas duty.

Billinger said he felt it would be good to honor all of the young people from Goodland who have been serving in Iraq, and asked the other commissioners and the staff to see if a list could be put together.

that, but that there will probably need to be a water rate increase.

The commissioners approved a bid from Strukel Electric of Girard for replacing the runway and taxiway lighting at Renner Field, the city airport.

Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly and Hutchison engineering told the commissioners there were three bids on the project, and that they all came in well under the estimates.

Strukel was the low bidder at \$256,213; Wichita Electric bid \$299,083; and Kayton Electric of

Holdrege, Neb., bid \$325,258. This is a Federal Aviation Administration project, with a 10 percent match from the city.

The lighting project is to provide new runway lights for the north-south main runway and the taxiway, along with a building to house a new light vault.

Neufeld said this will be a complete replacement of the existing lights and will include new radio controls for pilots to turn the lights on when landing. He said each light has a transformer. They hope to save

as many of the existing lights as possible to install on the crosswind runway, which does not have any lighting at present.

"Our options are to work with the contractor to salvage as many lights as possible, and since the project came in way under the estimate, to ask the FAA for money to help install those lights on the crosswind runway," Neufeld said.

He said all three contractors are well qualified and have done this