

weather
report

77°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 6:00 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:04 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:58 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 69 degrees

• Humidity 15 percent

• Sky clear

• Winds north 16-23 m.p.h.

• Barometer 30.21 inches

and rising

• Record High 90° (1921)

• Record Low 18° (1976)

Last 24 Hours*

High 90°

Low 50°

Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: partly cloudy then clearing, high mid 80s, low mid 40s, winds west 10 m.p.h. and changing to the northwest 5-10 m.p.h. Wednesday: mostly sunny, high mid 80s, low lower 40s, winds northwest 5-10 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: partly cloudy, high mid 80s, low lower 40s. Friday: partly cloudy, breezy, high mid 60s, low mid 30s. Saturday: mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain, high lower 60s. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.95 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.98

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.08 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.92

Loan deficiency pmt. — 4¢

Milo — \$1.82 bushel

Soybeans — \$6.87 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.66

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$10.25 cwt.

NuSun — \$10.80 cwt.

Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.

Pinto beans — Withdrawn

(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigoo Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside
today

More local
news and
views from
your
Goodland
Star-News



Cowgirl off
to state golf

Senior Jessica Osborn got a send off Friday when she left for the state Class 1A-4A high school golf tournament. The tournament was scheduled for today in Salina.

Heat breaks the record — twice

You thought it was hot this weekend? You were right.

The mercury broke records both Saturday and Sunday, touching 90 degrees Saturday and soaring to 92 on Sunday.

The high Saturday set a record for Oct. 18, beating the old record of 87 degrees set in 1958. The 92 degrees Sunday set the record for Oct. 19, two degrees high than the record of 90 set in 1958.

John Darnley, a technician at the U.S. Weather Service in Goodland, said a weak cold front that moved through Monday morning brought some relief, but the thermometer still was expected to hit 83 today.

Unusually warm weather can be expected through Thursday, he said, and more records could be broken, but it's likely we've seen the hottest part of the month.

Darnley said it was rare to have the record broken two days in a row, but it happens, because when the weather is that unseasonable, "some type of anomaly is occurring."

"Basically," he said, "we had high pressure that just wouldn't give way to anything."

The high blocked cool weather from the north, he said, but also kept moisture from moving up from the south. That kept things dry, but the low humidity did make the heat more bearable.

The weather should break by Friday, when the high is expected to be about 65. Cool weather will continue Saturday, with a high around 48, Darnley said, and a 20 percent chance of rain Friday night and Saturday.

Most likely, though, the rain will start east of here, the technician said, maybe around Hays. The weather next week should be near normal, with highs in the 60s and lows in the 30s.

Did we say it's been dry?

As of Monday, Goodland was 5.02 inches below normal rainfall for the year. Darnley said precipitation was near or slightly above normal through June, when the bottom fell

out. It's been below normal ever since, killing off dryland corn and threatening the fall-planted wheat crop.

"This is the worst condition for the wheat crop at this time of year I've seen for a long time," said Dana Belshe, Sherman County agricultural extension agent.

The wheat is dry, Belshe said, and the record high temperatures combined with a lack of soil moisture will be tough on the crop.

In last week's crop weather report, the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service said nearly all of northwest Kansas had inadequate topsoil moisture. Only 2 percent of the region had adequate subsoil moisture.

Gasket firm sets an event

Public invited to meet manager

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp. wants the public to attend the formal announcement of its relocation to Goodland 1 p.m. Thursday at the Northwest Kansas Technical College student union.

Roy Dixon of Goodland, project manager for the move, said that the firm's new chief executive officer and the plant manager for Goodland will be introduced. Dixon said he will remain with the firm once the move is complete.

The firm is hoping to start manufacturing operations here by the end of November. However that depends on whether the old IGA building downtown, which has been undergoing major renovation, is ready for the firm.

Ed Wolak, Goodland director of public works, said the exterior of the city-owned building should be complete within the next two weeks. The electrical system needs to be completely redone prior to the firm moving in, he said, and that will begin once more of the exterior is finished.

The city and the business community are cooperating to make the firm's move as quick and smooth as possible. The move is expected to create 30-50 new jobs within the first few months, increasing to as many as 100 within a year.

For information, call Dixon at (785) 694-3247.

Jumping into the day



A Central Elementary student got off the bus Monday and leaped to the ground, ready to begin another week of classes and fun.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Fort Hays, tech college will join forces

President Edward H. Hammond of Fort Hays State University will stop in Goodland on Friday to announce a new partnership between the university and the Northwest Kansas Technical College.

A news conference is scheduled for 11 a.m. at the college Murray Center.

The partnership guarantees that

credit earned by a student completing a program at the college will be accepted by the university should the student continue his or her education there.

Hammond sets aside a week each fall to travel around Kansas, meeting with community leaders and talking about the university's problems and successes. Hammond said

he expects the current economic downturn to last three more years and thinks Fort Hays State will continue its "Affordable Success" campaign.

Basically, with the state budget uncertain and money hard to find, Fort Hays decided to get more money by growing enrollment rather than raising tuition. Other

Regents institutions took the opposite tack, hiking their fees.

In 2003, Fort Hays State had the largest enrollment increase, 15.3 percent, of any Kansas university for the second straight year.

Dr. Hammond said the university has set a goal of at least a 10 percent increase for next fall, hoping to build on its success.

Feeding the multitudes



Marie Edwards (center) and Violet Peters (right) manned the serving line Saturday morning at the 14th annual Senior Center Pan-

cake Feed. The breakfast raised \$2,000 from donations and more than 400 tickets sold.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

R's owner leading race in the south

Halfway through this year's election for a new Mayor of South Goodland, more than 100 people have cast ballots and checked out the specials at south town stores.

In the running tally by *The Goodland Star-News* ad staff, nearly half the votes — 48 of the 108 cast so far — went to write-in candidates under "Got a Better Idea?" Sixteen write-in victims, uh, candidates, split the vote.

Of the official candidates, Rod Cooper of Crazy R's held a slim lead over Jim Alcorn of Shelter Insurance, 25-23. Dan Brenner of Dan Brenner Ford-Mercury and Looking for Louie Yarger are tied for third and/or last with 9.

"Looks like Dan and Louie did real good with their immediate families," said one observer.

The dark horse of the race seems to be Doyle "Smokey" Atkins of McB's, whose 7 votes made him front-runner of the write-in pack.

The election continues until the close of business Friday, Oct. 31. Official ballots will be available in the next two Friday editions of *The Star-News*. People can cast their votes at any of the businesses listed on the ballots.