

weather  
report

65°  
noon  
Monday



Today

• Sunset, 6:53 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:30 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:51 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 56 degrees

• Humidity 52 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds southwest 5-10 mph

• Barometer 30.35 inches

and steady

• Record High today 98° (1955)

• Record Low today 34° (1965)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday 65°

Low Sunday 41°

Precipitation none

This month 1.90

Year to date 15.07

Below normal 1.90 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near

84, winds out of the southwest at

5 to 10 mph and a low around 49.

Wednesday: Sunny with a high

near 85, winds out of the south at 5

to 10 mph and a low around 51.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny with a high

near 86 and a low around 52. Fri-

day: Sunny with a high near 84 and

a low around 54. Saturday: Mostly

sunny with a high near 81 and a low

around 50. Sunday: Mostly sunny

with a high near 81.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$6.73 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.57

Corn — \$5.33 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.17

Milo — \$4.65 bushel

Soybeans — \$10.76 bushel

Posted county price — \$11.43

Millet — \$7 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$21.20 cwt.

Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)

(Markets by Scoular, Sun Opta, Frontier  
Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may  
not be closing figures.)

inside  
today

More local  
news, views  
from your  
Goodland  
Star-News



Cowboys  
lose to Eagles

Freshman Riley Oharah (34) stopped Colby Eagle senior Tanner Kriss, preventing a long run in the first half of Goodland's game against their rivals Friday. Goodland lost 2-6. See story, photos on Page 10.



Barrel hangar  
rehabilitation  
work begins

The old 1934 Works Progress Administration barrel hangar at Renner Field has been saved from the wrecking ball, and work has begun to rehabilitate the building to allow it to once again store airplanes.

Frank Black (center) and Dean Oharah screwed a reinforcing stringer ww to the inside of the roof of the barrel hangar.

Oharah said he was working for John Topliff who has leased the property and purchased the hangar from the city. Topliff has been working on saving the hangar for about two years, and the city approved a 30-year lease in August to let Topliff get his crew going on the rehabilitation project.

Oharah said he and Black had put in about 200 stringers to reinforce the roof, and once that was completed they would begin pulling the old roof off the building to make way for a new metal roof. He said the new stringers have helped shore up the roof, especially in the northeast corner where it had sagged the most.

Other improvements have been made to the electrical service and Oharah said Topliff is considering new doors for the front of the hangar.

The city had condemned the hangar more than two years ago, and it was scheduled to be demolished, but that was postponed when Rich Simon, public works director, was in an accident involving his powered parachute and a power line.

The hangar and original runways were built as part of the WPA program during the depression, and housed aircraft and at times the National Weather Service and members of the Watson Hevner family for 20 years.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



Grant helps buy mobile radio repeater

By Tom Betz

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With the help of a grant secured by a citizen volunteer group, Sherman County will have a mobile radio repeater to help in emergencies.

On Tuesday, Crissy Conger, county communications director; Judy McKee Community Emergency Response Team coordinator; and Undersheriff Roger Studer explained the mobile radio repeater program to Sherman County commissioners, asking them to approve paying for maintenance on the system.

Conger said the mobile repeater would be a back-up in case the power went out for the main repeater the sheriff's office has on the top of the Northern Sunflower plant at Caruso.

McKee said the money for the mobile repeater came from a \$7,000 state-federal Homeland Security grant the Sherman County Citizen Corps received this year.

Conger said got bids from two firms for the mobile repeater. Nex-Tech was the lowest bid at \$3,547 and Prairie States Communication of Imperial bid \$5,383. She said the Prairie States bid included a \$400 carrying case, but when subtracted the Nex-Tech bid is the lowest. She said the other costs including the antenna and licensing to bring it up to \$5,000.

She said once the mobile repeater is here she and the sheriff's office and volunteer group can decide what kind of carrying case they want to use. She said the mobile repeater will be ready to be loaded in the sheriff's six-by-six emergency operations truck, along

with a portable 40-foot mast antenna.

"This will help in case the power goes off at Caruso or if the radio signal is not good enough to reach the repeater in a remote part of the county," she said.

She asked the commissioners to sign a memorandum of understanding that the county is accepting the hardware and agrees to maintain the system. She said the radio duplexers for each department will cost about \$350 each and the rural fire, sheriff and ambulance service will pay for those.

She said the grant will pay for the license fee of \$550.

McKee said the \$7,000 was the largest grant the volunteer group has seen for over five years.

"Our only form of communication has been our cell phones," McKee said, "but if

the power is out that doesn't work.

"We wanted to see if we could help improve the communications in the whole county, and the state approved our plan."

Conger said the volunteer team members don't have radios, but she has radios they can use. She said Police Chief Ray Smee can program the radios for the team to use the fire talk-around frequency. She said it is a radio-to-radio frequency, and the team members can use those.

"We will give this a try to see if it will work," she said.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked McKee if the team members would carry the radios. McKee said the team members will pick them up from central dispatch if the

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Developmental service cutbacks  
won't affect Sherman County

By Tom Betz

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Cuts announced last week by Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas will not affect services in Sherman County, officials here said Friday.

Clarence Scheopner, Sherman County board member for the group, said the cuts were necessary because the group got less money from the state and federal government than expected.

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas provides residential home assistance, work opportunities and individual education and training to developmentally disabled people in the 18-county region of northwest Kansas. The organization receives state money through the Kansas Department of Social Services and matching federal money under the Social Security Act program for aid to the aged, blind or disabled.

"What's so unfortunate is we have spent years building up services that are closer to home for people," said Jerry Michaud, board president.

"And now, because of a lack of adequate funding, we are forced to make some difficult changes that kind of undo that progress."

Michaud said when the state legislature finished with the budget the organization was to get a 2 percent increase. He said it was good to get an increase, but it was not enough to offset the rising costs for food, heating, wages and health insurance the organization was facing.

"It doesn't impact Sherman County," Scheopner said. "We will still take care of the people here, and will take care of some of those in Thomas County."

"The big jolt is closing the Wheatland Developmental Center building in Colby. We had to cut down on the utilities, and the building in Colby takes a lot of heat and was the least used."

Wheatland Developmental Center provides day care and education and training support for clients. The building will be closed by Oct. 1, and plans are to sell the building.

Scheopner said some of the clients from Thomas County would be

moved to an operation in Atwood, and the Oakley office will be cut down some. He said a house in Hoxie that the agency does not own will be cut down some as well.

"We were already short on our last budget," Scheopner said, "and they did not give us any increase at all for the residential building. With the prices going up, there was no way to continue without cutting somewhere."

"We are not cutting clients, we are cutting staff. We have to lay off a total of about eight people across the district. It is just like a row of dominoes, and it keeps going down."

Scheopner said he has been involved with the program for about 40 years because a daughter needed the agency's help. He joined a group that started in Atwood, which later joined with agencies in Colby, Hill City and Hays to create the regional nonprofit group.

"It is always a struggle," he said. "We are trying to avoid going bankrupt, and we depend on the state and

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Prairie dog letters ready,  
posion bait ordered

By Tom Betz

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The annual assault on prairie dogs in Sherman County will begin in October, and Tuesday county commissioners heard that everything is about ready, with letters going out to landowners where prairie dogs have been spotted and poison bait on order.

Daryl West, noxious weed and prairie dog-control director, said he had a letter prepared to send to landowners who have prairie dogs laying out the program and telling them the county would pay for one-third of the cost of the bait. Landowners will be billed for the other two thirds.

West said he was preparing a letter to about 10 landowners who did not buy bait last year. Commissioner Chuck Thomas suggested that West consider having a school for landowners about how to apply the bait.

West said he has had calls from landowners in eastern Kansas who own land in Sherman

County and saw the story in *The Goodland Star-News*. He said they want him to take care of their prairie dogs.

West said he is going to be sending out about 200 letters in all. He said he had bids from three suppliers for the poison bait.

Van Diest Supply from McCook, Neb., was the cheapest at \$1.88 per pound, West said. UAP of Goodland was \$1.90, and Helena Chemical east of town was \$1.97 a pound.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked if Van Diest had an operation in Sherman County. West said they were in McCook, and a pallet would be \$300 cheaper than UAP.

Thomas suggested getting more 50-pound sacks to use on larger projects.

West said he the 50-pound sacks are cheaper, but he wants to get some of the 30-pound buckets because those are easier for the

See POISON, Page 8

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