


**weather report**

**81°**  
noon  
Thursday



**Today**  
• Sunset, 8:07 p.m.

**Saturday**  
• Sunrise, 5:40 a.m.  
• Sunset, 8:06 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**  
• Soil temperature 76 degrees  
• Humidity 61 percent  
• Sky mostly sunny  
• Winds north 10 mph  
• Barometer 29.94 inches and rising

• Record High today 110° (1936)  
• Record Low today 51° (1950)

**Last 24 Hours\***  
High Wednesday 93°  
Low Wednesday 67°  
Precipitation 0.01  
This month 3.13  
Year to date 13.86  
Above normal 1.07 inches

**The Topside Forecast**  
Today: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, a high near 98, winds out of the west at 5 to 10 mph switching to the southeast and a low around 67.

Saturday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 83, winds breezy out of the north at 15 to 30 mph.

**Extended Forecast**  
Sunday and Monday: Mostly to partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 90 to 94 and a low around 65.

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

**local markets**

**Noon**  
Wheat — \$4.61 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.40  
Corn — \$3.19 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.45  
Milo — \$2.90 bushel  
Soybeans — \$9.19 bushel  
Posted county price — \$9.64  
Millet — \$5 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$15.60 cwt.  
Confection — \$28/\$15 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)  
(Markets by Scoular Grain, 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



## Pre-fair week



Sidney Winston and her dog were practicing for the agility competition on Wednesday morning for the Dog Show starting at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday as part of the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair. As part of the agility competition dogs jump over barriers, go through hoops, tunnels and other obstacles. The dog show, horse show and style review happen the week before the rest of the fair activities.  
Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News



## 4-H dog show opens pre-fair Saturday

The Northwest Kansas District Free Fair gets underway Saturday morning with the annual 4-H Dog Show in the ag building at the county fairgrounds.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the competition begins at 8:30 a.m.

Various events for the fair continue through next week with pets and cats being judged at 1 p.m. on Monday at Wheat Ridge Acres.

The pre-judged clothing entries will be shown on Tuesday at the 4-H building and the

style revue will be at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday at the United Methodist Church.

The public style revue and awards presentation will be at 6 p.m. on Thursday at the Sherman Theatre.

The Sherman County 4-H Horse Show will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday.

The big fair events begin on Saturday with the parade at 5 p.m. on Main Ave. followed at 7 p.m. by the Kiwanis Demo Derby at the fairgrounds arena.

Fair week opens Monday with 4-H judging through the day and at 5:30 p.m. a free hot dog feed sponsored and at 8 p.m. family fun night events.

Tuesday will be judging of 4-H animals and at 6 p.m. the kids pedal tractor pull. The carnival will have wrist band night beginning at 7 p.m.

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. is the Western Plains Chute Out with the Professional Bull Riders in a special event in front of the grand-

stand. The PBR program will include the antics and humor of Punkintown Clown.

Thursday at 6 p.m. is the Howdy Rowdy Rodeo.

Friday at 5:30 p.m. is the 4-H livestock sale and at 7 p.m. is the modified tractor pull in front of the grandstand. The carnival will have their second wrist band night.

Saturday, Aug. 8, at 1 p.m. will be the Tri-State Royal of Champions.

## Western Plains Chute Out tickets going well

**By Tom Betz**  
nt.betz@nwkans.com

Tickets are selling steadily for the Western Plains Chute Out Professional Bull Riders event planned for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 4, during the Northwest Kansas District Fair.

Tickets went on sale July 1, and can be purchased online at www.goodlandca.net/PBR or physically at Homestead Realty, 1023 Main Ave. All adult tickets are \$20 each, and kids 10 and under are \$10.

The local rodeo group Thunder on the Plains has worked hard to raise the more than \$45,000 it takes to underwrite the event, and Randy Whitmore, a member of the committee, said the ticket sales are going well.

Whitmore said the group hopes to have a sellout crowd for the event, and are bringing in enough bleachers to bring the total seating at the fairgrounds to about 3,000.

He said they expect to have some top-name bull riders among the 40 who will perform that night, and that adding \$15,000 to the prize will help. He said the top 10 riders will get a second ride to determine the champion.

He said the champion from last year's event, Dusty LaBeth of Louisburg, will be among those returning. LaBeth was one of the few in the first section of 40 riders last

year to make it to the 8-second horn and had a score of 87. In the final short round of 10 riders he was one of four who made it to the 8-second horn and had an 88 score.

The whole show took less than two hours to go through the 50 bulls. In the end the bulls had bucked off 36 cowboys to the 14 who managed to make it to the 8-second horn. Of that four made good rides in both the long and short rounds.

Whitmore said the rodeo clown this year will be Punkintown Clown (Frankie Smith) from Charlotte, S.C.

"I will have Wrangler 'The World's Smartest Horse' and we have lots of things we can do to put smiles on all the faces," Punkintown Smith said in a phone call on Thursday. "I am looking forward to being in Goodland with my wife, Laurie, on our tour across America. I will do my best to prove I am a 'level-headed' dude, and show off my hillbilly dancing."

It has been 14 years since Punkintown Smith started his journey in the Rodeo business. He will tell you he has been "rode hard and been put up wet" but there is nothing he would rather be doing than making people laugh from his stage, the rodeo arena.

"I've been a comedian all my life," said Punkintown. "We had lots of females in our family and



Punkintown Clown and his horse Wrangler. I had to do something to get some attention!" Wherever there was a crowd, Punkintown was sure to be smack

in the middle of it telling tales and funny stories. Soon the crowds grew to thousands and were coupled with entertainers such as Willie Nelson, Patty Lovelace, Aaron Tippin and many more. He first realized his comedic potential when he was at Army basic training. He and a buddy were goofing off and Punkintown was doing a fine impression of his drill Sergeant... when he happened to walk in the door and catch him!

"Private Hillbilly," said the Sergeant, "You think you're funny? Let's see how funny you are!"

The Sergeant had him perform for other companies for \$50 per show and the Sergeant kept the money.

Punkintown has come a long way since his days in the army. He now performs at rodeos around the country. Punkintown enjoys providing an island of safety for the cowboys while keeping the audience in stitches between rides and is sure he will leave the Goodland crowd laughing.

Whitmore said the local committee decided the one-day event seems to work well.

"It does seem to fit better in the schedule," he said, "coming between two other big events."

Whitmore said anyone interested in the PBR events can go to pbrnow.com and click on the Touring Pro Division button.

## Citizens asks county commissioners to do a tax sale

Sherman County held a tax sale last year, and Mike Campbell asked the commissioner on Monday to request the county do a tax sale this year.

Campbell said he has a property next to his that has four years of delinquent taxes he would like to purchase. He said for some reason it was not on the last tax sale, and feels the property is depreciating his property because of the condition it is in.

The commissioners said they would consider the request and would have to talk to County Attorney Bonnie Selby who was absent from the meeting.

Campbell said he felt if the county had a tax sale each year it would be easier than the last one because there wouldn't be the number of parcels as there were when the county waited so long between tax sales.

In other business the commissioners:

- Held a conference call with John Parrish of Mikey Group about combining the maintenance contracts the county has on equipment with an eye toward saving money.
- Parrish said his group has been working with the State of Kansas for the past two years. He said the group is out of Charlotte, N.C., and work with other states and municipalities. He said the company can cover the maintenance on almost all equipment the county owns. He said his company contacts with the vendors who sold the equipment to the county, and when there is a problem the county calls the same vendor to come do the work. When the work is done the vendor sends the county a bill and the county sends the bill to Remi Group to be paid.

Parrish said by having one contract instead

of all the maintenance contracts the Remi Group can save the county 25 percent on what they are now paying for maintenance contracts.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad asked why Sherman County would be working with a company out of North Carolina rather than ones in Kansas.

Parrish said the county would be using local people to do the maintenance or repairs who are paid for their work.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked Parrish if he could provide references from other counties who use the service and if Remi Group does proposals on the cost.

The commissioners asked Parrish to e-mail some additional information and a proposal.

- Met with Jay Jolly, hospital administrator about the continuing effort to turn the ambu-

lance service over to the county in January.

Jolly and the commissioners reviewed an inventory list for the ambulance service. Jolly said some of the equipment had been purchased through emergency management grants. That equipment has to be transferred to the new owner without any cost.

Thomas asked if the list included the depreciation and Jolly said it did not. He said they listed what the equipment cost.

Bruce Gleason, ambulance director, was asked about the inventory list. Gleason said the radios listed are no longer there. He told Jolly the Keynote pagers are with Kevin Sanderson and are for lab and radiation. Gleason said he had a question as to whether the county would want the storage cabinets on the list.

**Slammers take third**

Slammer Stephani DeLa-Rosa was the pitcher and had some great games said Coach Andy Scheopner. The Slammers finished in third place, and had a season record of 28-5. See story, photos on Page 12.

