

weather report

76°

10:30 a.m.
 Monday



Today

• Sunset, 7:20 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:15 a.m.
 • Sunset, 7:18 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 77 degrees
- Humidity 57 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds southeast 10 mph
- Barometer 30.09 inches and rising
- Record High today 104° (1990)
- Record Low today 42° (1964)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	101°
Low Sunday	60°
Precipitation	.1
This month	3.12
Year to date	15.81
Above Normal	.11 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 92, winds out of the southwest at 5 mph and a low around 64.
 Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 96, winds out of the south at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 68.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny and hot with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 99 and a low around 62.
 Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 85 and a low around 60.
 (National Weather Service)
 Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
 * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Head him for home



Skye Howard of Arapahoe, Colo., rounded the last barrel and headed her horse for the finish line during the open division of the Summer's Sailing Away barrel race held Saturday at the Northwest Tech Boyington Arena. Coach Lester Cress said the event was a success and will have results later. Several local girls including Nicole Sederstrom competed in the open event.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

I-70 work continues in county

Work continues on the three-year project to reconstruct a portion of I-70 from the Colorado/Kansas state line to Caruso (Exit 12).

Work of several sub-contractor will continue through September and are expected to wrap up for the winter by the middle of October.

Workers with Klaver Construction, of Kingman, have been extending concrete drainage structures along the portion of the corridor and their work should be complete within the next two weeks.

Bridges Inc., of Newton, is working on the seven eastbound bridges; and Fulsom Brothers, Cedar Vale, is in the process of replacing guardrail on the eastbound lanes, preparing for head to head traffic next year. The bridge work is scheduled to wrap up by Oct. 15.

Ninemire Fence Construction, of Hill City, is replacing the existing fencing – which is original to the 1970 construction of that portion of interstate. The existing fence is being replaced with five-strand, barbed wire fencing.

Sporer Land Development, Inc., of Oakley, is in the process of performing earth work throughout the project. They are constructing the crossovers at several locations west of the Colorado/Kansas state line, Caruso, Kanorado, and at the eastbound travel information center. Klotz Sand Company, of Holcomb, will be paving the crossovers sometime this fall.

IES Commercial Inc., of Hol-

See I-70, Page 5

local markets

10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$8.05 bushel
- Posted county price — \$8.09
- Corn — \$7.64 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.43
- Milo — \$7.26 bushel
- Soybeans — \$13.41 bushel
- Posted county price — \$13.43
- Millet — \$5 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$13.43 cwt.
- Confection — no bid
- Pinto beans — \$28
- (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



By Tom Betz

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The handwriting was on the wall when the U.S. Postal Service announced at the end of June the decision had been made to shut down the mail processing centers in Colby and Hays and move processing services to Salina.

That decision causes a ripple effect across the area stretching all the way to Kanorado and moving pick-up times up by about three hours in Sherman County to make the truck carrying mail to Colby and beyond.

Goodland Postmaster Penny Sheldon said the changes will go into effect the middle of September. She said the details have changed a bit in the past weeks, but the plan is to have all outgoing mail at the Goodland Post Office by 12:50 a.m. each day to be on the truck leaving at 1:30 p.m. for Colby.

Currently the afternoon mail pickup is 4 p.m. for the truck leaving at 4:30 p.m. to Colby.

Local mail will still be sorted at the Goodland and Colby post office, but mail heading outside the 677 zip codes – the nine northwest counties – will go to Salina first. The postal service said mail for the 678 code will change from overnight to two-day service. Zip codes beginning with 664 to 666, 668 to 672 and 674 to 675 will go from two-day to overnight service.

However, these improvements will only be in effect for mail that makes it to the post office before the trucks leave. At a public meeting in May Colby Community College, Plains District Manager Rick Pivovar said trucks will have to leave as much as three hours earlier from all post offices in the area so the mail can get to Salina. Some mail carriers, especially those in rural areas, may not be able to make it back to the office in the afternoon to get mail onto the trucks.

The changes in postal delivery times will force some changes for The Goodland Star-News including production deadlines, said Editor Tom Betz.

“Our staff has been working hard to move our production time from a 1 p.m. deadline to the new one at 11 a.m.,” he said. “We hope this will allow us to make the outgoing truck, but it will mean things we have done mid-morning will have to be done earlier.”

“An example is the weather will now be from 10:30 a.m. rather than noon, and our markets will be earlier than in the past. We have let the funeral homes know we will be needing any death notices by 9:30 a.m. to get them written and in the paper.”

“We know getting the paper out on time is important to our readers and our advertising customers. We understand the Post Office is facing financial problems, but are not

sure these measures will save what Pivovar claims.”

Along with the time changes people in Kanorado and Edson face the closure of their post office under a closure plan of up to 3,700 post offices the U.S. Postal Service announced in July. In Kansas 134 post offices including the two in Sherman County are being studied for closure.

Kanorado citizens have been told a public hearing will be held on the possible closing of the post office, and is planned to be held at the Kanorado Senior Center. A date for that meeting has not been announced. A similar meeting will be held for Edson, but the location and date have not been announced.

Among the Kansas post offices on the list are several in the southeast including Geuda Springs.

In an opinion column in the Aug. 7, Wichita Eagle, the post office closure was discussed.

“A school, a grocery store, a restaurant and a post office. The first three of those four brick-and-mortar markers of a self-sufficient small town took direct hits in Kansas from ’60s school consolidation, multiple recessions and other stressors. Now, the last one is on its last legs, rattling rural communities and fueling questions about how small Kansas towns can sustain themselves,” the column said.

As Shannon Wendt, the city clerk of Geuda Springs, population 225, told the Winfield Daily Courier: “The post office is the one big thing that we still have, and I’m kind of fearful for what’s going to happen to our community.”

If they close, these rural post offices will be missed for their neighborly conversations and wealth of information. As a recent e-mail from the Inman-based Kansas Sampler Foundation noted, “in some cases the post office is the only business left in the town. It’s where people meet each day. It’s the place for news. It’s the evidence that ‘we are still a town.’”

Will potential recruits under Gov. Sam Brownback’s rural opportunity zone program be deterred by a “closed” sign on the local post office? The Kansas Sampler Foundation sees the loss of a community’s post office leading to the loss of its zip code in favor of the “Closest Big Town’s zip code,” meaning the name of one’s hometown would no longer appear on a letter. That would target a small town’s very identity.

As the process proceeds, Kansans should speak up and make sure officials know how losing their post office would affect their lives and communities. As the Kansas Sampler Foundation put it: “Put up a fight.”

Postal pick-up times change soon

Cowgirls show tonight

Supporters of the Goodland Cowgirl volleyball team will get their first look at this year’s squad at the scrimmage at 6 p.m. today at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See photos on Page 12.

Cowboys show off hitting skills

Cowboys put on a good show on Friday at Cowboy Stadium and Cowboy Cy Paxton caught pass from Gage Ihrig, but he was immediately hit by Ricky Milke for little or no gain. The Cowboys season opener is on Friday. See story and more photos on Page 11.

