

**weather
report****80°****10:30 a.m.
Thursday****Today**

• Sunset, 8:15 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:16 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 73 degrees

• Humidity 53 percent

• Sky mostly cloudy

• Winds southwest 10 mph

• Barometer 29.85 inches

and falling

• Record High today 107° (1952)

• Record Low today 41° (2001)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 98°

Low Wednesday 52°

Precipitation none

This month 0..29

Year to date 4.71

Below normal 3.21 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 87, winds breezy out of the southeast at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 62. Saturday: Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 87, winds out of the south at 10 mph changing to the northeast and a low around 61.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 91 and a low around 66. Monday: Sunny with a high near 95 and a low around 63. Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 91 and a low around 65.

(National Weather Service)

**local
markets****10:30 a.m.**

Wheat — \$5.96 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.93

Corn — \$6.12 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.12

Milo — \$5.77 bushel

Soybeans — \$12.93 bushel

Posted county price — \$13.57

Millet — \$12 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$25.30 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, views
from your
Goodland
Star-News

**Local teams
doing well**

The Goodland summer sports teams are racking up the wins. The 12 and Under Softball Team won a Dodge City Tournament and the Swim Club won the Wray meet on Saturday.

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County, city firefighters battle field fire



Sherman County Rural firefighters were called to a field fire in southern Sherman County that was sparked by lighting Wednesday evening. Fire Chief Brian James said the fire burned an area one half mile long and

600 yards wide. City firefighters and Wallace County firefighters as well as Sherman County personnel and local farmers were called in to assist. The 20-30 mph winds caused several flare-ups while the firefighters

were battling the blaze, but they had it out by 7:40 p.m. The fire was located near County Roads 20 and 54.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News



Gov. Sam Brownback spoke briefly at the ground-breaking ceremony for the New Goodland Energy Center on Wednesday.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Governor helps break ground at ethanol plant on Wednesday

By Kevin Bottrellkbottrell@nwkansas.com

A collection of dignitaries including Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback helped dig the ceremonial first shovel-full of dirt at the ethanol plant at the New Goodland Energy Center on Wednesday.

Brownback, along with Kansas Agriculture Secretary Dale Rodman, Commerce Secretary Pat George, State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Rep. Rick Billinger and Mayor John Garcia, broke ground at the ethanol plant, which is being finished by NextGen Energy, a Michigan company.

Construction on the plant began years ago under a collection of local investors, but construction was

halted in 2008. In 2010, NextGen Energy began looking at the site. They made the purchase earlier this year, and are working towards getting the plant in full production by the end of the year.

Rick Johnson with NextGen welcomed everyone to the ceremony. He remarked on the progress the company has made with the site, saying that when he first visited the plant, there was standing water everywhere.

Johnson introduced Garcia, who thanked the Goodland Ambassadors for helping organize the ceremony. Garcia also introduced the dignitaries

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State officials unhappy with new maps

By Kevin Bottrellkbottrell@nwkansas.com

Maps drawn by by federal judges in Kansas City left the state House and Senate districts covering the northwest corner of Kansas with two incumbents, sending the House district that once served Goodland and Colby to Olathe.

Maps proposed in the Legislature would have avoided the head-to-head election matchups, but none of them was ever passed. A fight over control of the Senate between conservative and moderate Republicans left the redistricting process up to the courts.

That means Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, a long-time incumbent Republican from Grinnell, and Sen. Allen Schmidt, a Hays Democrat, both now live in Ostmeyer's 40th District, which shrinks from 17 counties to 13 1/2 but now takes in Democratic-leaning Hays.

The 121st District shifts to Johnson County, where population continues to grow. The 120th, which had run from Cheyenne to Phillips counties along the Nebraska line, now takes in Goodland and Colby,

throwing Republican representatives Rick Billinger of Goodland and Ward Cassidy of St. Francis into a primary race.

"This is bad for Kansas," Sen. Ostmeyer said Wednesday, summing up the opinions of many officials toward the redistricting maps handed down by three federal judges late last week. "I'm tremendously disappointed. We're elected to do this job, and we failed."

While the House had a map done and approved quickly, he said, the Senate didn't even start until late in the session. The process got bogged down in the fight between conservatives and moderates.

When the session ended, several days over the usual 90-day limit, no new legislative maps had been approved. The process went before three federal judges, who issued their opinion, along with new maps, on June 7.

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt could appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Billinger said the attorney general hasn't given

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Horse trailer rolls over on I-70

A horse that had been inside a trailer that rolled over on I-70 on Saturday afternoon escaped major injury and was on its way back home soon after.

Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts said Elvis Organista, 20, of Garden City, was traveling east on I-70 when his right wheel went over the line. When he corrected to get back in the roadway, the ball of the trailer hitch came out. The trailer struck the guard rail on the overpass at Exit 17 and flipped onto its side. It came to rest partly in the passing lane.

Butts said a passing couple from

Loveland, Colo., stopped to help. They had been traveling to a rodeo on Garden City and used their trailer to take Organista's horse to the veterinarian. After it was checked out, Butts said, the couple took it with them to Garden City.

Butts said the report indicated that the trailer hitch had been loose, and most of the threads were worn off.

No people were injured in the wreck. An ambulance was initially called to the scene, but instead it continued south to take care of a girl that had twisted her ankle at the Youth Outdoor Skills Day.

Schools meet progress requirements, replace windows

By Pat Schiefenpjschiefen@nwkansas.com

The Goodland School Board and Superintendent Bill Biermann heard that Central Elementary School, Grant Junior High and Goodland High School had met the Annual Yearly Progress goals for the year at their building. Whether the school district as a whole made it has not been released yet. In the school district as a whole the subgroups such as English Language Learners and at-risk populations have in the past not been able to meet Annual Yearly Progress goals.

Biermann said that he and Gordon Pettibone have the program Bushels for Bleachers set up at the local elevators. Those bringing crops to the elevator can donate so many bushels. The bleachers they are raising money for, is new ones for the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The window replacement for



Tom Rohr and his employees at Dependable Glass worked on the window replacement project at Goodland High School. The project includes replacing all the windows in the building and should be finished by the end of July. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Goodland High School should be done by the end of July, said Biermann. Dependable Glass is doing the project.

The State of Kansas passed a bill,

said Biermann, that would pick up the fees for the district for those juniors and seniors that take classes at Northwest Tech. Previously the district paid the fees.

Central Elementary Principal Harvey Swager and West Elementary Principal Verna Milnes said they are considering having a supply fee for all students instead of issuing a list of materials parents needed to get. Milnes said she hoped that the district buying in bulk would actually cost parents less than them buying the supplies.

Board member Gennifer House thought that it was important that the district check with Walmart if they buy the supplies in bulk.

Goodland High Principal Mike Hubka said they have been working on their eligibility policy for next year to include all students not just athletes. If a student failed two classes in a week the next week they would not be able to go to for example a school dance the next week.

Hubka said they were working on making their cell phone policy

consistent in every class. Also a note about the surveillance cameras will be in the handbook.

Also the period configuration at the high school will change some for next year, said Hubka. On Monday, Thursday and Friday every class will meet. On Tuesday and Wednesday they would run a block schedule like they currently do.

Grant Junior High Principal Steve Raymer said they will be offering four electives for next year including keyboarding, family and consumer science, band and vocal.

All of the district principals talked about the fact that switching to Common Core Curriculum would require students to more writing. Raymer said the switch would not involve dropping the strategies they were using now but that they would change.

The board paid \$332,288 in bills.



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