

weather report

73°

10:30 a.m.
Monday



Today

• Sunset, 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:30 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:14 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 74 degrees
- Humidity 61 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds northeast 15 mph
- Barometer 30.28 inches and steady
- Record High today 107° (1954)
- Record Low today 47° (1895)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	82°
Low Sunday	63°
Precipitation	1.22
This month	1.22
Year to date	6.63
Below normal	3.97 inches

The Topside Forecast

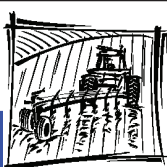
Today: Mostly sunny with patchy fog before 9 a.m., a high near 84, light and variable winds switching to the southeast at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 60. Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 89, winds out of the south at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 65.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny with a high near 90 and a low around 67. Friday: Sunny with a high near 92 and a low around 67. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 91 and a low around 67.

(National Weather Service)

local markets

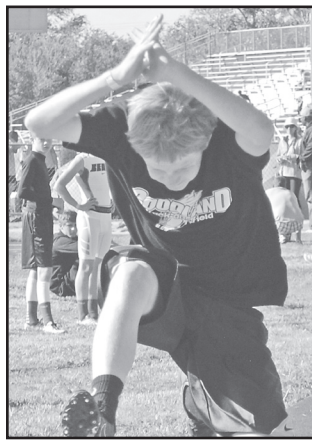


10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$7.70 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.45
 - Corn — \$7.47 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.95
 - Milo — \$7.02 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$15.06 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$15.22
 - Millet — \$11 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$24.65 cwt.
 - Confection — no bid
 - Pinto beans — \$28
- (Markets by Scouler 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



Athletes earn spot at games

Five Goodland athletes will be heading to Houston on July 28 for the Junior Olympic Games after qualifying at a meet in Joplin, Mo.

See Page 10

Area sees first significant rainfall



The rain left standing water all over town, including at the Main Avenue brick project, so much that it had to be pumped out Sunday afternoon. Several puddles and a lot of mud were left over.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County residents woke up Sunday morning to the first significant rainfall in months.

The National Weather Service is reporting 1.22 inches of rain fell in town. A thunderstorm blew overhead Saturday evening, resulting in several severe thunderstorm warnings, but only a few sprinkles of rain. The significant rainfall began in the early morning hours and only stopped around 11 a.m.

Before Sunday's rain, Goodland had received just 5.41 inches of rain this year. Since June 1, less than an inch has fallen. Normally the area sees about 10.5 inches by the end of June. Last year 10.83 inches had fallen by this time. The rain may signal the end of the heat wave. Sunday's temperatures only

reached 82. The Weather Service is predicting a high of 84 today, with 89 on Wednesday, 90 on Thursday and 92 on Friday.

Gov. Sam Brownback recently issued new Drought Declarations, listing 36 counties as under a Drought Emergency. Most of the rest of the state is under a Drought Warning, with a few counties in the northeast and southeast under a Drought Watch.

A Drought Emergency allows for emergency water conservation plans and emergency withdrawals from publicly-owned lakes and reservoirs. It is unknown whether the rainfall will be significant enough to change Sherman County's classification or warrant the lifting of local burn bans.

County, city may cooperate on station

By Kevin Bottrell

kbottrell@nwkansan.com

Sherman County and the City of Goodland may be close to an agreement to turn the old IGA building into a joint city-county fire station and ambulance building if an engineer determines the project is cost-effective.

The county had been moving ahead with a new building to be located at Eighth Street and K-27. The county will be taking over the ambulance service from Goodland Regional Medical Center on Jan. 1 and wanted a new place to house the equipment and personnel and eventually the Sherman County Rural Fire Department. An engineer has already drawn up plans.

The possibility of housing the departments had been raised before, but at the time the city was looking to put a business in the old IGA building. The city invested about \$650,000 into the building to remodel it for Adronics, a manufacturing company. Most recently the building was leased to Bella's Market, but after many months with no movement by that company, the

See STATION, Page 5



Cake and ice cream were served for cancer survivors and their care givers on Sunday evening at the Goodland Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Stacy Brashear passed out napkins to a table with

Ron and Betty Barkley, Dennie and Gregory Sorwell, Martha and Stan Pettibone of Kanorado, Nina Mersch and Betty Baysinger of Hutchinson.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Walk to fight cancer this weekend

The Sherman County Relay for Life starts at 7 p.m. on Friday night at the Goodland High School track and lasts until early Saturday morning. The event culminates the fund raising efforts for the American Cancer Society by the different teams involved.

The night-long event starts with a survivor lap and a care giver lap. There will be a table set up for survivors to pickup their t-shirts.

Cancer survivors also receive a flower. There will be golf carts for those who need a ride around the track.

Before the walking begins the teams gather for a team lap. There will be music and games during the night.

Luminaries with the names of people who lost their battle with cancer and those fighting cancer are set up around the track and are lit

after it gets dark.

Music is planned and there will be a speaker to talk about their experience fighting cancer.

A silent auction will be held for baskets put together by the various teams. Kiwanis will serve hamburgers and the Knights of Columbus breakfast.

Everyone is invited to come and relay.

State rep. faces friend in primary election

By Kevin Bottrell

kbottrell@nwkansan.com

Ward Cassidy of St. Francis never wanted to be running for the House of Representatives against his friend Rick Billinger of Goodland, but after being informed of the federal court's redistricting decision, he decided to keep running.

Like many state legislators, Cassidy was thrown together with a fellow incumbent, in this case Billinger. The two legislators have been friends for years. The district now includes Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Sherman and Wallace Counties and the northwest third of Thomas County — including Colby.

"It's not a nice scenario," he said. "I had been campaigning in my old district, then all of a sudden two of my counties are taken away."

The redistricting decision created many districts with no incumbents and no one filed for election. Political parties had to scramble to find enough candidates to fill the ballots in the three days before the filing deadline. All told, Cassidy said he expects there to be about 50 new legislators at the next session. With so many new faces, Cassidy said that even with only one term under his belt, he'll still be in a position to have influence.

Cassidy said that ability to make a difference is what drove him to continue his campaign. Cassidy served on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which

Election 2012

is in charge of the Legislature's budget, during the last session. He said he was told he has a good chance of being chosen to chair the Education Budget Committee at the next session.

"I'll be in a position to have influence," he said.

Cassidy said every penny of the \$11.4 billion state budget passed through his committee, and this year — since state revenues were up — the committee was able to put money back in to programs.

"We still didn't get as much into education as I'd have liked," he said.

Even with the budget and redistricting issues, the Legislature did pass some good laws, Cassidy said. These include Caylee's Law, which penalizes parents who fail to report a child's disappearance in a timely manner, and strengthening child abuse laws in response to the high-profile sexual abuse case against former Pennsylvania State University assistant coach Jerry Sandusky.

"There's good things that happen in the Legislature," he said, "but you never hear about them."

Before becoming a legislator two years ago, Cassidy was retired



State Rep. Ward Cassidy (right), seen here speaking with Congressman Tim Huelskamp at a town hall meeting in Goodland, is running for re-election in a new district that includes Sherman County.

from the St. Francis School District, having spent 20 years as principal of St. Francis High School. In total, he spent 43 years in the district as a counselor, basketball coach and principal. Cassidy said both his daughters live in St. Francis, and he has grandchildren in the district.

"We have a great quality of life

out here," he said. "We have to sell that."

The Goodland Star-News will be running candidate profiles in the weeks leading up to the Tuesday, Aug. 7, Primary Election. The stories will be collected in a special section that will be included with the Friday, Aug. 3, edition of the newspaper.

Hospital announced as Emergent Stroke Ready

The American Heart Association and the Kansas State Stroke Task Force has recognized Goodland Regional Medical Center as officially Emergent Stroke Ready and able to adequately care for a stroke patient brought to their facility.

The hospital was one of 32 hospitals who provided the necessary documentation to be named as Emergent Stroke Ready as part of the Kansas Initiative For Stroke Survival.

"Because stroke treatment must be initiated within a very short time frame it is crucial that medical facilities, regardless of size, be prepared to evaluate and treat these patients, and if necessary, transfer them to a larger facility," said Dr. Colleen Lechtenberg, neurologist and chairperson of the Kansas State Stroke Task Force. "In Kansas, we are calling that readiness, Emergent Stroke Ready. Without these facilities, treatment options are greatly reduced."

There are currently 42 hospitals participating in the initiative in one of three categories: Emergent Stroke Ready (ESRH), Primary Stroke Center or 24/7 Neuro-Interventional Center. Emergent Stroke

See HOSPITAL, Page 6

