

weather report

75°

noon Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 8:09 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:21 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:10 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 68 degrees

• Humidity 36 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds south 21 mph

• Barometer 30.25 inches

and falling

• Record High today 101° (1956)

• Record Low today 36° (1943)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 78°

Low Wednesday 50°

Precipitation trace

This month trace

Year to date 5.18

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m., high around 89, low near 60, winds south 15-29 mph. Saturday: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, high near 82, low around 55, winds north northwest 10-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers after 3 p.m.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.52 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.45

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$3.08 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.03

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.75 bushel

Soybeans — \$7.63 bushel

Posted county price — \$8.16

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$6.75 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$10.85 cwt.

NuSun — \$11.20 cwt.

Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$15

(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



New face at post office

New Postmaster Stephen Schultz reads over some paperwork in the Goodland post office. Story on Page 3.

Get off road when dust threatens

By Kathryn Gurfinkel

The Goodland Star News

Blowing dust caused at least four accidents near Goodland last week-end, killing two people. What can you do to protect yourself?

Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson said drivers need to keep an eye out for weather conditions, including dust, smoke or fog.

“Be advised of the weather,” said Whitson, “because these things come up so fast.”

He said drivers should pull as far as they can, getting clear off of the highway as soon as they spot a storm.

“If you see blowing dirt,” said Whitson, “pull over and wait until the wind dies down.”

He said the sheriff’s department policy is for officers to pull all the way into the ditch, stay in the vehicle and to keep their seat belts buckled up to avoid injury.

Pick up the phone and dial 911, he said. The sheriff’s department will try to get in touch with the landowner, who can work the land and cut down on the dust.

“Sometimes they don’t even know it’s blowing,” Whitson said.

Blowing dirt can be reported to the county clerk’s office under Kansas law. The law allows residents to file complaint forms that are later brought before the county commissioners.

Commissioners can survey the land and appeal to the landowner to take care of the problem. If the land holder fails to makes changes, the county can hire someone to do the work and bill it to the owner.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the people have brought in a few complaints over the years, but the landowners are generally cooperative.

“It falls on the landowner to make sure there is no drifting,” she said.

Dust storms begin when the wind picks up small particles of dirt which then bounce off of other particles, said County Extension Agent Dana Belshe. The dirt gains momentum and begin to roll forward.

Belshe said farmers can use a



The dust storm Saturday cut a dangerous and striking profile as it rolled across the plains. Pastor John Coumerilh of Bird City sent a photo (above) he took about 4 p.m. Saturday. “This is our barn last Saturday,” he wrote, “just before the dust storm. It’s a pretty picture but not too pretty of a sight to see that much good soil flying through the air.” JoAnn Clouse of Goodland said she got the photo of this storm near Colby (right) in an e-mail from her sister, Janet Schield, of Spearville.

chisel, roughing up the land, to make it harder for wind to pick up the dirt.

“It breaks up the wind at ground level,” he said.

A field north of I-70 and west of Edson, where a Denver man was

See DUST, Page 10



Senator’s death opens seat, may expand field

The death of state Sen. Stan Clark on Saturday means the Republican party in his 40th District needs to call a convention to nominate someone to fill his place through mid-January.

Sherman County Republican Chairman Cora House said Wednesday she has not been contacted officially about the Senate vacancy, but expected to receive a notice in the

next few days for a district convention to consider a replacement.

“I feel the family needs some time,” House said. “It was a real shock to all of us. The wheels are in motion, and I have been contacted by several people who have asked about what would happen.”

The filing deadline for the upcoming election is Thursday, and Clark’s

death leaves Goodland’s Dan Rasure as the only Republican candidate.

“It is possible someone will step forward before the filing deadline,” House said.

Jesse Borjon, communications director with the Kansas secretary of state’s office, said he planned to send out notification Monday to

William V. Adams, Thomas County Republican chairman. He will receive notice because Thomas County has the largest number of voters in the 15-county district.

Adams will then be responsible for notifying the other 14 counties in Sen. Clark’s district.

The 15 county chairs will notify their precinct committee men and

women and a convention will be held.

Borjon said Adams will have 21 days from notification to hold the convention. As Thomas County chair, he will call the meeting to order. The members will elect a chairman for the convention and adopt

See SEAT, Page 10

Trains begin delivering pipe



Thirty-six of 50 flat cars, each carrying eleven 80-foot-long sections of pipe for the Cheyenne Plains Pipeline Project, sat on the tracks west of Cherry Avenue Thursday morning. The train arrived around 6 a.m. and was divided to allow traffic to flow on Cherry. The train is the first of about 16 the Kyle Railroad expects over the next 60 days to move all the pipe sections the project calls for. Jerry DeWitt, assistant general manager of the line, said the shipment will total 800 carloads like this.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Races shaping up for county offices

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Primary races are shaping up for two Sherman County offices, sheriff, with four Republican candidates, and treasurer, with two.

A general-election race is assured for sheriff, with one Democratic candidates in the race, but that is the only Democratic filing so far. There is even a race for the post of precinct committeewoman in Logan Township.

Of two county commissioners up for election, one still hasn’t declared his intentions.

The primary election will be Tuesday, Aug. 3, and the general election Tuesday, Nov. 2. With the filing deadline for county offices less than a week away, this is how the choices line up as of noon Wednesday:

The county commissioner seat for the second and third districts are up for election. Incumbent Kevin Rasure, of District Three, has told County Clerk Janet Rumpel that he will run again but has not filed. Incumbent Mitch Tiede, of District Two, said Thursday he hadn’t decided.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby has started her application for re-election but has not filed. Rumpel has filed as a Republican candidate as clerk. Carol Armstrong has filed for re-election as the register of deeds. All three were running unopposed as of Wednesday.

Iris Scheopner has filed as a Republican candidate for county treasurer. Crystal Wright, who works in the county clerk’s office, has started an application as a Republican, and said she will have it filed before the deadline Thursday.

Four candidates have filed for sheriff, with a primary battle shaping up on the Republican side. Three of the candidates are Republicans: Undersheriff Kevin Butts, Goodland Police Officer Greg Kroskey and former Deputy Art Lovington. Former Deputy Dee Albers has started an application as a Republican but not yet filed. John McCool, a former head jailer, is running as a Democrat.

Of the 12 township trustee positions in Sherman County, two candidates have filed: Republican

See ELECTION, Page 10