

weather
report

80°

noon Thursday



Today

•Sunset, 8:13 p.m.

Saturday

•Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.

•Sunset, 8:13 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 75 degrees
- Humidity 55 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds south 17 mph
- Barometer 29.69 inches and falling

- Record High today 100° (1953)
- Record Low today 40° (1995)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 90°
Low Wednesday 60°
Precipitation .42
This month 1.10
Year to date 6.28

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high near 85, low near 50. Saturday: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high around 88, low around 53.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy, high around 79, low around 55. Monday: partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms, high near 85, low near 57.

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

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$3.36 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.35
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.81 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.77
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.48 bushel
Soybeans — \$7.99 bushel
Posted county price — \$8.22
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$6.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$10.95 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



Outlaws lose
two to Colby

First baseman Danielle Pettibone tossed the ball to the pitcher after forcing a Colby runner out a first during the game Wednesday. The Outlaws lost 16-4. Story, photos on Page 10.

Governor views wheat conditions

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius made a short visit to Goodland on Tuesday morning to see for herself what the drought is doing to the wheat crop in western Kansas.

The governor was accompanied by state Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky on a visit to the farm of Brady and Jane Philbrick about six miles southwest of Goodland.

The farm was the first of two stops for the governor, who wanted to see first-hand the difference between a wheat field suffering from drought and with better moisture. Her next stop was the farm of Albert Melichan in Caldwell, about two miles north of the Oklahoma border and 12 miles west of I-35, in Sumner County.

The governor met with the Philbricks, and about 20 other farmers and businessmen in a barn. She talked about her visit and how she will use the experience along with the information gathered from it to develop a strategy for Kansas to help with future crops.

“She came to listen,” Brady Philbrick said. “I was impressed, and she said she would check into some of our problems.”

Philbrick said the major problems the farmers discussed with the governor were changes in the crop insurance rules, and the future of water rights on the Ogallalah aquifer.

“We told her about the crop insurance inequities that make it difficult to practice good conservation practices,” he said. “The multiperil insurance rules used to say that if you planted winter wheat and it was destroyed, you got 100 percent, and



Brady Philbrick (center) talked with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky on Tuesday about some of the problems farmers in western Kansas are facing. The governor

then could plant a spring crop and if that was destroyed, you got 100 percent for that crop.

“Now the insurance says if you get 100 percent for the winter crop and plant a spring crop, you can only get 35 percent if that is destroyed.

“That makes it hard to follow

good conservation practices. This is a federal program, and the governor probably can’t do much about it, but she said she would talk to someone.”

After the get-together, Philbrick took his guests went to one of his fields to see how this season’s crop was doing and talk about what he

was doing to help offset the lack of rain.

The latest crop weather report by the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service, released Monday, estimates that 72 percent of the farmland in northwest Kansas is very short of subsoil moisture. The figure

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Motorized scooters: Few are legal?

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The new rage of motorized scooters has people questioning the state’s definition of a vehicle, and at Monday’s city commission meeting, both the audience and some of the commissioners were confused about what exactly is legal.

Depending on which scooter a person buys, officials said, it may be legal to ride with some restrictions. The operator has to have a driver’s license and the scooter has to be tagged.

Many scooters, including electric models, can’t be registered as motor vehicles, however, and they are illegal for street operation. Children are not allowed to ride any of the motorized units on streets in any event.

City Attorney Perry Warren said he had researched the issue, and the state law defines a motor vehicle as “...every vehicle, other than a motorized bicycle or a motorized wheel-chair, which is self-propelled.”

Those who want the scooters to be legal point to the motorized bike phrase and feel they fit that definition.

State law defines a motorized bicycle as “...every device having two tandem wheels or three wheels,

which may be propelled by either human power or helper motor, or by both, and which has (1) a motor which produces not more than 3.5 brake horsepower; (2) a cylinder capacity of not more than 130 cubic centimeters; (3) an automatic transmission; and (4) the capability of a maximum design speed of no more than 30 miles per hour.”

Stan Duell, owner of NAPA Auto Parts, which sells Freedom scooters imported from China, said he feels bad for adults who have bought the scooters. He said Tuesday he had called all of those who have bought one from him since October to talk to them about the situation.

For some of those, there is good news, Duell said, especially those who bought a gas scooter, because these come with a Manufacturer’s Statement of Origin. This piece of paper looks like a motor vehicle title, and is accepted by County Treasurer Shelby Miller as a way to register the scooters so they can be ridden on the streets.

The rules are similar to those for driving a car. The operator has to have a driver’s license and insurance, but a motorcycle endorsement apparently isn’t required for these scooters.

Duell said the gas-powered scooter



A line of scooters was on display at the Goodland NAPA auto parts store on Tuesday. The first one is gas powered, and can be registered for street use, while the others are electric and not legal on streets or sidewalks.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

ers he sells, the Boss Viper, has the certificate and several people have taken these to the courthouse and gotten them registered.

“I spent quite a bit of time talking to state officials in Topeka,” Duell

See SCOOTERS, Page 8

Scooter controversy brings large audience

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Electric and gas powered motor scooters are a hot item this spring, their popularity jumping into high gear with gas prices hovering around \$2.

However, many of these vehicles — imported from China, Thailand and Taiwan — are illegal on Kansas

streets and roads, especially when operated by children.

The small scooters have been on sale for several years, and are being sold at Wal-Mart and at the Goodland NAPA store. NAPA owner Stan Duell says he has been talking to state officials for months, trying to untie the legal questions.

About 25 people came to the

Goodland city commission meeting Monday to object to the city police stopping people on scooters and telling them they are not legal, and cannot be ridden on streets or sidewalks.

Rod Cooper, owner of Crazy R’s, was the opening spokesperson for the group. He said he did not understand why the city police were stopping these scooters.

“I bought my kid one and he has been riding it for over a year,” Cooper said. “I do not understand why they are all of a sudden being told they cannot ride them on the streets.”

City Attorney Perry Warren said

See CITY, Page 8

College celebrates 40th Saturday

The Northwest Kansas Technical College is celebrating its 40th anniversary this weekend with a car show, dinner, hot air balloons, .

The events begin at 2 p.m. Saturday with registration and a car show on the campus.

President Kenneth Clouse will welcome the alumni at 5 p.m., followed by chuckwagon dining at 5:30 and, weather permitting, at 7

p.m. a hot air balloon launch and powered parachute demonstration on college land east of the Elks lodge.

At 8 p.m., there will be a fashion show, trivia contest and dance music until 12 p.m. At 9 p.m. there will be a drawing for a 65 Mustang.

The balloons will launch again about 6:30 a.m. on Sunday. Clouse said Sunday will continue at 6:30

a.m. with a 2-person team golf scramble at Sugar Hills Golf Club. A “coffee break” get-together will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Memorial Union..

The college began operation as the Goodland Area Vocational School in the summer of 1964, and expanded to its current status of technical college in 2001.

Offices closed to honor President Ronald Reagan

There will be no mail delivery today, as all state and federal offices are closed to honor the memory of former President Ronald Reagan, the nation’s 40th president, who died Saturday at 93.

City and county offices, banks

and most businesses will be open as usual. The post office will be open Saturday and there will be normal mail delivery.

Because the post office is closed, many subscribers of *The Goodland Star-News* will receive their paper on Saturday rather than Friday.