

weather report

78°

noon Tuesday

Today
•Sunset, 7:10 p.m.
Wednesday
•Sunrise, 6:21 a.m.
•Sunset, 7:08 p.m.

Midday Conditions
•Soil temperature 66 degrees
•Humidity 30 percent
•Sky clear and sunny
•Winds south 18-27 mph.
•Barometer 30.20 inches and falling
•Record High today 102° (1971)
•Record Low today 39° (1956)

Last 24 Hours*

High Monday 81°
Low Monday 49°
Precipitation none
This month .037
Year to date 14.32
Normal 16.67

The Topside Forecast

Today: sunny, high near 81, low around 51, winds south 16-32 mph. Wednesday: sunny, high around 85, low near 53, winds south 9-16 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: sunny, high near 89, low around 51, winds south south-west 9-13 mph. Friday: sunny, high near 86, low around 55. Saturday: sunny, high near 84, low near 53. Sunday: sunny, high around 82, low around 52.

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

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.83 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.97
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.30 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.97
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.80 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.53 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.79
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$4.75 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$10.15 cwt.
NuSun — \$10.40 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Confection — \$19/\$13 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



Cowboys win opener

Senior fullback Brock Lohr (on ground center) scored his third touchdown during the third quarter of the Cowboys' 40-12 win at Hoxie Friday. The Cowboys will play St. Francis at 6 p.m. on Friday at home. Photo, story on Page 12.

Good Samaritan cleanup complete

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Problems from a sewage spill at the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center have been cleaned up.

"We are thrilled to have this episode behind us," said Administrator Rick Reeser, "all the employees are back to work and the work completed. We are working on a proactive planning and actions we can take to keep this problem from arising again."

The center was inspected in late June and found to have contamination from a sewage spill caused by the plumbing design and a clogged

drain, Reeser said.

"We immediately began finding a company that was certified in mold and toxic waste cleanup," Reeser said, "and would handle the cleanup as soon as possible."

"The Medallion Co, of Hays was the first choice, but they had some scheduling issues that were not acceptable."

Reeser turned to ESA out of Commerce City, Colo., which contracted to do the work. Reeser said the work took about two weeks and was completed on Monday, Aug. 23.

The workmen removed wall-board and carpet from several

rooms, got air movement through the crawl space beneath the building, and cleaned up sewage in the crawl space.

At least two nurses and one patient complained about symptoms from the contamination, which was caused from a sewer backup at the end of June. The sewer line was cleaned out and fixed, but the spill was not cleaned up then.

Reeser said Dr. Robert McCullough, the center's health officer, took samples from the suspected areas and had them tested.

"Dr. McCullough said the test results did not show mold," Reeser

said, "but did show contamination from the sewage."

"He did say there was some mold in the swamp coolers and some air filters, but did not believe this was the current problem."

Reeser said his maintenance people cleaned up around the swamp coolers and replaced the filters. He said maintenance supervisor Neil Starr handled the larger filters.

Medallion did some air samples, Reeser said, and determined there was more mold outside on the day of the test than inside, so mold did not seem to be the problem.

Some employees apparently became ill due to allergic reactions to something in the air, but no resident was affected. None of the employees was off work for long, Reeser said.

The Medallion bill was about \$1,616 and the ESA bill ran \$52,700, both of which will be split between Sherman County and the center.

The county commissioners had agreed at the July 20 meeting to pay half the cost of the cleanup up to \$35,000, and were considering turning the loss in to the county's insurance company to see if it is covered.

Cowboys kick off season with big win



Cowboy freshman Jance McKee (left) started Friday's game against Hoxie with the opening kickoff as juniors Brady Nelson

and Brandon Tatman set out to make sure the returner does not get far. The Cowboys won the season opener 40-12.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Goodland man among newest U.S. citizens

By Eric Yonkey

For the Goodland Star-News

In many ways, Miguel Hernandez has considered himself more as an American than a Mexican since the mid-1980s.

"I've lived here nearly my whole life," said Hernandez, 27. "I became a legal resident of the United States in 1981 at age 4 while living in Boise City, Okla."

Most who know Hernandez are surprised to learn he did not become a U.S. citizen until Aug. 27. He speaks perfect English and is as fully entwined into the American culture as he is to his family's Mexican culture. Hernandez was born Sept. 4, 1977, in Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico, to Alex and Victoria Hernandez, who now live in Goodland also. Both are permanent legal residents of the United States and citizens of Mexico. Miguel has two brothers and a sister.

"I'm the first in my family to gain U.S. citizenship," he said.

To celebrate his new status, the staff and clients of his employer, Golden West Community Services, honored him with a reception on Friday. Hernandez briefly explained the citizenship process.

None of Miguel's family was able to attend the naturalization ceremony in Wichita, but two clients and a staff member from Golden West did accompany him.

Hernandez is farm vocational team leader for the newly opened Golden Horseshoe Ranch, about 10 miles north of Goodland. Male clients in the program build quality wooden garden sheds and other

projects, with help from Hernandez and Marshall Squires, the farm program coordinator.

Miguel said his father, Alex, served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, helping the family to attain legal resident status. Alex had graduated from high school in Boise City, the first in his family. Miguel said his grandfather and father worked for farmers in Boise City and Goodland.

Hernandez said his first challenge to living in the United States was learning English.

"I felt like an outsider," he said. "I didn't understand much."

Goodland school district bilingual aides really helped him to learn English, he said, and he practiced his new language by talking and listening to his classmates.

"It took a couple years to be comfortable with English," he said, noting that his parents continue to speak Spanish in the home.

He graduated from Goodland High School in 1996. Becoming a citizen never seriously crossed his mind until a couple years ago, when he started thinking about the benefits.

"The No. 1 reason why I wanted to be a U.S. citizen is so I would have the right to vote," Hernandez said.

After the ceremony, he signed papers that were sent to Sherman County election officials to enable him to vote in the upcoming general election.

"I'm presently an independent," he said. "I have no party preference

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Ceremony celebrates efforts of 140 who become citizens

Miguel Hernandez officially became a United States citizen at 3 p.m., Friday, Aug. 27, at the Century II complex in Wichita before U.S. Magistrate Don Bostwick.

About 140 men and women from 39 countries jointly pledged their Oath of Allegiance to the United States.

Hernandez said nearly a third were born in Mexico. During the ceremony, each new citizen received a U.S. flag, compliments of the Sons of the American Revolution.

During the ceremony, the soon-to-be U.S. citizens sang the "Star-Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful," and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

In taking the Oath of Allegiance, the new citizens renounced their allegiance to their former countries and swore to support and defend the U.S. Constitu-

tion and the nation against all enemies. They agreed to bear arms on behalf of the United States if required.

Hernandez said the judge explained that becoming a U.S. citizen didn't mean you needed to leave your native culture behind. By bringing in each country's culture, he told them, we were adding to the great melting pot of America.

In the post-Sept. 11, 2001, world, security at Century II was tight, he said. Guards allowed absolutely no knives, cellular phones or pagers. Guests were turned away if they even tried to bring these items into the building.

Official identification cards were required of all guests who were obviously of high school age or older. As an added security measure, the building was locked down during the ceremony.

Process is simple, but takes time

Miguel Hernandez said the citizenship process took him far longer than it should have. He first applied two years ago to the Dallas office during a time he was working in telecommunications.

The application process is pretty simple, he said.

"If you have lived in the United States for five or more years, you fill out the form and mail it in and then wait for the response."

Hernandez said to expect it to take four to six months to complete the process.

All the information prospective citizens need can be found on the web site uscis.gov, he said. Among many other services, the site allows immigrants to file an application, download free forms, make the initial appointments with immigration officials, discover required tests and fee information, and attain work permits and permanent resident status. The site is available in Spanish and several other languages, he said.

The application is called an N-400. At the time, the processing cost Hernandez \$310, plus required trips

to meet immigration officials for testing.

Prospective citizens should expect a comprehensive criminal background check in both the United States and their native country. Even traffic tickets and misdemeanors are examined. Hernandez said he was once cited for a minor violation involving a disturbance at a Hays Oktoberfest. He was not arrested, but was given a ticket.

People convicted of felonies need

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By Kathryn Gurfinkel

The Goodland Star-News

Cold, wet weather dampened not just people's fun at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair and the annual Freedom Fest this summer. It also rained out profits for Sherman County Community Services' home-owned carnival.

"Overall," said Dan Hayden, president of the carnival board and assistant vice president at Bankwest, "I think we're going to be down anywhere from \$3,500 to \$4,000 from last year."

He said the dip may be reflected in the amount the carnival board can pay service groups that operate the rides.

Each worker is paid by the hour, he said, with the money going to the club or sometimes donated back to the carnival.

"There's no way we could do it without the people who donated all their time," he said. "It's good for our community as a whole."

After the clubs are paid out, Hayden said, the rest of the money goes back into the carnival. He said the

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