

weather report

87°

noon Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 7:05 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 6:24 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:04 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 72 degrees
- Humidity 16 percent
- Sky mostly clear
- Winds southwest 20-30 mph
- Barometer 30.05 inches and rising
- Record High today 100° (1936)
- Record Low today 36° (1970)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	82°
Low Wednesday	55°
Precipitation	none
This month	.037
Year to date	14.32
Normal	16.75

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high near 94, low near 53, winds south southwest 10-15 mph. Saturday: mostly sunny, high around 88, low around 55, winds north northwest 6-9 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: sunny, high around 88, low around 53, breezy. Monday: partly cloudy, breezy, high near 86, low near 52. Tuesday: partly cloudy, high around 80, low around 49. Wednesday: mostly sunny, high around 81.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

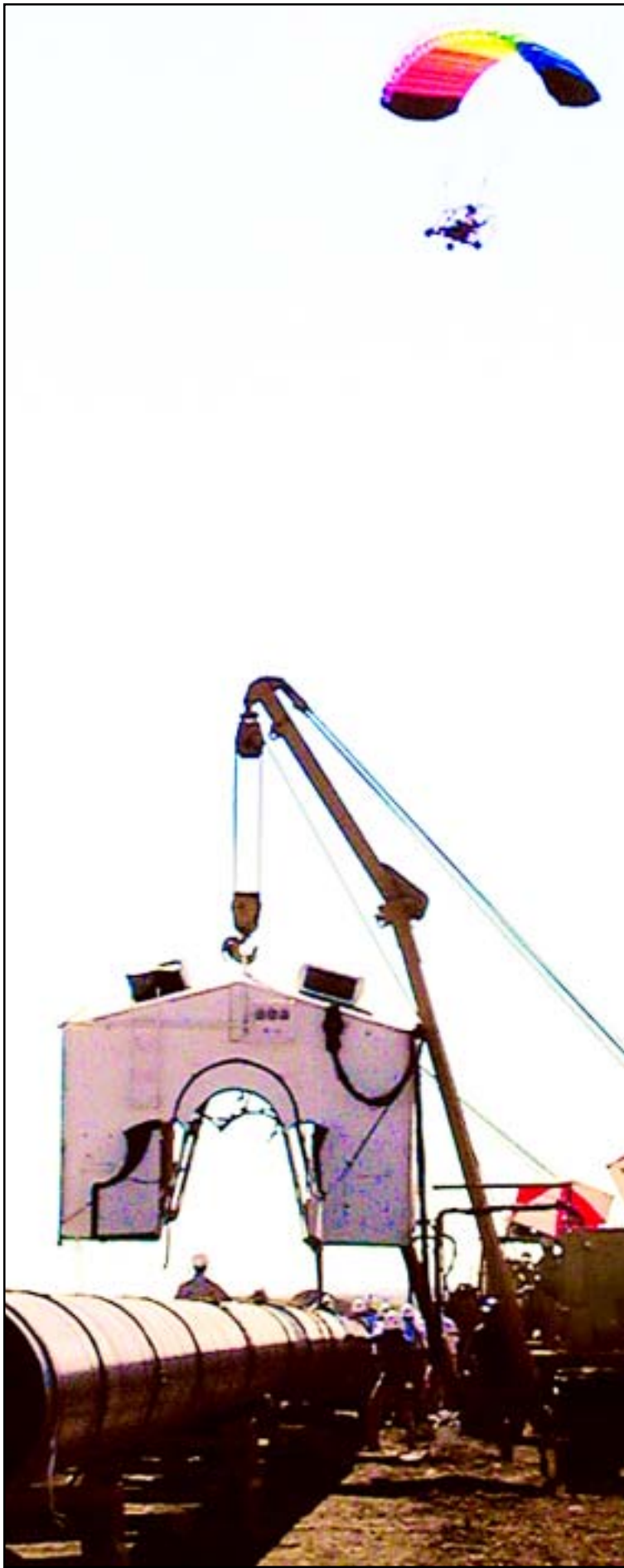
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Pipeline snakes across county



A welder (top) monitors the mechanized welding machine as it rotates to weld joints on the gas pipeline. The praying mantises of the preparation gang (above) pick up each section to get it ready for welding.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News



A power parachute from Goodland flew over the pipeline on Saturday morning. There were two belonging to Rich Simon and Dennis Malsom that flew over and waved to the workers below.

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Yellow tracked vehicles with long necks look like a line of praying mantises with prey in their grasp as sections of pipe are lifted into position and prepared for welding.

The 380-mile, 36-inch, \$340-million Cheyenne Plains gas pipeline has been snaking across western Kansas for about two weeks. Sherman County is part of the 134-mile mid section, or spread, which began north of Burlington and runs down to Scott City.

The pipeline, being built by Colorado Interstate Gas, a subsidiary of El Paso Corp., stretches from Ault, Colo., near Greeley, to Greensburg, where it will connect with major pipelines serving the Midwest.

The pipeline will carry 570 million cubic feet of gas daily when completed. El Paso officials estimated this would supply about 250,000 homes daily.

U.S. Pipeline of Houston is the prime contractor for the project for Spread 2 and 3.

Lars Ecklund, project construction coordinator from Oneonta, Ala., said the job is the largest in the country, and the first to use 80,000-pound tensile strength pipe — known as X80. He said the pipe is lighter than previous gas lines, but far exceeds any pressure the gas will reach.

Ecklund said the Kyle Railroad has done a good job of bringing all the pipe to Burlington and Goodland, with about half of the pipe being stacked at each location for Spread 2.

"All the pipe for this spread has arrived and we are stringing it south into Wallace County," Ecklund said. "The project is moving along well, and we have about 380 people in the crew in this section."

He said many of the workers are staying in Burlington, Goodland and surrounding towns.

Ecklund gave a tour of the project in southwestern Sherman County on Saturday, starting at the corner of K-27 and County Road 52.

Driving over to the pipeline, Ecklund said the project has been going well, and that the crews are working hard on a six-day schedule.

"I can say that in my 42 years of laying pipelines, this has been a pleasant experience working with the landowners and people of the cities," he said.

We zig zagged our way over to

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local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.88 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.98
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.30 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.94
Loan deficiency pmt. — 1¢
Milo — \$1.80 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.53 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.49
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$4.75 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$10.35 cwt.
NuSun — \$10.65 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

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Scrimmage held here

Wide receiver Nick Royer of Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina caught a pass from senior quarterback Mike Pozzi during the Coyotes' scrimmage against Colorado College Saturday at Cowboy Stadium. Story, photos on Page 9.

City approves Flatlander beer garden, 4-1

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Flatlanders will be able to quaff a brew after all, since two city commissioners switched and voted at Tuesday's meeting in favor of granting a beer license for the Chamber of Commerce's fall festival.

Commissioners John Garcia and Dean Blume joined Dave Daniels and Jim Mull to approve a license for Greg Shores to have a beer garden at 1609 Main during the Flatlander Fall Festival on Sept. 25.

In June, Garcia and Blume had voted against a similar request from

the Goodland Chamber of Commerce to have a beer garden during the Freedom Fest.

Mayor Rick Billinger voted against the license for Shores, saying that since he had voted against the Chamber license, he was voting against this one as well.

Shores told the commission the beer garden would be fenced and there would only be one way in or out, and that no one under 21 would be admitted.

He said no cans or bottles would be allowed and all the beer would be served in cups, but none could be

taken out of the beer garden.

"My primary interest is to help the Flatlander event," Shores said. "I believe this will help, and next year, I think we can have more involvement."

"It is one more thing to draw people to the city."

He said the plan is to have the beer garden open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Blume asked if the license is for one time or for the rest of the year. City Manager Ron Pickman said it would be granted until the end of the year.

Commissioner Mull said he doubted a beer garden would be very popular in December. Mull said this

Two guardsmen heading to Iraq

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Everybody is invited to a going-away party for Bryan Varney of Goodland and Derrick Lutters of Burlington who are reporting for active duty next week in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Both are members of the Kansas Army National Guard assigned to Detachment 1 of the 170th Maintenance Company in Goodland. Both were ordered to 18 months of active duty.

The party will be from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Howard Johnson Hotel on K-27 next to Wal-Mart.

Specialist Varney was ordered to active duty to fill out Headquarters

Company of the 891st Engineer Battalion of the Kansas National Guard in Iola. Varney said he is to report on Tuesday for movement to Fort Sill,

Okla. where he expects to train for one to four months prior to going to Iraq.

Varney, a machinist, joined the regular army in July 1984. He went to basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. after which he as a combat engineer. After training he was assigned to the 99th Engineer

Company in Karlsrue, Germany until his release from active duty in July 1987. He served in the Kansas National Guard until 1989.

Varney rejoined the national guard in April 2003. He has served

two 15-day annual training tours, one to Germany in 2003 and to Fort Irwin, Calif., in April.

Varney, who works for V&E Xpress as a truck driver, graduated from Goodland High in 1984 where he wrestled and ran cross country.

Varney and his wife Lisa have two children, Blaine age 11 and Shaina 7. Other family in Goodland include Bryan's grandmother Gloria Kibel and Lisa's grandmother Darlene Walter. Lisa said they were notified on Aug. 11, their anniversary.

Specialist Lutters, a crane operator, volunteered for duty and will report to Fort Sill on Sept. 20. Derrick, graduated from Goodland High in 1999, is the son of Chuck Lutters of Goodland and Marian Lutters of Burlington.

Fire chiefs, fire board review purchase policy

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County commissioners explained their policy of buying locally to members of the rural fire board and two of the three rural fire chiefs Tuesday.

The chiefs admitted they may not have bought as much from local businesses as they could, but said outside suppliers send salesmen with fancy catalogs see them, while they haven't heard or seem much of the local vendors.

Rural fire board members Marvin Duell, Richard Allaman, Stan

Pettibone and Melvin Sieck were present, along with rural Fire Chiefs Kenny Griffith of Goodland and Willard Crumrine of Brewster. Board members Kevin Sanderson and Ken Palmgren did not make the meeting, nor did Kanorado Fire Chief Jay Pettibone.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said they had asked the fire board members and chiefs to the meeting was to be sure everyone was on the same page on purchasing

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