

## weather report

83°

noon Thursday



### Today

• Sunset, 8:16 p.m.

### Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:28 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:16 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 75 degrees
- Humidity 47 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds south 16 mph.
- Barometer 30.00 inches and falling

- Record High today 104° (1985)
- Record Low today 42° (1952)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday	86°
Low Wednesday	50°
Precipitation	none
This month	.41
Year to date	8.69
Normal	11.01

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny and breezy, high near 96, low near 66, winds south 9-31 mph. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high around 97, low around 64, winds south 11-29 mph.

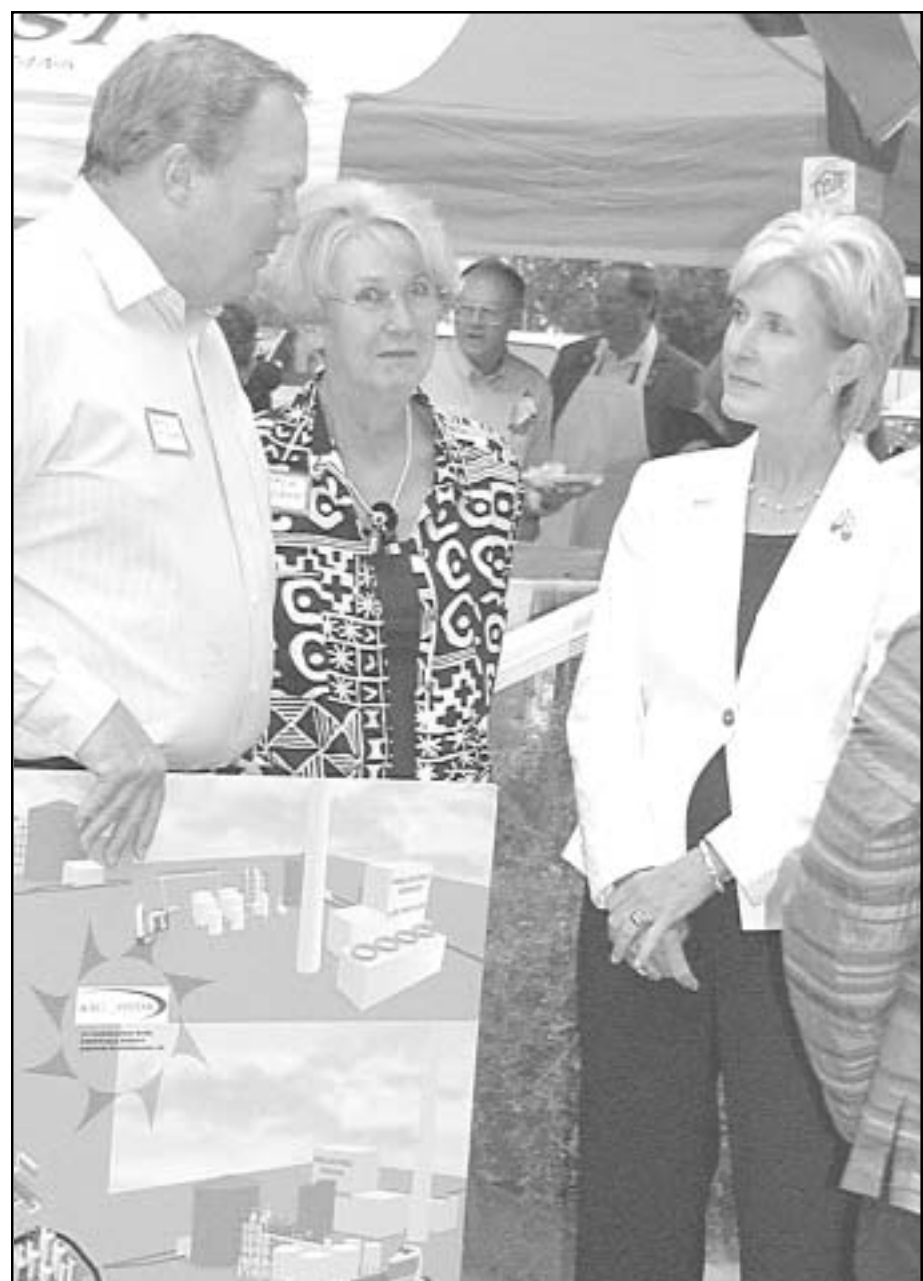
### Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny, high around 95, low around 63. Monday: Mostly sunny, high around 93, low near 63. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high near 93, low around 63.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings compiled at midnight.



Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (right) joined Travis Palmgren for a combine ride Tuesday afternoon at the family's farm south of Edson. Later, the governor (above right) visited with Larry McCants and Marcia Golden at a barbecue at the Ennis-Handy House. She spoke about her trip, the school finance crisis and the power plant project west of Goodland.

Photos by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

# Governor makes shortened visit

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius visited Goodland on Tuesday, stopping at a barbecue where she learned all about the new coal-fired power, ethanol and biodiesel plants set to go in west of town.

Investors, city and county commissioners, farmers and other guests were served dinner by the Goodland Ambassadors at the Ennis-Handy House.

Larry McCants, president of First National Bank, a contributor to the plant project, showed the governor a sketch of the layout for the plants.

"The synergy from energy will re-

ally help the community," said McCants.

He said all of the financing for the project was raised here in town.

"On behalf of First National," he said, "I'd like to thank everybody that's been involved."

McCants said he was asked who will benefit from the plants.

"The answer is, we all will," he said.

He thanked the governor for helping leaders of the project arrange a meeting with state officials, including the departments of Health and Environment, Transportation and Commerce.

"Thanks to Gov. Sebelius," McCants said. "She has really helped

put this on the fast track."

"It's great to be back in Goodland," said the governor.

She said it was good to see people investing in their hometown.

"The state doesn't create jobs," she, said stressing that private investors are key to economic growth.

The governor said biodiesel and ethanol fuels are good for Kansas, using products grown here to make the fuel and then using the byproduct at feedlots.

"Alternative fuel sources are a win-win situation," she said. "Certainly the announcement is very exciting. I just want to come for the ribbon cutting."

The governor also talked about school finance, saying she had to cut her six day trip down to three to get back to oversee the Legislature.

"I think somebody needed to come back and watch them," she said. "I do believe they will step up to the plate."

After addressing the crowd, Sebelius met with Goodland people, including 11-year-old Seth Stramel.

"I promise schools will open," she told him as the two kidded about whether he wanted to go back to school next month. "Study hard."

The governor stopped earlier just south of Edson to ride a combine on the farm of Ken and Virginia

Palmgren.

Ken Palmgren drove her to one of his fields and let her climb into a combine with his son, Travis. Sebelius has been to the Palmgren's place before, touring the farm in 2003.

The governor said while riding the combine, she noticed areas of the wheat that had been hit by the drought.

Ken Palmgren mentioned his interest in opening trade with Cuba. The two talked about alternative fuel sources.

Palmgren said he took the opportunity to bend the governor's ear in the field, talking to her about wheat production and school finance.

# City accepts request to annex land near Caruso

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland City Commission reached out five miles to annex about 90 acres north of Caruso for an industrial park where three energy plants are being planned over the next year.

Tuesday, the commission unanimously passed a resolution asking the county commissioners to allow the city to annex the land. The county will take the matter up on Tuesday, and the city board is expected to pass an ordinance for the annexation at the July 19 meeting.

The annexation was requested by John Golden as president of Kemp Sugar Co., which has owned the property since 1985 when it was bought from Great Western Sugar.

Golden said the opportunity to sell 90 acres to local investors would be good for the city and the county.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked about police and fire protection for the



John Golden, president of Kemp Sugar Co., presented a request to annex 90 acres north of Caruso at a City Commission meeting Tuesday. Most of the crowd applauded when the commissioners

area, and if there was a plan of development to be presented.

Golden turned the podium over to Ron Pickman, spokesman for Goodland Energy Center and former city manager, who said the

request from Golden as the property owner did not require a development plan to be filed.

"We are hoping to purchase the land from Kemp Sugar to develop the industrial park," Pickman said.

approved a resolution accepting the petition. Dave Walker (standing in back, right) asked questions about the annexation before the vote.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

"At this time there is no request for any planned development costs from the city.

"Once the land has been purchased and the project is proceeding, we will be back with a plan to

work with the city in a partnership."

He said the investors hope to have the city as a customer for the power plant.

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# Investors announce plan to build three energy plants

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Farmers, businessmen, bankers and reporters crowded into the offices of ReNewable Energy Resources on Tuesday to hear the announcement of a new power complex.

The Goodland Energy Center will combine a coal-fired power plant, plus plants to produce ethanol and "biodiesel" for motor fuel.

Former City Manager Ron Pickman, chief operating officer for the power and the ethanol plants, opened the session.

"This to me is probably the best thing that has happened to the community in years," Pickman said.

He added that the project is possible because of the commitment by Goodland investors, who have an interest in seeing the venture succeed.

"It's local people working to make sure the community stays vibrant," he said.

The plants will work together, Pickman said, with the steam left over from the plant powering ethanol and biodiesel plants.

The project is set to go up north of the Northern Sun Industries plant, east of County Road 14 and south of Road 65 (Eighth Street). Pickman said they have a 90-acre tract that

will have room for expansion.

Mark Justus, owner of ReNewable Energy Resources, said they haven't decided on the best layout for the plants. He said they are working to allow all three to share as many parts as they can to increase efficiency.

Pickman said two plants, the ethanol purchased from St. Paul, Minn., and the power plant from Morehead, Minn., are being dismantled and

shipped to Goodland.

He said the price of steel has gone up so dramatically that buying the less-than 3-year-old plants was the way to go.

New plants also require a 24-month waiting period before construction even starts, he said.

Justus said the brand-new biodiesel plant is coming from Austria.

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## inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



## Celebrating our freedom

Alyssa Albers performed tricks with a Hula-Hoop as her talent at the Little Miss Firecracker pageant Saturday at Gulick Park. The pageant was part of Freedom Fest activities over the weekend. Story, photos on Pages 6a and 7a.