

weather
report

53°

noon Monday

Today

• Sunset, 4:46 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:16 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:45 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 56 degrees

• Humidity 38 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds north at 18 mph gusting
up to 24 mph

• Barometer 30.41 inches
and falling

• Record High today 78° (1988)

• Record Low today 4° (1951)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 62°

Low Sunday 32°

Precipitation .15

This month 2.61

Year to date 15.46

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, increasing clouds toward evening, highs in the 60s and lows in the 30s, west winds switching to south at 5 to 15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, highs in the 70s and lows in the 30s. Thursday: Partly cloudy, highs in the 70s and lows in the 30s. Friday: Partly cloudy, highs in the 60s and lows in the 30s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.37 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.38

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$1.77 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.50

Loan deficiency pmt. — 44¢

Milo — \$1.45 bushel

Soybeans — \$4.90 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.67

Loan deficiency pmt. — 32¢

Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$7.65 cwt.

NuSun crop — \$8.40

Confection — Call

Pinto beans — \$17 (new crop)

(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



Cowboy runs
19th at state

Junior Kerek Mason placed 19th at the state Class 4A cross country championships Saturday held at the golf course in Wamego. Photo and story on Page 10.

Woman joins rural fire volunteers

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

The firefighter's pager goes off at 4 a.m. There's a mad dash to grab gear and head to the firehouse.

The lights and siren on the truck keep the firefighters awake and alert. The volunteer helps a team of colleagues put out a fire in an abandoned house.

As you read that, did you picture a man putting on the bunker gear and climbing onto the truck? If so, you will have to adjust the image. The Goodland station of the Rural Fire Department has its first woman firefighter, the second ever in the county.

Leslie Knitig, animal control officer for the Goodland Police Department, joined the Rural Fire Department four months ago, and she's proved she can do the job.

"I love it," Knitig said. "I figured, I'm young. Why not try something. I have the physical ability and desire to do it.

"I've always wanted to; people look at firemen and want to be one. I want to help people, save someone, save their property."

She said it was difficult at first, just seeing if she was up to the challenge. You have to find out whether you can do it or not, she said; you don't want to leave someone vulnerable, your partner or someone whose house is on fire.

"I have found that I can," Knitig

said. "I have enjoyed it ever since."

"So far she has been an excellent firefighter," said Rural Fire Chief Ken Griffith; "Leslie is very energetic — she jumps right in and is not afraid to do what she needs to. She's a huge asset to the department."

She is *definitely* capable of doing the job, Griffith said.

But it has not been a day at the beach. The gear's heavy, Knitig said; the first time you put on an air pack, which weighs 30

pounds, you realize how much extra weight you have to carry.

With the adrenaline on a call, she said, you don't notice the weight so much. And getting up early in the morning and in the middle of the night has not been too hard.

"When the page goes off," Knitig said, "I'm instantly awake. I think of what I have to do, grab clothes, radio, out the door."

And the lights and sirens on the fire truck are a good alarm clock, she adds.

Knitig said she gets along great with the guys on the department. Since she works for the police department, she is used to working mostly with men, and she already knew most of the firemen.

"They have welcomed me on the fire department," Knitig said. "They actually had to vote me on.

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Leslie Knitig, the second woman firefighter ever in Sherman County, put on her bunker gear during training. Once hidden in the gear, Knitig is often called a "fireman." She catches people off guard when she removes her helmet, revealing a pretty young face with blonde curls.

Goodland a world-class travel destination?

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

The idea of vacationing in Sherman County may seem a little strange to those who live here, but travel industry reporters who stop by say the area has an appeal for some.

Donna Price, director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau, said she's been visited by several travel writers fishing for information on the area.

Midwest Living has been working on two pieces, Price said, one a story, "Room to Hunt," about turkey hunting at Kuhrt Ranch that will be in the Kansas Getaway Guide, and the other on Big Ed's in Bird City that may be incorporated into a story on the ranch which may appear in the magazine, the guide or both.

Price said she has had or made appointments with several national and international travel writers, including Gary Cralle of Georgetown,

Ontario, who visited Goodland in October; Pamela Ann Campbell, editor of "Travel, Travel, Travel," of Toronto, who is planning a trip to Kansas in August; Diana Lambdin Mayer of Parkville, Mo.; Phil Anderson of the Topeka Capitol Journal; Barbara Morrow, deputy editor of Midwest Living for travel, special publications; and Maureen Littlejohn of Philadelphia.

All of the writers asked for information on the big Van Gogh painting,

county history and bed and breakfasts, Price said.

A writer from the Capitol Journal will be in Sherman County in the spring working on a special section for next travel season, Price said, and photos of the Van Gogh have been sent to a production company in Canada. They are doing a film on the painting and the artist, Cameron Cross.

Price said she has been getting phone calls from potential travelers

from across the country and from Canada.

For the month, she said, there were 44 calls from around Kansas; nine from Colorado, four each from Canada and Oklahoma; three each from Pennsylvania and Georgia; two each from California, Mississippi, Arkansas and Nebraska; and one each from Missouri, Newfoundland, Arizona, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Florida, Texas and North Carolina.



New bridge
to open to cars
later this week

An aerial view (above) of paving the new bridge on County Road 65 (Eighth Street) Thursday afternoon. The paving was being completed on Friday (right) by a crew from APAC paving out of Hays. The span should be open by Thursday, Eric Oelschlager, construction engineer with the state Department of Transportation from Atwood, said Monday. He said the warmer weather is helping and expects the paving of K-27 by the new bridge about eight miles south of Goodland to begin next week.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

