

weather
report

88°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:25 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 83 degrees

• Humidity 44 percent

• Sky clear

• Winds south 12 m.p.h.

• Barometer 30.03 inches
and falling

• Record High 104° (1921)

• Record Low 46° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

High 97°

Low 65°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy with 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 60-65, winds south 20 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high near 90, low lower 60s, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms from late evening on.

Extended Forecast

Independence Day: partly sunny, high near 90, low lower 60s. Friday: partly cloudy, high lower 90s. Saturday: partly cloudy, high 90s, low 60s. (National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$3.08 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.96

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$2.18 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.16

Loan deficiency payment — 00¢

Milo — \$1.84 bushel

Soybeans — \$4.71 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.90

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Millet — \$4.25 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$10.65 cwt.

NuSun — \$10.80 cwt.

Loan deficiency prmt. — 0¢

Confection current — inquire

Pinto beans — \$27

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon
wire

Late news
from the
Associated
Press

1 p.m.

Russian pilot
had warning

UEBERLINGEN, Germany — A chartered Russian airliner had about a minute warning before slamming into a cargo plane over southern Germany, killing 71 people including 52 children headed for a beach vacation in Spain, officials said today.

Swiss air traffic control, which was in charge of the flight path of both planes, initially said it had given the Tupolev-154 roughly two minutes advance notice and that the pilot did not begin descending to avoid the cargo jet until third request.

The Swiss revised their account after a German government agency said the Russian pilot was given only about 50 seconds warning and reacted after a second notice. The German account said the Russian pilot changed course about 25 seconds before the collision 36,000 feet over Lake Constance.



Ken Fisher, an employee at Mueller Grain, unloaded about 35,000 pounds of wheat at the downtown elevator Monday afternoon. Wheat harvest is winding down this week.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Director says office not busy

Farmers don't need wheat harvest help

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

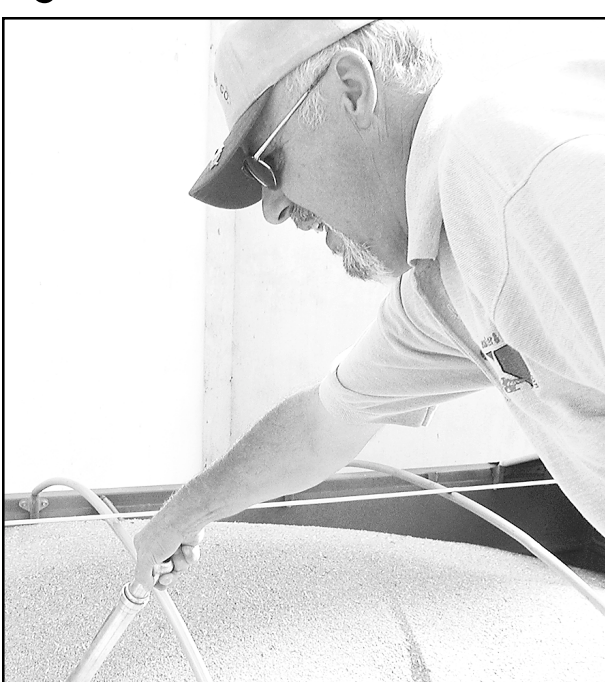
Alicia Avila's job is to pair custom harvesting crews with farmers who need help cutting ripe wheat, but she says she hasn't had much luck making matches this harvest.

The problem, she said, is there are many more harvest crews looking for work than farmers looking for help.

In the week the Sherman County Harvest Information Office has been open, Avila said on Monday, only four farmers have called offering jobs, while 40 cutting crews have called or stopped by. All she can do, she said, is write down their names and tell them she'll call if a job comes up.

Avila said people tell her the office is usually bustling, with custom cutters constantly strolling through and the phone ringing off the hook, but she says that hasn't been her experience. "I just sit here and read," she said.

Why the huge drop in activity? Avila said she's heard drought and heat have destroyed a good part of the wheat crop and cut yields and farmers are opting to do the harvesting themselves because they can't afford to hire custom cutters.



Tom Stewart, manager of the Mueller Grain elevator, took a test sample from a load of wheat that came in Monday afternoon.

This is the first year Avila has run the harvest office at Frontier Equity Exchange on Old U.S. 24. She replaced Gay Nell Helwig, who died in January after running the service for 15 years — the last four driving here from Naples, Fla., where she moved to live closer to her daughter.

The temporary office is one of 17 the Kansas Department of Human Resources opened across the state this summer as part of its 37th annual

Wheat Harvest Program. Only three remain open, including those in Colby and Oberlin.

It's ironic that Avila is now running the harvest office, because she's the one who gave Helwig the job.

Avila knew Helwig for more than 20 years, but she said they didn't become close friends until after she offered Helwig the harvest office job.

See HARVEST, Page 4

Motel owner fined for baby cougar

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

A jury of six said Jeffrey Harsh, owner of the K-Inn motel, committed a crime when he had a baby cougar at the motel last August. He was sentenced last week to pay a fine of \$300 plus court costs.

Goodland Police found the cougar in August while searching for drugs at the motel. Officers said they didn't find drugs, but did discover the animal.

Harsh went to trial last week for charges of unlawfully possessing an exotic animal in the City of Goodland, a misdemeanor. He chose to represent himself.

He asked that the charges be dropped, claiming the police did not

have the right to seize the cougar because their search warrant didn't say they were looking for one. He accused Judge Jack Burr of bias and tried to have him removed, but ended up calling him as a witness, requiring a different judge to hear the case.

Meanwhile, the cougar has been moved to a new home at a zoo in Garden City.

The trial had interesting aspects for everyone involved.

City Attorney Perry Warren said Harsh brought a dead baby cougar into the courtroom to show it to the jury. Harsh never got a chance to explain why he brought in the cougar.

"He hauled it out of the shoe box," Warren said, "and the judge sent the

jury out and told him to get it out of the courtroom."

Warren said it was the weirdest thing he's ever seen in the courtroom.

"I've practiced law for 30 years," he said, "and I thought I'd seen most everything."

Goodland Police had a warrant to search the motel in August after receiving information that guests had drugs and were producing methamphetamine. They found no drugs, but the motel's owner, Harsh, had the baby cougar.

Harsh told the jury he had a right to have the cougar because he had a license and a city ordinance says exotic

See COUGAR, Page 4

City water use too high

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

The state says people in Goodland are using too much water, and if usage doesn't go down, the city will have to enforce a water conservation plan.

City Manager Ron Pickman told the Goodland City commissioners at a meeting Monday the city is using 900 gallons of water per person, when it should be using less than 200.

"We are well over our allotment," Pickman said. "In May, we used 66 million gallons, and the maximum we are allowed is 44 million."

The city received a note from the state asking that people in Goodland use less water.

"The first note was friendly. The second won't be," Pickman said.

The state is reviewing its records, to make sure the figures are right, he said, but the city has gone over some records of its own, and so far they confirm what the state says.

"We're at least double what we should be," Pickman said, "probably more."

People are watering their lawns too much, at the wrong time, and ineffectively, Pickman said.

"When you see water in the ditch and it hasn't rained, you know there is a problem," he said, adding the city will have to reduce how much it waters its parks. To keep up with the demand, the city has started pumping the well by the transfer station, Pickman said, which it has been trying not to use for fear it is spreading groundwater contamination.

"This is only July 1," Pickman said. "Usually we don't run into these kinds of problems until August."

The city has a plan to enforce water conservation if it has to, Pickman said, but he would rather give people a chance to voluntarily cut back on their usage.

City roundup

At its meeting Monday, the Goodland City Commission:

- Encouraged people to limit their water usage because the city is using up to three times the amount allowed by the state. Story at left.

- Approved a bid on a police car, prompting a discussion about accepting local bids. Story to come.

- Passed an economic development incentive package to encourage new businesses. Story to come.

- Explained why electric rates at the Sherman County Fairgrounds have gone up. Story to come.

See story on county burn ban extension. Page 4.

Some cities, especially in Colorado, he said, are taking strong measures. Car washes have been shut off, lawns can only be watered one hour each in the morning and evening every third day, and violators are fined \$100 the first time they break the rule. The second time they are hit with a \$500 fine and get their water shut off.

"We don't want to do anything like this," Pickman said, "but we may be forced to."

Commissioner Curtis Hurd offered a solution.

"Would it help if we passed an ordinance to make it rain?"

County race loses candidate

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Royal Reid, one of two Republican candidates for Sherman County Commissioner in District No. 1, said on Monday that he is pulling out of the race for personal reasons — but his name will still be on the ballot.

Reid brought a letter to The Goodland Daily News and notified County Clerk Janet Rumpel on Monday afternoon that he would no longer be a candidate in the upcoming primary election.

In the letter, Reid said, "I have decided not to continue the run for the Sherman County Commissioner position for personal reasons. I wish Charles Thomas the very best in this endeavor."

Reid declined to expand, but said he had thought it over for several days before making the decision to withdraw.

That leaves Thomas, an Edson farmer, to fill the seat that will be left open when Chuck Frankenfeld retires. Frankenfeld will not be allowed to seek the office because he is moving out of the district.

Despite Reid's decision, Rumpel said his name will remain on the primary election ballot. The election is scheduled to be held on Aug. 6.

"If they do not withdraw before the filing day, the name is on the ballot," she said.

Rumpel said since Reid's name will be on the ballot, people can vote for him. She said she's not sure what would happen if Reid won the primary.

"I guess I would have to call the Secretary of State's office and ask," Rumpel said. "I would guess if that happened and Reid did not want to accept the position the county Republicans could appoint someone to be on the general ballot, but I would have to check that with the election officials in Topeka."

In other election news, Rumpel said because of the Congressional redistricting case, a federal judge has changed the deadlines for mailing military ballots to July 12, and set advance voting for July 24.

A decision on the case is expected today or tomorrow as the panel of judges were to hear arguments this afternoon.

Tech college student dies after car accident

A 20-year-old Northwest Kansas Technical College student from Bazine died at a Ness County hospital Sunday after he was thrown from a car in a rollover accident late Saturday night.

Ken Clouse, technical college president, said students in Joshua Black's class in the communications technology program will be dismissed today to attend funeral services at the Bazine grade school auditorium in Ness

County. Other students may be let out, he said, on a case-by-case basis to go to the funeral.

Clouse said Black is the second technical college student to be killed in a car accident this year.

Jeff Hopper, 26, Gem, died in mid-April after his car hit the rear of semi-trailer rig on I-70 in Sherman County

See ACCIDENT, Page 4