

weather report



75°
noon
Monday

Today

• Sunset, 8:18 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:23 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:18 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 69 degrees
- Humidity 29 percent
- Sky clear and sunny
- Winds northeast 20-24 mph
- Barometer 30.19 inches and rising

- Record High today 106° (1970)
- Record Low today 43° (1985)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	94°
Low Sunday	67°
Precipitation	none
This month	2.16
Year to date	9.47
Below normal	0.43 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 91, winds breezy out of the south at 10 to 35 mph and a low around 65. Wednesday: Sunny and hot with a high near 100, winds out of the west at 10 to 15 switching to the southeast and a low around 69.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny and hot and breezy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 98 and a low around 69. Friday: Sunny with a high near 93 and a low around 63.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$6.68 bushel	Posted county price — \$6.86
Corn — \$6.17 bushel	Posted county price — \$6.53
Milo — \$5.91 bushel	
Soybeans — \$12.03 bushel	Posted county price — \$12.58
Millet — \$5 hundredweight	
Sunflowers	
Oil current crop — \$32.25 cwt.	Confection — no bid
Pinto beans — \$28 (new crop)	

(Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Elks K-18 splits games

Elks K-18 team member Taylen Smith was the winning pitcher in the first game against Quinter. Goodland won the first game 5-3, but lost the second 7-4. See story, photos on Page 10.

Hams have success at Field Day

A small dedicated cadre of amateur radio operators spent Saturday and through the night to noon on Sunday set up under simulated emergency conditions at the Tourist Information Center on I-70 for the annual ham field day.

The hams had three radio stations set up with four antennas available all running off a generator plus a network of computers to record the information, and made 517 contacts in the 24-hour event period.

Emergency situations from tornadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding forest fires and other disasters all have a common need for information to be gathered and transmitted to give officials and the public ways to deal with the events. In many of these cases hams can help because the radios do not depend on cell towers, phone lines or electric lines.

The American Radio Relay League sponsors the annual field day to give hams a way to exercise under simulated emergency conditions and make plans that could be executed if an emergency happens.

For the Sherman County Amateur Radio Enthusiasts the field day gives the area members a chance to experiment with the remote setup.

"Field day is about dealing with issues," said Ray Smee (N0NM), "and finding ways to deal with those issues."

Mike Gregory (K0MC), club president, said he was pleased with the 517 contacts and it was more than double what the group had last year.

This year the club members planned to spread out the antennas to reduce interference, and Gregory said that appeared to work as all three stations could operate simultaneously, and even on the same radio

band with little interference.

One of the stations was set up to handle digital communication through PSK31, which is a computer based system for transmitting messages.

The other two stations were on High Frequency making voice and Morse code contacts on the various amateur radio bands.

In past years the digital station has not operated as envisioned, but this year with a change in the location of the antenna the station worked well and contributed to the number of contacts.

Hams helping at the field day included Smee, Gregory, Scott (N0QE) and Deb (K0TES) Mentzer, Robert Chapman (K0DMVB), and Tom (K0JEI) and Ava (K0DHDX) Betz.

During the daytime hours people visited with the hams set up on the east side of the tourist information center. Among those visiting were a family with two Boy Scouts who were on their way east to Joplin, Mo. In the past year the Boy Scouts of America have re-established a radio communications badge, and the Scouts got a short chance to see how the digital station worked.

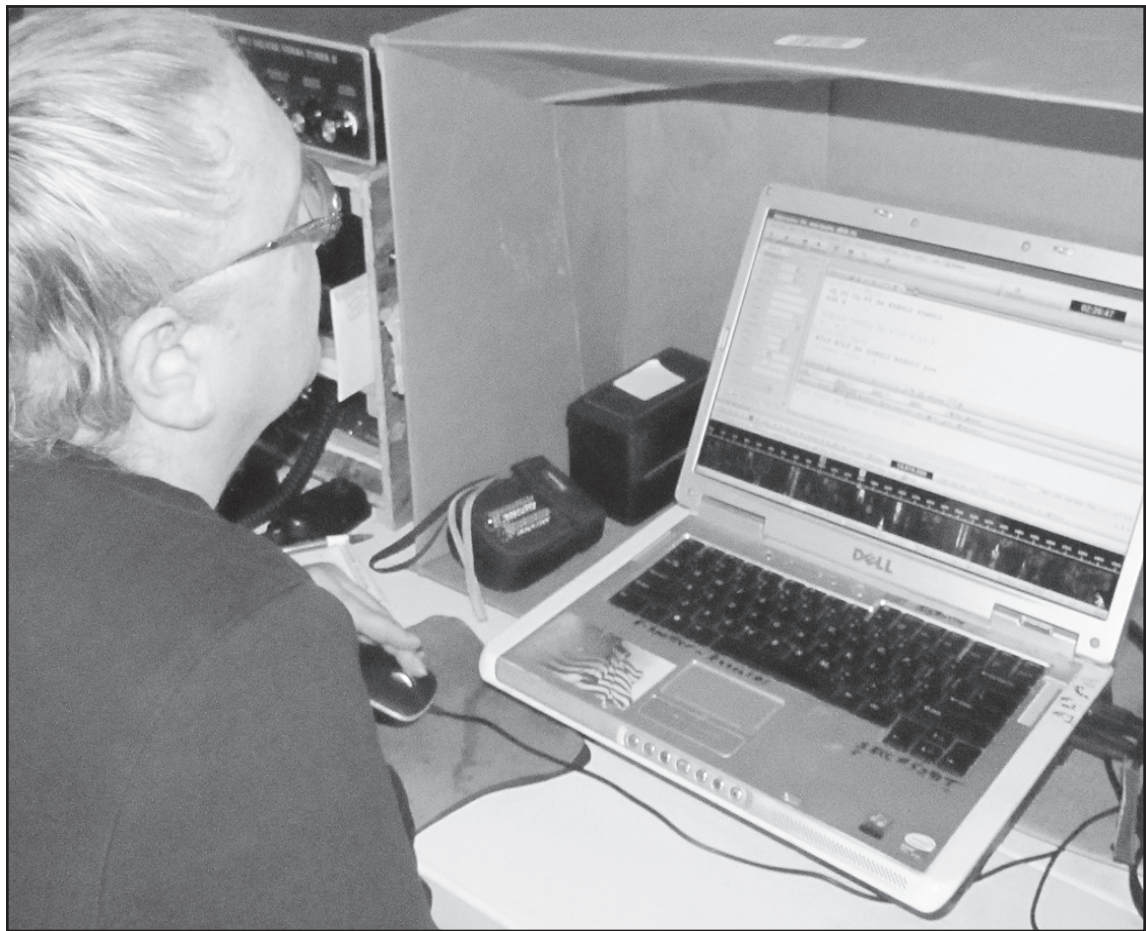
Three of the visitors were licensed hams from Colorado driving east, and taking a break at the tourist information center.

Area hams from Goodland and Colby are involved as storm spotters with the Goodland National Weather Service to search out and track severe weather. The hams operate a 2-meter repeater north of Edson to help with communications around the county and stretching west to Stratton, Colo.

The area hams have a daily weather net at 11 a.m. on both the Goodland and the Colby repeaters.



Two Colorado Boy Scouts were among visitors to the Sherman County Amateur Radio Enthusiasts remote setup on Saturday afternoon. The two young men were given a short demonstration of one of the new digital modes of communication. (More photos on Page 5.)



Ava Betz (K0DHDX) worked the PSK31 site watching for contacts on the computer screen. The radio is connected to the computer and the radio can be controlled through the computer. Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



Ray Smee (N0NM) ran electrical cords from the generator to the radio stations to provide power for all the systems.

More counties join opportunity zone program

Ten counties have now joined state partnership to spur growth in rural Kansas with four counties signing resolutions last week joining the Rural Opportunity Zones program.

Greeley, Hodgeman, Pratt and Wallace counties have become full partners in the state's effort to spur economic growth and revitalization in rural Kansas.

Sherman County is one of the 50 counties designated in the state program, and Economic Development Director Michael Solomon said he will talk to the commissioners at their meeting on Thursday morning.

Solomon will talk about Sherman County participating in the program, and explain how the program can help reduce the brain drain and bring people to Sherman County.

"I want to thank the county commissions in Greeley, Hodgeman, Pratt and Wallace counties for taking the first step in our plan to provide incentives to recruit more people into rural Kansas," said Kansas Commerce Secretary Pat George. "More people moving into Rural Opportunity Zones counties will bring economic growth, which is a top priority, and strengthen communities."

With the adoption of the resolutions, individuals who move to one of these counties after July 1 can qualify to have 20 percent of their student loans repaid (up to \$3,000 per year for up to five years) by the county and state, if the individuals graduated from an accredited post-secondary institution. Under the program the state and county would share the loan repayment cost with the county putting up a maximum of \$1,500 per year and the state matching that. For students returning to Sherman County to be eligible for this program the county commissioners have to approve a resolution.

"Greeley County is eager to grow," said Christy Hopkins, community development director for United Greeley County. "The Rural Opportunity Zones legislation will allow us to leverage state resources as we recruit and bring home skilled workers and professionals. We're excited to be involved in the program and look forward to reaching out to interested individuals about our county."

The four counties join Kingman, Lane, Rooks, Russell, Scott and Woodson counties, which joined the Rural Opportunity Zone program earlier this month.

Official application forms will be available from the Department of Commerce by July 1. More information on the program can be found at KansasCommerce.com/RuralOpportunityZones or by contacting Dan Lara, public information officer for the Department, at (785) 296-3760 or dlara@kansascommerce.com.

The program provides a state

income tax exemption for up to five years to individuals who relocate to a county from out of state. Counties do not need to opt in for individuals to participate in this portion of the program.

The program designates 50 counties including: Barber, Chautauqua, Cheyenne, Clark, Cloud, Comanche, Decatur, Edwards, Elk, Gove, Graham, Greeley, Greenwood,

Hamilton, Harper, Hodgeman, Jewell, Kearny, Kingman, Kiowa, Lane, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Mitchell, Morton, Ness, Norton, Osborne, Pawnee, Phillips, Pratt, Rawlins, Republic, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Scott, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Stafford, Stanton, Trego, Thomas, Wallace, Washington, Wichita, Wilson and Woodson.

Faces, place tour plans stops in area

State tourism officials and other Kansas travel enthusiasts will travel the state this summer to promote Kansas tourism as part of the recently announced Faces and Places Tour.

The tour plans stops at the I-70 Tourist Information Center west of Goodland on July 15, in Colby on July 16 for the Pickin' on the Plains event and at Hays for the Blues, BBQ and Bargains event.

The tour's goal is to foster tourism in Kansas through social media, promote Kansas as a desirable destination and increase tourism expenditures. The announcement was made in conjunction with National Travel and Tourism Week.

"Tourism is a vital part of the Kansas economy and one of the state's top priorities to grow and expand, said Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, M.D. "Tourism is the third largest industry in Kansas, supporting a 125,000-strong workforce. We will work very hard

in the future to create more tourism opportunities to showcase our great state and what it has to offer."

The tour will visit 34 festivals, events and other locations in an elaborately decorated Chevy Suburban and share their adventures using Facebook, Twitter and other social media.

"As the Faces and Places van travels the state, it will bring attention to the wonderful attractions we have in Kansas," said Commerce Secretary Pat George. "Expanding tourism will be a key component to moving the state forward, growing the Kansas economy and creating jobs."

The Kansas Travel and Tourism Division is charged with encouraging the traveling public to visit and travel within Kansas by promoting recreational, historic and natural advantages of the state and its facilities.

For more information, visit TravelKS.com

