

weather report

86°

10:30 a.m. Thursday

Today

Sunset, 7:17 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 6:18 a.m.

Sunset, 7:14 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 76 degrees

• Humidity 29 percent

• Sky clear and sunny

• Winds west 5 mph

• Barometer 29.9635 inches and rising

• Record High today 93° (1953)

• Record Low today 30° (1999)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 98°

Low Wednesday 64°

Precipitation none

This month none

Year to date 16.07

Above normal 0.17 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 83, winds breezy out of the northeast at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 60. Saturday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 82, winds out of the south at 5 to 15 mph switching to the east and a low around 55.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 77 and a low around 54. Monday: Sunny and breezy with a high near 83 and a low around 56. Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms and a high near 83.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$7.96 bushel

Posted county price — \$8.21

Corn — \$7.56 bushel

Posted county price — \$7.54

Milo — \$7.18 bushel

Soybeans — \$13.48 bushel

Posted county price — \$13.51

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$32.20 cwt.

Confection — no bid

Pinto beans — \$28 (new crop)

(Markets by Scoular 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

Cowgirls get ready to play

Senior Sydney Winston served a ball at the volleyball scrimmage on Tuesday. The Cowgirls play their first matches in a quad Tuesday night at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See story, photos on Page 10.

When one door closes, another one opens

The saying is “when one door closes another opens,” and for Goodland that was this week with the closing for the summer of the Vault Creamery (above left a family enjoyed their final summer visit to the Vault Creamery) on Wednesday evening, and Cowboy Corner Express (above right) opening at 6 a.m. on Thursday. The Vault Creamery was operated by Jill Deeds, Dana Fulcher and Virginia Palmgren, and Deeds said they will be open for Flatlander Fall Festival. She said it was great to do

the shop during the summer. She is not sure what will happen next year. At Cowboy Corner Mike Walters, manager and co-owner (right) rang up a sale with Jayson Woofter (left) watching. The corner store opened Thursday morning, and features a new interior and new gas pumps. Rich Hillmer is the assistant Manager and will be working the evenings. Cowboy Corner has great things for breakfast and sandwiches for lunch and pizza for supper.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

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Senator: I’m fighting regulations

By Tom Betz

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A group of about 45 people were at the Northwest Tech Student Union on Monday to listen and talk with Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts who was in town for a stop on his tour before heading back to Washington, D.C.

Sen. Roberts talked to those present before speaking, and met members of a Ethics and Business class who came to hear the senator with their college teacher.

When he began talking Sen. Roberts thanked the students for coming and said he appreciated their being in an ethics class as he has been on the Senate Ethics Committee for many years.

“I can’t get off,” he said. “I have resigned twice, but they say I can’t get off because they need continuity.”

He said he had quite a good time in Kansas and it was good to get back home and out of Washington. He said the first part of the tour was the drought in the southwest and he said around Dodge City it was the worst he has seen since the 1980s or the 1950s.

“I can report when I get back we did not have any rural fugitive dust,” he said. “We are taking care of that problem. Today we face regulation over kill.”

The next stop on the tour was in Wichita where he held a farm bill hearing. He said it was one of the best hearings he has had.

“The bottom line is we know we have to contribute to debt reduction, and that our country must do this or fall into chaos.

“We will contribute – everything is on the table – I would not make

Senator Pat Roberts welcomed one of the Northwest Tech students who attended his public session on Monday held in the Student Union with about 45 people attending.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

specific information from the new committee I call them the gang of 12.

“I feel we have too many committees. We had to work it out with all the finger pointing - we will get a number to see if they are taking a Lizzy Borden axe to agriculture.

“Give us the number and let us make the decisions about where the

specific cuts should come from.”

He said he knows there are two good people on the committee who know about agriculture in terms of policy. He said today only 4 percent of the ag budget is commodities and 84 percent is nutrition.

“I already heard they are taking nutrition programs off the table,” he said. “We are going to have to have

that number in September. This is going to come pretty quick.”

Roberts said he has been asked about doing a farm bill, and said he was hoping to put it off because he did not want to give people a second bite at the apple.

“We are going to have to help feed 9.6 billion people in the future,” he said. “We will need to double

ag production. Why would we do anything to reduce or harm our producers ability to feed this country and the world.

“Ag seems to have a target on its back and it is hard to tell our story. One thing we need to concentrate on is crop insurance and need to explain the importance and to preserve the program.”

Earlier in Hays Roberts held a rural health care summit, and said he doesn’t call it Obamacare but uses the initials of the program PPACA (Patients Protection and Affordable Care Act). He said the summit at Hays was good and he heard from health care providers in the room talk about regulatory over kill.

He said he had spoken to Harlan House about a problem with the local emergency medical service and said he thought something had changed and he would have a staff person get in touch with the hospital.

He pulled out a piece of paper and said this was what they are dealing with in regulatory overkill. He said there are more than 200,000 federal employees than two years ago. He said President Obama issued an executive order in January to have all departments review regulations to see where they may be overburdening the economy.

“I introduced a bill to take out the loopholes and include the independent agencies,” Roberts said. “I have 47 Republicans who will support this and I hope to get about 10 Democrats to get this passed.”

He said the nurses said they spend 80 percent of their time dealing with paperwork and not working with the

See SENATOR, Page 5

Goodland Hospital board president says farewell

By Pat Schiefen

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Brenda McCants, president of the board of directors for the Goodland Regional Medical Center submitted her resignation at the end of August as she and her husband, Larry, are moving to Colorado, and gave some final remarks at the meeting on Monday.

“It has been an honor to serve,” said McCants of her 16 years of connection to the hospital. “It is something I have done with my heart and the commitment to keep the patients number one.”

Chief Executive Office Jay Jolly said he would miss her.

Vice President Patty Eckhardt will become the president and the board would elect another vice president at the next meeting.

Jolly gave a report on a meeting Monday, Aug. 8, with the Sherman County Commissioners about taking over ambulance service. He said they were very uncertain about the revenue stream and wanted the hospital to continue running for another year till

the end of 2012. The county would be responsible for vehicle replacement and the hospital for maintenance and repairs.

He said when the Sherman County Commissioners visited Norton to see how they ran their ambulance service, the commissioners were told the Norton people advised them to leave the service at the hospital or to completely move it out of the hospital.

The hospital board agreed they would support that but would like to actually read the contract the hospital would have with the county.

Jolly said the the City of Goodland and the county would like the hospital to participate in meetings about consolidating the city and county fire department and rescue service.

Jolly said the hospital is planning to implement its new pay scale structure starting at entry level and have 10 steps to the top. Eckhardt said she was glad to see that being done. Jolly said most everyone would get a raise depending on how the person had worked at the hospital and the quality of their work.

They would start the new scale with the supervisors and the people below them and do the managerial staff at a later date. Jolly said Chief Financial Officer Jim Precht has budgeted in \$180,000 for this. The major concern is the change in the 2012 budget. The hospital providers have a separate pay system.

Dale Schields reported on the activities of the Northwest Kansas Medical Foundation. He said the Slice of Life netted \$60,000 with about \$10,000 left to be collected. He said the foundation is starting a capital campaign to build a foundation of support in an endowment for the hospital. Future plans for the hospital include opening a dialysis center and moving the emergency room to the southwest corner of the building for better patient care.

The Goodland Regional Medical Center Auxiliary started with a gift of \$35,000. Schields said the the staff had pledged \$73,000. Today they are having an appreciation supper for the staff with Steve Evert cooking.

The foundation is starting to get dialysis donations, Schields said. There are \$121,000 left in tax credits to sell from the state. They have sold \$135,000.

Jolly said the cost of belonging to

the Midwest Cancer Alliance went to \$15,000 instead of \$10,000. The foundation agreed to pay \$10,000 which they paid last year and the hospital would pay the other \$5,000.

Offices closed on Monday for Labor Day holiday

Monday is Labor Day, the last holiday of summer. Government offices, banks and financial institutions, all schools, lawyer’s offices and many stores will be closed.

There will be no mail on Monday and the post office will be closed. The city library and museum will be closed.

The Goodland City Commission will meet at 5 p.m. on Tuesday instead of Monday. The Sherman County commissioners will not meet on Tuesday morning.

The Goodland Star-News office will be closed on Monday, and the Midweek issue will be printed on Tuesday and delivered in the mail on Wednesday, one day later than usual.

Many retail stores, including Walmart, Dollar General and Orscheln, will be open for business.

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