

weather report

47°

10:30 a.m.
Thursday



Today

- Sunset, 7:16 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 6:21 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 48 degrees
- Humidity 86 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds calm
- Barometer 29.98 inches and rising
- Record High today 88° (1991)
- Record Low today 8° (1936)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 49°
- Low Wednesday 38°
- Precipitation 0.32
- This month 1.59
- Year to date 2.70
- Above normal 0.60 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 67, winds windy out of the south at 20 to 40 mph and a low around 40. Saturday: Sunny with a high near 61, winds breezy out of the north at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 34.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 65 and a low around 39. Monday: Sunny with a high near 63 and a low around 37. Tuesday: Mostly sunny and breezy, a high near 63 and a low around 45.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets



10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$6.32 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.39
- Corn — \$6.31 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.43
- Milo — \$6.07 bushel
- Soybeans — \$12.93 bushel
- Posted county price — \$13.37
- Millet — no bid
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$26.70 cwt.
- Confection — no bid
- Pinto beans — \$28

(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



Cowgirls get big wins

The Goodland High School girls softball team stomped on Scott City last Friday and Liberal on Monday, winning all four games by 15 or more points.

See Page 10

Cash-strapped courts plan furloughs

By Kevin Bottrell

kbottrell@nwkansan.com

Citing the State Legislature's failure to act on a \$1.4 million funding request, Kansas Supreme Court Chief Justice Lawton Nuss ordered the court system to close for five Fridays, putting employees on furlough for five days without pay.

Nuss spoke Wednesday in Topeka, saying he will sign an order setting next Friday as the first furlough day. Subsequent furlough days will be April 27, May 11, May 25 and

June 8.

In Sherman County, this will mean the court reporter, two probation officers, the judge's secretary, the district court clerk and three deputy clerks will have to stay home without pay those five days. Judges will not be sent home.

Court Clerk Linda Bowen said the court has had to change one motion day, which had been set for Friday, June 8, to Monday, June 11. Judge Scott Showalter also has motion days in Cheyenne and Wallace that had to

be moved.

Nuss had set a deadline of March 31 for the Legislature to decide on the appropriation request. The Legislature had been considering the \$14.1 billion state budget, which included the court systems' \$1.4 million request, but a dispute over money for public schools meant no decision was made before March 31, prompting the furlough announcement.

Nuss sent a letter to House Speaker Mike O'Neal in February, in which he said an unexpected decrease in court case filings

has created a revenue shortfall for the court system. This prompted the Judicial Branch's request for a further \$1.4 million. Nuss called furloughs the "unattractive alternative."

The Legislature just recessed for a three-week break. They will not come back into session until April 25. Nuss said that even if the court system gets that funding now, employees will not qualify for backpay, because they will not do any actual work on furlough days.



Auction, games at endowment event Saturday

Food wasn't the only attraction at the Northwest Kansas Technical Endowment Association "Wild, Wild West Bash" on Saturday. The evening included a live auction. Items included a 12-gauge Beretta shotgun, which sold for \$1,200; a 1999 LandRover, which sold for \$4,500; and a 427 Chevy engine, which sold for \$3,000. There was also a silent auction with jewelry, power tools and more. The event also had a bar, mechanical bull riding (left), courtesy of the National Guard, a heads-tails contest to win a \$250 meat bundle, backwards bingo to win an iPad 2 and prize drawings. The event was a fund raiser for the endowment association, which provides scholarships and helps with facilities and academic programs.



Apple holds ceremony for Northwest Tech iPad award

In a ceremony on March 15 at the Kansas Department of Commerce office in Topeka, Dan Senstock, higher education account executive at Apple Inc., presented Northwest Tech President Dr. Ed Mills with the Apple Distinguished Program Award. Northwest Tech is one of 49 educational institutions nationally and the first two-year college to receive this prestigious award for innovation, leadership and education excellence.

"Apple, as a company, enjoys partnering with institutions that take delivery of content

to a whole new level," Senstock said.

In fall, 2010, the college implemented a one-to-one iPad initiative. The instructors and students embraced the iPad and collaborated to discover meaningful ways to deliver content in the diverse programs across campus.

"We have to rethink what is happening in education because we have students that are the most mobile, collaborative learning students we have ever had in the history of education, but we are still teaching them the way that we did 20, 30, 40, 50 years ago,"

Senstock said.

Northwest Tech is documenting the impact of the iPad integration to measure success in improving student learning outcomes.

"The iPad has made a significant difference to us in teaching and in learning. Our faculty have embraced it, students are engaged," Dr. Mills said.

The next step for the college is to use the iPad to enhance career placement.

"Every Northwest Tech student will be able to document growth in knowledge, skills and

dispositions through mobile Portfolios on the iPad," Mills said. "This valuable information can then be used as a tool to get a job upon graduation."

Senstock summed up the presentation. "It is ultimately not about the technology. If the technology is not transparent in the learning process, then it is the wrong technology. When you go on the Northwest Tech campus, you really see an environment that is

See AWARD, Page 5

Oakley trooper gets throwback car for patrol's 75th anniversary

In honor of the Kansas Highway Patrol's 75th anniversary 14 anniversary cars have been issued to road troopers across the state, and if you're heading east, you may see one patrolling I-70 around Oakley.

These Ford Crown Victorias have a blue and gray color scheme and the red cherry beacon on top, two distinct features of the patrol's cars of the past.

"We are an agency who is proud of our traditions, and proud of the rich history that has paved the way for those of us on the Kansas Highway Patrol now," said Captain Scott Harrington, Commander of patrol's Fleet Operations. "The blue and gray signifies a profound period in our history, and with it being our 75th anniversary year, there could not be a more perfect time to commemorate such a significant milestone."

Two of the blue and gray cars will be issued per field troop, to cover the state of Kansas. Troopers issued these cars will continue their normal



Kansas Highway Patrol trooper Doug Reed stands with his new vehicle, which has been decked out in a retro blue-and-gray color scheme and a red cherry beacon on top. The patrol got 14 of the cars to celebrate its 75th anniversary.

Photo by Tod Hileman/Kansas Highway Patrol

road patrol duties, in addition to attending community events.

In Troop D, which covers Sherman County, the cars were given to

a trooper in Hays and to Doug Reed, a 10-year Highway Patrol veteran based in Logan County.

"I really like it because my gen-

eration and older know what it is and what it stood for, but it is also neat for everyone else to experience," Reed said. "I have had a lot good

comments about it, especially from the older generation that remember

See CAR, Page 5

