

weather report



48°
 10:30 a.m.
 Monday

Today

Sunset, 7:27 p.m.
Wednesday
 Sunrise, 6:05 a.m.
 Sunset, 7:28 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 51 degrees
- Humidity 60 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds south 6 mph
- Barometer 30.18 inches and rising
- Record High today 90° (2004)
- Record Low today 18° (1907)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 53°
 Low Sunday 37°
 Precipitation 0..08
 This month 1.78
 Year to date 2.89
 Above normal 0.26 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 73, winds out of the west at 5 to 15 mph switching to the south and a low around 42. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 73, winds out of the north at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 48.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 68 and a low around 42. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 67 and a low around 45. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 75 and a low around 48.

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

Area Democrats caucus in Oakley

A small number of Democrats from the 40th Senate District met in Oakley on Saturday to elect delegates to the First Congressional Convention as the first step in the state party process to nominate President Barack Obama for a second term.

Democrats gathered across the state on Saturday as they prepared to elect nearly 500 delegates who will select delegates to represent the state party at the National Democratic Convention in Charlotte, N.C. on Sept. 3 to 6.

Tim Peterson of Logan County chaired the meeting. All of those attending were supporting President Obama, so all the delegates elected were pledged to Obama. Sherman, Thomas, Logan, Decatur, Sheridan and Wallace county were represented at the caucus.

Peterson said attendance at the caucus on Saturday was much smaller than four years

ago when the Democrats were in a hotly contested battle between Obama and Hillary Clinton. President Obama won the nomination in Denver and went on to win the election in November.

The 40th District caucus elected six delegates (three men and three women) to attend the First Congressional Convention to be held Saturday, May 5, at Hutchinson at the Boys and Girls Club.

Women delegates elected included Diane Hooper of Bogue, Rebekah Peterson of Monument and Catherine Jenkinson of Sharon Springs. The men elected were Bob Hooper of Bogue, Larry Hill of Selden and Tim Peterson of Monument.

Alternate delegates elected included Bob Strevey of Norcatour, Lee Franklin of Jennings, Etta Walker of Sharon Springs and Sharyn Dowdell-Kountz of Bogue.

Peterson read a letter from Kansas Democratic Chairperson Joan Wagnon about the delegate selection process and results of a communication study the party has been conducting. In the letter Wagnon said independents and moderate Republicans agree with Democrats about issues including protecting public education, creating quality jobs and for everyone to pay their fair share.

Catherine Jenkins, a senior at Wallace County High School in Sharon Springs said she is interested in running to be a national delegate to attend the convention in Charlotte in September. She said she became interested in Democratic politics when she attended the caucus four years ago with her mother Etta Walker. Walker was elected as a First Congressional delegate to the National Democratic Convention held in Denver, and was a Hillary Clinton delegate.

Kansas Democrats use a proportional representation system based on the results of the caucus for apportioning delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Kansas Democrats select a grand total of 53 Delegates comprised of 33 Congressional District-Level Delegates, 11 At-Large Delegates, and 5 Pledged PLEO Delegates. Kansas has 4 At-Large Alternates.

Democrats who did not attend Saturday's caucus have a chance to be selected as at-large national delegates, Wagnon said. Those interested need to file a statement of candidacy with the Kansas Democratic Party by Monday, May 21, and attend the Kansas Democratic State Convention on Saturday, June 9.



This tornado intercept vehicle, one of several custom vehicles often featured on the Discovery Channel, was spotted gassing up in Atwood on Thursday. The vehicle is designed to drive right into a tornado. Photo by Andrew Melia

Storm spotters converge but area missed by tornadoes, severe storms

Several groups of storm chasers came through Sherman County on Thursday, hoping the storms floating overhead would turn into tornadoes. None materialized, however, and the area was missed by Saturday's large national tornado outbreak as well.

On Thursday the area was put under a tornado

watch early in the day. Several groups of spotters coming through Goodland in the afternoon. The nearest tornado, however, touched down near Benkelman, Neb. A wall cloud producing quarter-sized hail was reported near McCook.

Wind and tornadoes hit much of the Midwest

Saturday, but again missed Sherman County. The nearest tornado touched down in Rush County.

Sunday saw high winds with rain storms in the morning across the tri-state area, with gusts up to 54 recorded near Ruleton and 61 near Atwood.

Governor to visit college

By Kayla Cornett

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After signing a bill into law today at Colby Community College, Gov. Sam Brownback will visit Northwest Kansas Technical College for a tour and a talk with students and staff from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Student Union.

Governor Sam Brownback will be having a ceremonial signing of SB 310, amending the Groundwater Management District Act to provide the authority to create Local Enhanced Management Areas (LEMAs) to encourage more local action. This is an extension of the water plan policy to conserve and extend the Ogallala Aquifer.

The signing will be at the Colby Community College farm (2000 County Road 23) at 12:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Tuesday. The farm is 3 miles east of Colby on Highway 25 and 1 mile North. There is a sign on Hwy 25 at the North turn. In the event of inclement weather, the signing will move inside a building at the college farm. After the signing, Gov. Brownback will be going to Goodland to visit the Northwest Tech.

Wayne Bossert, manager of the Groundwater Management District in Colby, said this law only applies in a groundwater management district, but it allows the public to be proactive in conserving water.

He said the law can a solution to the Intensive Groundwater Use Control Areas problem, which is a process where the chief engineer of the Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources has power to implement additional corrective provisions.

According to the department's website, the engineer could implement these provisions in areas where it is determined, through a public hearing process, that groundwater levels are declining excessively, the rate of groundwater withdrawal exceeds the rate of groundwater recharge, unreasonable deterioration of groundwater quality has occurred or may occur, or other conditions exist warranting additional regulation to protect public interest.

Bossert said this process does not allow for as much public input as Kansas residents would like.

The process begins with the stakeholders from the six high-priority zones in northwest Kansas to develop a plan, submit it to the groundwater management district who then submits it to the chief engineer. The engineer can either approve in toto, can reject it by saying its inadequate or against the law, or can send it back to the groundwater management district board to give back to the group to make changes that have come up during the hearing process.

The high-priority zones are in Thomas (2), Sherman (2), Sheridan and Cheyenne counties. Once the engineer has the plan, it goes through two-hearing process to get it implemented.

"Locals may not get what they want but they're guaranteed not to get what they don't want," Bossert said.

local markets

10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$5.94 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$5.95
 - Corn — \$5.98 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.26
 - Milo — \$5.74 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$12.78 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$13.60
 - Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$26.85 cwt.
 - Confection — no bid
 - Pinto beans — \$28
- (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 two wins

The Cowgirls softball team won both games of a doubleheader on Friday against the Ulysses Lady Tigers.

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State to update driver's license software soon

TOPEKA — The Kansas Department of Revenue is ready to upgrade to a new, more efficient system for titling and registering vehicles, and people who have license plate registrations or driver's licenses that expire in April or the first week of May are being urged to renew no later than April 30 to avoid problems with expired plates and licenses.

The department estimates it will take about 100 continuous hours to

convert 6.8 million vehicle registration records to the new Department of Motor Vehicles system, a process that will begin late evening April 30. While those records are being converted, state and county offices will close out of the old mainframe system, install new computer equipment, and get set up to serve customers again on May 8.

From May 1 through May 7, state and county offices will not be able

to do vehicle title work or renew vehicle registrations, nor will they be able to issue driver's licenses and other identification cards.

The new computer system will replace three aging mainframe systems used for driver licensing, motor vehicle titling and registration, and inventory management with a single, modern system that is easier to use, maintain and enhance.

"This switch to 21st century

technology will allow the state, and the county treasurers who are our valued partners in vehicle registration, to deliver services to the people of Kansas more effectively," said Director of Vehicles Donna Shelite. "Our ultimate goal is improved customer service and efficiency, and we greatly appreciate our customers' cooperation in planning ahead as we make this important transition."

Waiting to go on



Sabrina Erhart (right) posed for a picture with George VanVleet while she waited to go on stage at Goodland's Got Talent on Saturday at the high school. Groups and solo performers of all ages sang, danced or displayed other talents to help raise money for a scholarship dedicated to Brianna Linin, who died in 2005. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

