

weather report



85°

10:30 a.m.
Monday

Today

- Sunset, 8:11 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 5:35 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:11 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 74 degrees
- Humidity 34 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds south 10 mph
- Barometer 29.95 inches and falling
- Record High today 106° (1936)
- Record Low today 50° (1917)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Sunday 101°
- Low Sunday 64°
- Precipitation none
- This month 1.22
- Year to date 6.63
- Below Normal 4.77 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night before midnight, a high near 96, winds out of the west at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 66. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of shower and thunderstorms at night before midnight, a high near 95, winds out of the northwest at 10 mph and a low around 69.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny and hot with a high near 97 and a low around 72. Friday: Sunny and hot with a high near 100 and a low around 71. (National Weather Service)

local markets

- 10:30 a.m.
- Wheat — \$8.12 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.78
 - Corn — \$7.81 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.26
 - Milo — \$7.36 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$15.25 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$15.12
 - Millet — \$11 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$24.35 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 and views from your Goodland Star-News



Sherman County a disaster area

Due to heat and lack of moisture, Sherman County has been declared a federal disaster area by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, making farmers and ranchers eligible for disaster assistance programs.

The county is one of 82 that have been declared as disaster areas effective Thursday. Sixty-six Kansas counties have been declared as primary disaster areas and 16 contiguous counties will also receive disaster designations.

The disaster declarations are the result of improvements the department recently made to current federal disaster assistance programs to update the disaster designation process, with the intent of delivering more efficient and flexible disaster assistance to farmers and ranchers coping with the ongoing drought.

Gov. Sam Brownback said this update is a step in the right direction to provide timely assistance to agricultural producers.

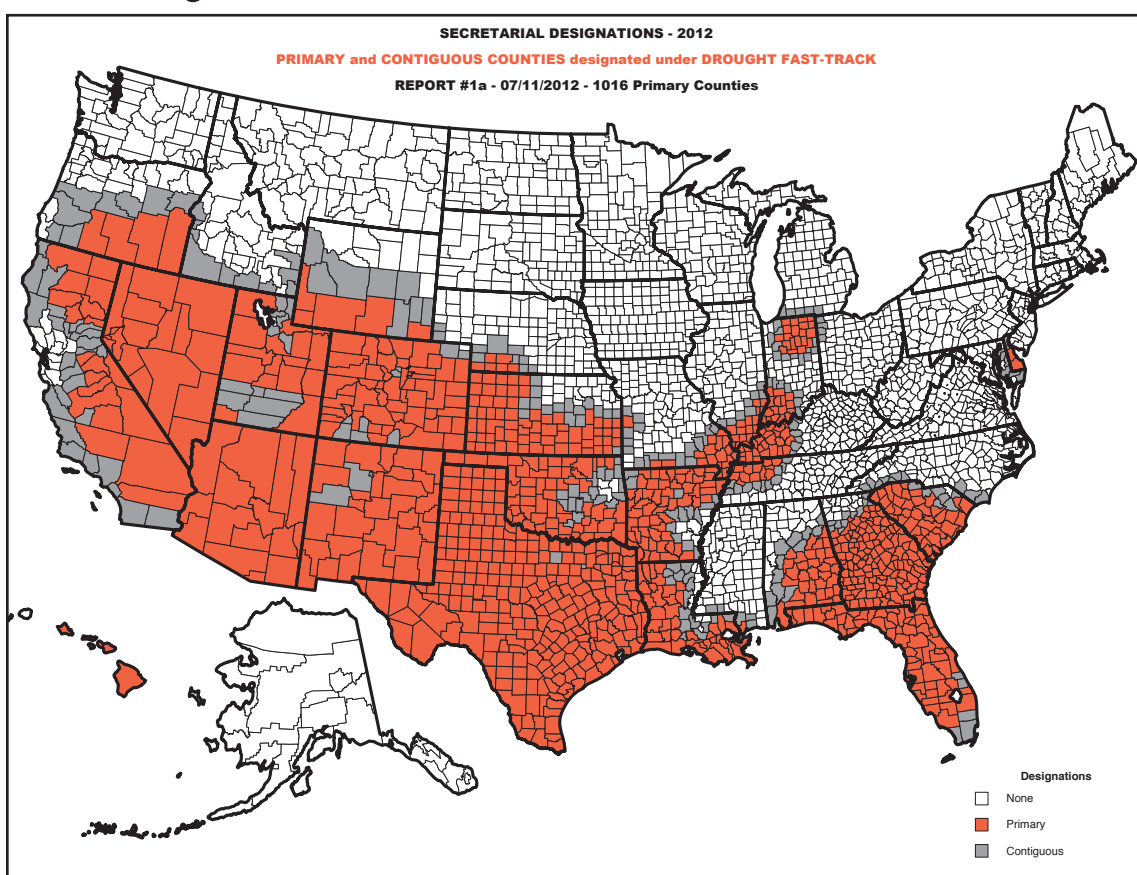
"Farmers and ranchers are at the mercy of Mother Nature and many of our Kansas producers are struggling right now from the ongoing extreme heat and lack of moisture," Gov. Brownback said. "We wel-

come these commonsense updates from USDA and will continue working to make sure farmers and ranchers have access to the resources they need to cope with crop losses and impacts on livestock."

Farmers and ranchers from the 82 Kansas counties declared as disaster areas will be eligible for emergency Farm Service Agency loans. The current loan interest rate, which was set in 1993 at 3.75 percent, was reduced by the department to 2.25 percent. Additionally, the department lowered the rental payment reduction when landowners use Conservation Reserve Program acres for emergency grazing and haying from 25 percent to 10 percent in 2012.

"Natural disasters cannot be predicted so farmers and ranchers need to have access to flexible, efficient and workable disaster programs to help them recover from losses while also enabling them to continue caring for their livestock," said Kansas Agriculture Secretary Dale Rodman. "These changes will help USDA act quickly to provide

See DISASTER, Page 5



This map, courtesy of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, shows the 1,016 counties nationwide – including Sherman County – that have been declared disaster areas because of extreme drought.



Relay for Life raises more than \$14,000

Cancer survivors, caregivers and supporters partied through the night at the Goodland High School track for the Sherman County Relay for Life on Friday night and Saturday morning. The event raised more than \$14,000. The cancer survivors took their ceremonial first lap and were joined halfway through by their caregivers (above). There was entertainment throughout the night for the relay walkers, which included the occasional dance party (right). For more pictures, see Page 3.

Photos by Kevin Bottrell and Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News



County fair events begin this weekend

It's never too early to start thinking about attending the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

While the fair itself begins Saturday, July 28, there are several events taking place before then, including the Dog Show at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, July 21 at the Ag Building; the Style Revue at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 24, at the Sherman Theater; and the Horse Show at 9 a.m. Friday, July 27, at the new arena.

The fair itself will begin with a parade sponsored by the Sherman County 4-H Ambassadors at 5 p.m. Saturday, July 28, down Broadway. Parade lineup will be at 4 p.m. The carnival will begin that night at 7 p.m.

The fairgrounds will be open for set-up on Sunday, and judging events will begin Monday. The 4-H and Open Class judging events go on all week. Foods, arts and crafts, clothing, rabbits, poultry, life skills and Exploring 4-H are Monday, July 30. The livestock weigh-in in Tuesday, July 31, along with the sheep and goat shows. The swine show is Wednesday, Aug. 1. The Beef Show and round robin showmanship is Thursday, Aug. 2. Livestock judging is Friday, Aug. 3, with the livestock sale at 5:30 p.m. that day.

Other highlights of fair week include:

- The Howdy Rowdy Fun Night at 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 30, at the grandstands/new arena.

See FAIR, Page 5

Locals turn out to support chamber

By Kevin Bottrell

kbottrell@nwkans.com

A good crowd of business owners, managers, officials and citizens gathered at the Elks Lodge Thursday to celebrate the re-constitution of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

After a musical performance, Mayor John Garcia gave a passionate talk on the virtues of Goodland. Garcia highlighted the progress Goodland has made over the past few years, including millions of dollars in both infrastructure improvements and business expansion.

Garcia recognized the new board members: Stephen West, Marty Melia, Darren Kannady, Kris Yost, Rochelle Kling, Don McKenzie and

Don Newell.

"We agree that this community has something to offer," he said.

Garcia said when he was talking to businesses looking for support, he had three priorities: some kind of kickoff event, collaborative advertising, and re-establishing the chamber banquet.

He then turned things over to City Manager Doug Gerber, who showed the audience the new slogan the city has been using "Kansas Begins Here."

Like Garcia, Gerber highlighted the good things going on in the city and county. He spoke about the New Goodland Energy Center

See CHAMBER, Page 5



Mayor John Garcia spoke to a member of the public while people went through the buffet line at the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce kick-off event Thursday at the Elks Lodge.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Junior golf plays here

The Goodland Junior Golf team has played in three tournaments over the past several weeks, two of them held at Sugar Hills Golf Course.

See Page 10



0 4 8 7 9 1 3 8 9 7