


weather report

77°
10:30 a.m.
Thursday



Today
• Sunset, 8:03 p.m.

Saturday
• Sunrise, 5:44 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:02 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil temperature 76 degrees
• Humidity 48 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds west 7 mph
• Barometer 30.09 inches and rising

• Record High today 105° (1910)
• Record Low today 50° (2005)

Last 24 Hours*
High Thursday 96°
Low Thursday 65°
Precipitation none
This month 1.22
Year to date 6.63
Below normal 5.90 inches

The Topside Forecast
Today: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight, a high near 96, winds out of the south at 10-15 mph and a low around 67. Saturday: Mostly sunny and hot with a high near 99, a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, winds out of the southwest at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 67.

Extended Forecast
Sunday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 96 and a low around 69. Monday: Mostly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.
(National Weather Service)

No decision yet on fire station

By Kevin Bottrell

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Talks on whether or not to house Sherman County's fire and ambulance services in the old IGA building are still ongoing, and though no decision has been made, the county commissioners inched closer at their Tuesday meeting.

Engineer Dan Hall was back in town with some preliminary plans and cost estimates to compare a new building with renovating an existing one, but at least one issue is preventing the commissioners from making the final decision.

If the county goes with a new building, it

will be built in two phases, with the ambulance garages, office areas, training rooms and sleeping quarters built first, and bays for the fire trucks added on later. Hall's current estimate for that building—including his engineering services—is about \$1.35 million.

Hall's estimate on renovating the IGA building was about \$1.1 million.

"It is a big number," he said, "but it is significantly less."

The number is also just an estimate, and may change significantly when the project is actually bid. Hall said he put in \$50,000 to repairs on any structural issues, but the building may not need it.

Some of the cost is also due to the IGA building being larger than the planned new building. That building was to be 80 feet by 160 feet. Hall initially thought the IGA building was 165 feet by 150 feet, but later revised that measurement to 144 by 132, which could lower the cost to around \$800,000 to \$900,000.

Hall said he always tells people that when he puts together an estimate, that number is unlikely to be the low bid.

"This is a good size project," he said. "You're likely to get some competitive bids. It's a buyer's market for builders."

The project could be done in phases, he

said, to spread out the cost to the county. However there is some cost savings to doing the project all at once. Hall suggested that when the county goes out for bids, they ask for an alternate bid to renovate the building in phases as well as all at once.

Hall generated a floor plan based off his preliminary measurements and using many of the features the commissioners had put in for the new building.

Hall said he drew in the ambulance bays on the west side with the fire departments on the east and north sides. All of the new rooms

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4-Hers show off clothing choices

The 4-Hers show off their clothing construction and buymanship at the public style revue held on Tuesday evening. Amanda Coon (above front) made a dress and cape to use at a Renaissance Festival. In back are Emily Wolf (from left to right), Jade Artzer and Ella Ihrig. Champ King (right front) shows off his golfing outfit with Jonah McClung in the background. Ashtin McClung (bottom) and her dog model the pajamas, robe and dog outfit she made.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News



John Deere dealership purchased

By Tim Burr

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American Implement Inc., headquartered in Garden City, has announced the purchase of Goodland Greenline and the Greenline facilities in Goodland and Wheeler. American Implement has also announced the merger with Colby/Oakley Implement.

These actions have resulted in a business that has over 90 years of industry experience and produce knowledge, 10 contiguous locations and over 260 employees.

In the fall of 1973, Robert VanAllen obtained the Cheyenne County dealership, built facilities and moved it to its present location at the intersection of U.S. 36 and K-27, in Wheeler. In the fall of 2005, VanAllen sold the dealership to Goodland Greenline, who has operated it until the acquisition by American Implement.

Tim Neitzel, location manager for dealership at Wheeler, said this move will benefit the customers.

"Our current employee group will remain intact," Mr. Neitzel said. "We will have access to 10 lots of new and used equipment, and have easy access to a larger number of in-stock parts."

"I am excited about being able to better serve our customers."

American Implement began operations in 1970 when Duane Koster opened the first location in Garden City. There are now locations in Colby, Elkhart, Goodland, Hugoton, Oakley, Scott City, Ulysses, Wheeler and Walsh, Colo., with its headquarters in Garden City. Officers of the corporation are: Duane Koster, president, Chad Koster, chief executive officer, and Ryan Ortnor, corporate sales manager.

Work begins on new I-70 road project

APAC-Kansas has begun an overlay on a 10-mile stretch of I-70 from the Sherman-Thomas County line east to Levant.

The Hays-based company began work Tuesday to place an ultra-thin bonded asphalt surface on the mainline with a conventional seal along the shoulders. A seal will also be placed on the western ramps at Levant and all the I-70 ramps at Brewster. The contract totals \$2.26 million.

Interstate traffic will be reduced to one directional lane while through the work zone, during daylight hours. The public should plan their travels accordingly.

Use caution, pay attention to the work zone signs, and respect workers when driving through any road construction zone.

Weather permitting, this construction project will be complete by mid-August.

For questions concerning this project, please contact Area Two Engineer Eric Oelschlager at (785) 626-3258 or erico@ksdot.org in Atwood; or Northwest Kansas Public Affairs Manager Kristen Brands at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org in Norton.


local markets

10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$8.31 bushel
Posted county price — \$8.48
Corn — \$7.96 bushel
Posted county price — \$7.90
Milo — \$7.47 bushel
Soybeans — \$15.81 bushel
Posted county price — \$16.11
Millet — \$14 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$25.15 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

Softball team wins at state

The Goodland Slammers 14 and Under softball team won the state championship on July 15 in Topeka.

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Incumbent senator concerned with budget, education

By Kevin Bottrell

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Incumbent State Sen. Ralph Ostmyer said that as he talks to people around the district, many are far more concerned about federal spending than they are in state-level spending.

"People are scared to death," he said.

As a state legislator, however, Ostmyer is more concerned with state issues, with the state budget first and foremost. The state made massive cuts over the past few years, he said, and it won't be able to give all the money back.

Ostmyer said he was as frus-

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trated with the budget process in the Senate as he was with redistricting.

"It would be nice to get it done the first month," he said. "Instead they kept it quiet until the last minute. The public gets tired of it; I get tired of it."

Unlike Reps. Rick Billinger and Ward Cassidy, Ostmyer supported

Gov. Sam Brownback's income tax cut. He said he doesn't think it will put the state in a bind later on, but acknowledged that it doesn't allow for as big a carryover into future budgets.

"The community hasn't come down on me for that," he said. "Local people were in favor of it."

Ostmyer said he does not support any tax increases at the local level, especially in western Kansas.

"We're carrying our fair share of sales tax," he said.

With the drought, he said, there may be many people who will have to depend on crop insurance.

Ostmyer chaired the Senate

natural Resources Committee during this year's session. When asked what that committee could do to help people during the drought, Ostmyer said they will have to discuss flex accounts. These accounts allow farmers to pump a set amount of water over five years, but also allow them to determine how much to pump each year. Ostmyer said some farmers have been over-pumping, and that will hurt them down the road.

Ostmyer said weather modification is also a topic that will likely come up in the next session.

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