

**weather report**

**79°**  
10:30 a.m.  
Monday

**Today**

- Sunset, 7:29 p.m.

**Saturday**

- Sunrise, 6:09 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:27 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 71 degrees
- Humidity 56 percent
- Sky partly sunny
- Winds west 5 mph
- Barometer 29.97 inches and steady
- Record High today 105° (1936)
- Record Low today 43° (1928)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High Wednesday	94°
Low Wednesday	59°
Precipitation	trace
This month	0.52
Year to date	8.12
Below normal	7.17 inches

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Partly sunny with patchy fog before 8 a.m., a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 4 p.m., a high near 87, wind out of the southeast at 5 to 10 mph switching to the northeast and a low around 61. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 86, winds light and variable switching to the north at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 58.

**Extended Forecast**

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 86 and a low around 63. Monday: Mostly clear with a high near 89 and a low around 64. Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 92 and a low around 65.  
(National Weather Service)

## County to get bids on IGA remodel

By Kevin Bottrell

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The Sherman County Commissioners spent much of their regular Tuesday meeting hashing out a floor plan for the proposed fire and ambulance station inside the old IGA building.

The meeting included engineer Dan Hall and Fire Chief Brian James. The commissioners instructed Hall to draw up a definite floor plan and specifications so the

project can be put out for bids. If the bids come in high, the commissioners said they would go ahead with building a new building just for the ambulance department, but with an eye toward eventually adding the rural fire department.

“OK, now we need to decide on layout,” Hall said.

Hall said he has now measured for a more accurate floor plan. The IGA building is around 50 percent larger than the planned new build-

ing, which is smaller than his original estimate, which may result in lower cost to remodel. Hall’s initial estimate was upwards of \$800,000, but he said his estimates are always on the high side, and bids will likely come in lower.

Hall recommended not putting openings in the west wall. The wall is concrete block and would have to be reinforced. There are also residences along Sherman Avenue, and concerns have been expressed

at several meetings about vehicles turning out onto a street with cars parked on it.

The commissioners decided to put the ambulance department on the west side of the building, with one or two doors for the vehicles facing north. Overnight sleeping quarters would be in the southwest corner. The interior wall that separates the west part of the building from the main part would be incorporated into the design.

The remaining part of the building would be set up for the city and rural fire departments. There would be eight 12-foot by 12-foot doors for the fire engines, four on the north side and four on the east side. The commissioners decided to have one 14-foot door in case the city or county departments decide to get a ladder truck. James said this is something he wants to do in case

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## Candidate on cruise when win announced

By Steve Haynes

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Rep. Ward Cassidy missed election day in Kansas last week – but not his re-election.

Mr. Cassidy retained his seat representing the 120th District in the Kansas House in a close race with Rep. Rick Billinger, a Goodland Republican. He and Mr. Cassidy, of St. Francis, were thrown together in the Republican primary with federal judges drew new district lines for the state with little regard for existing boundaries or incumbents.

Mr. Cassidy, it seems, had booked a Caribbean cruise for his entire family, including the couple’s two daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren. Or his wife had. The couple celebrated their 43rd anniversary and her retirement from teaching.

“She planned this back when I didn’t have an opponent,” he said. “I told her I couldn’t go ... and she said, ‘Yes, you can.’”

He said they were out of cell phone range, but had Internet access, so he followed the returns on the Web.

“I lost, I won,” he said of the see-saw race. “It was pretty exciting. There were some pretty crazy elections.”

He said he hated being placed in the same district with a colleague and friend but was glad he’d won.

“It was a good race,” he said. “He’s a good guy. The only thing better would be if we’d both be going back.”

Cassidy said he hopes to improve his position in the House committee structure, but that depends on who is elected speaker in January.

**local markets**

10:30 a.m.

Wheat	— \$8.35 bushel
Posted county price	— \$8.31
Corn	— \$8.17 bushel
Posted county price	— \$7.99
Milo	— \$7.68 bushel
Soybeans	— \$16.58 bushel
Posted county price	— \$16.78
Millet	— \$14 hundredweight
Sunflowers	
Oil current crop	— \$27.30 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.)

## Dumpster fire put out quickly

The Goodland Fire Department had an easy time with this dumpster fire in the alley behind Klip n’ Kurl – in the 1100 block of Main Street – on Tuesday. Fire Chief Brian James was on scene quickly after the call came and directed the other fire trucks down the alley from the south and through the Carnegie Arts Center parking lot to get at the fire. James said he could hear hissing noises from inside the dumpster, which suggested hair care products might be burning inside. Firefighters extended a hose from one of the trucks and approached the dumpster from the north, pouring water into it, which quickly extinguished the fire. Firefighters continued to wet down the dumpster and the ones next to it until they were satisfied the fire would not flare up again.

Photos by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News



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## Hospital, health department plan assessment meetings

Goodland Regional Medical Center and the Sherman County Health Department are teaming up to conduct a comprehensive county health needs assessment.

The objective of their effort is to identify priority health care needs in Sherman County, and to develop action strategies to improve local health-related conditions.

The motivation for undertaking the local health needs assessment stems from new federal health care requirements affecting certain hospitals combined with an effort by public health officials to secure accreditation of state

and local health departments. Both require a “Community Health Needs Assessment” and the development of plans to improve local health-related conditions.

“We see this as an opportunity to bring a cross section of the community together to help improve our health care situation,” said Tina Goodwin, director of marketing at Goodland Regional Medical Center. “We all have a stake in that.”

This will be accomplished through a series

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## Judges block EPA power plant regs

TOPEKA—A federal appeals court has sided with Kansas and overturned an Environmental Protection Agency regulation on power plants, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt announced Wednesday.

In a 2-1 decision Tuesday, a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia said the Environmental Protection Agency’s cross-state air pollution rule exceeded the agency’s statutory authority. Last year, Kansas was the first state to sue the EPA to block the proposed new regulations. The court faulted the EPA for imposing “massive emissions reduction requirements” on upwind states without regard to restrictions imposed by law. The court blocked implementation of the proposed new regulation unless EPA reconsiders and revises it.

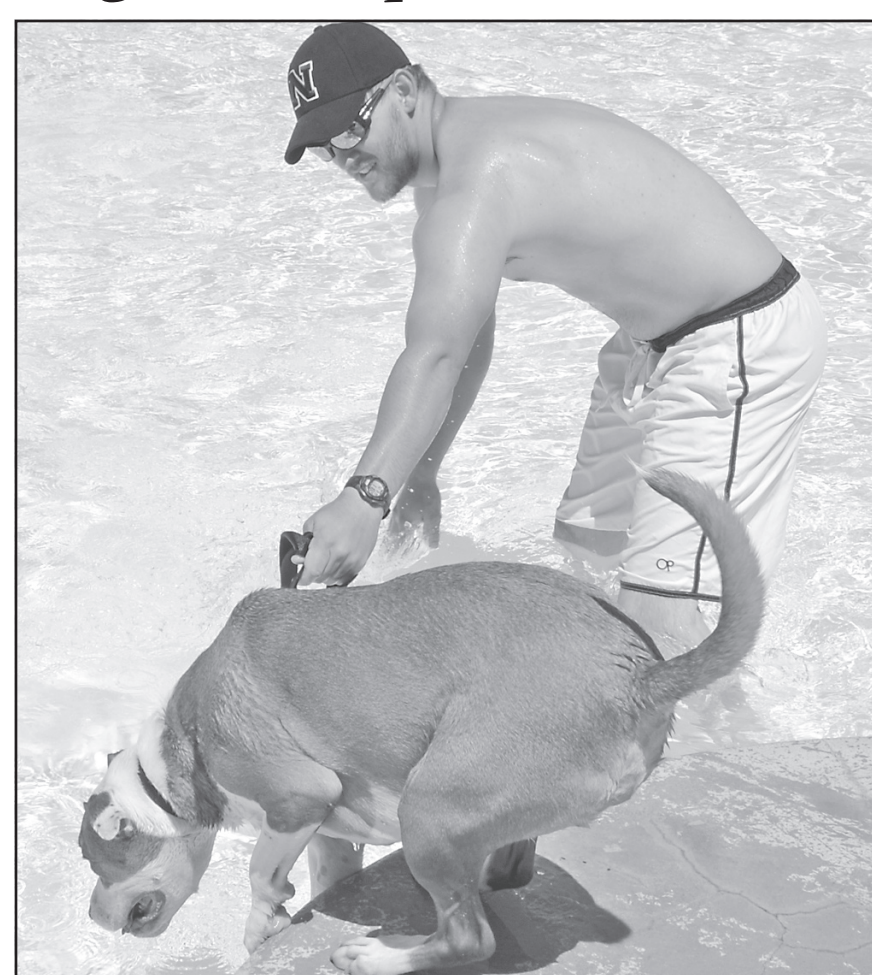
“This decision will help hold down the cost of electricity for Kansans,” Schmidt said. “The court has made it clear that the federal bureaucracy cannot disregard the law and ignore the states in developing new regulations. This is a victory for Kansas ratepayers.”

The Petition for Review that Schmidt filed last year asked the court to reject the new EPA regulations that would have required Kansas utilities to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in new emissions control equipment before Jan. 1 of this year – a timeline the state’s utilities said would be impossible.

Some communities, such as Goodland, had already been planning and making purchases to prepare for the new regulation.

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## Dogs take a dip



Around 14 dogs of various sizes and shapes and their owners showed up for the Third Annual Pooch Plunge at Steever Water Park on Sunday. There were pomeranians, schnauzers, beagles and Australian sheep dogs among the group. The event’s admission fees went to the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

**Soccer teams get first wins**

The Northwest Kansas Technical College mens and womens soccer teams played their first games of the season last weekend, getting three wins in four games.

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