

Weather Corner



Tonight...Mostly cloudy. A 40 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the upper 50s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph in the evening becoming light.

Friday...Mostly sunny. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 80s. Light winds becoming east around 10 mph in the afternoon. Friday night... Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening...Then mostly cloudy after midnight. Lows in the upper 50s. Southeast winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light.

Saturday...Partly sunny in the morning then becoming mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Saturday night...Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 60s.

Monday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s.

Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s.

Goodland skate park shows its sign

Goodland Star-News

A sign for the Skate Park at Steever Park was erected last Tuesday with the help of city employees and Shine On Sherman County youth committee members west of the site where forms are being built for the first phase of the concrete base.

Phil Erickson, city street department supervisor, had the help of Ryan Gausman, Eric Linnell and Chase Stevens from the committee to drill out the holes and set the sign.

Connie Livengood, co-chair of the committee, said Kayla Sharp, an art student and committee mem-

ber, painted the sign in about three weeks, with help from Goodland High art teacher Jeff First on the detailing.

Committee members present to see the sign erected included Kyle Mulenthaler, Jordan Cochrane, Courtney Cowan, Elizabeth Wellman, Kimber Linnell, Shaina Varney, Alyssa Brady, Starla Kear, Iris Scheopner and Kim Bohme, the co-chair.

The committee has raised more than \$30,000 over the past year to pay for the first phase of the skate park, pouring the concrete pad. Livengood said the group is now raising money for a half-pipe and other stunt equipment.

Street Department supervisor Phil Erickson put a level on the north leg of the Goodland Skate Park sign erected on Tuesday at Steever Park. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



Norton ponders legalizing ATVs

By TOM DREILING

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Norton City Councilmen Toby Kuhn, who chairs the Public Safety Committee, asked, at an early June council meeting, if — under the ATV ordinance — all-terrain vehicles could be operated at night if they have headlights.

City Counselor Karen Griffiths said she would check to see how the state statute is written. Police Chief Pat Morel chimed in that he has not seen any abuse of the use of ATV's or work site vehicles.

Councilman Ron Briery wondered if someone buys a scooter that cannot be licensed at the courthouse, whether it could be ridden on city streets if it is inspected and a \$25 ATV permit is purchased. Counselor Griffiths

said small scooters are not licensable under any state or city ordinance and there is no exception to allow them to be ridden on city streets.

Mr. Kuhn also discussed a stop sign request at the intersection of S. Archer and E. Washington. He said a temporary stop sign was installed for 30 days and its placement will be reviewed at an upcoming council meeting.

In other matters coming before the council:

- Counselor Griffiths was asked to draft an amendment to the Ordinance regarding shooting BB guns and archery, so they could be allowed at approved, organized events in a dedicated area. The City Attorney and Chief of Police will review the ordinance.
- Motion was made by Mr. Ot-

Goodland Rotarians help Myanmar storm victims

Emergency relief has been slow getting to Myanmar after the devastating hurricane May 3, but one of the first groups allowed in was a flight of ShelterBoxes, many sponsored by Rotary clubs, including the one in Goodland.

The boxes are part of a global Rotary International project, and the Goodland club sent \$1,000 to sponsor a box this spring, a few weeks before the cyclone and the earthquakes in China.

The ShelterBox effort started in England in 2001, and has become a worldwide Rotary project with more than 500,000 people helped in 40 countries around the world.

A second flight of 1,000 boxes

arrived in Myanmar on May 15, and teams on the ground helped load them onto trucks for the cyclone disaster area.

Shortly after the storm hit Myanmar, the first of two earthquakes hit China, and 800 shelter boxes arrived in that country on May 27 to help victims in Sichuan Province.

Goodland Rotary President Richard Liess said the boxes are packed in a green plastic tub with a 10-person tent and necessities to help a family survive for six months.

Other items include insulated sleeping mats and bags (depending on the climate), thermal blankets, water-purification tablets, water containers or carri-

ers, a trenching shovel, rope, a hatchet, a jack knife, a screwdriver, a hammer, a multi-fueled cook stove, eating utensils and plates and a children's activity kit. The plastic box is designed to be recycled.

ShelterBox was set up by the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard, England, and is based in Cornwall.

The charity is supported by international affiliates set up by Rotary clubs in other countries, including Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand and the U.S.

For more information, go online to shelterbox.org

Kansas lawmakers hail tanker decision

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kansas officials hailed a government report Wednesday that gave Boeing Co. a major victory in its quest to land a \$35 billion Air Force tanker contract.

The Government Accountability Office found major flaws in the Air Force's decision earlier this year to award the contract to a competitor — a team comprised of Northrop Grumman and a European defense company. It recommended the service hold a new competition.

"I have never quite seen a more damning report," Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., said of the GAO findings. "It's a total vindication for Boeing."

The decision is a boost for Wichita, Kan., where Boeing Integrated Defense Systems would be the finishing site for the tankers if Boeing wins the contract. Lawmakers from Kansas and Washington state — where most of Boeing's new tanker construction would take place — have led the charge to reverse the Air Force decision.

"This decision gives Boeing an opportunity to rebid the contract and would enable them to keep good jobs in Kansas and in states across the country," Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said.

Kansas officials also had criticized the decision for subsidizing foreign competitors at the expense of U.S. jobs in the aerospace defense industry. The GAO is not permitted to consider those factors, but Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., suggested they provide additional reasons to support Boeing.

By statute, the Air Force has 60 days to inform the GAO of how it will respond to the recommendations. Roberts called on the Air Force to rebid the contract and said he and Rep. Todd Tiahrt, R-Kan., would introduce legislation requiring a new competition if the Air Force does not reopen the process.

Tiahrt, who represents the Wichita district that includes Boeing, called the report "a huge victory for American workers and the men and women of our armed forces who deserve the best tanker."

"It is up to the Air Force to now make things right," Tiahrt said.

Brownback noted that the GAO report agreed with nearly every major argument Boeing made against the contract award. Among

them, the Air Force failed to follow its own criteria in evaluating the two proposals and failed to give Boeing credit for satisfying key requirements.

The GAO also found that the Air Force unfairly rewarded Northrop Grumman and its partner, Airbus parent European Aeronautic Defence and Space (EADS), for proposing a larger plane than was requested and did not reasonably calculate the cost of construction and engineering.

Bob Brewer, Midwest director for the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace in Wichita, said the decision helps level the playing field for Boeing.

"I think it was the right decision for the American economy, even our local economy and state economy," Brewer said. "Where we are talking tens of thousands of jobs and millions of dollars, those dollars need to stay here and provide some job security to the American workers."

Former Kansas Rep. Jim Slattery, a Democrat who is trying to unseat Roberts, claimed Wednesday that Roberts should share some of the blame for Boeing's current predicament.

Slattery said the Senate had a

chance in 2005 to include "Buy American" rules in a defense bill that would have prohibited foreign companies like EADS from bidding for defense contracts. But the rules were stripped from the bill in a Senate conference com-

mittee that included Roberts. Slattery also released documents showing that Roberts' son, David, was registered as a lobbyist for EADS at about the time the "Buy American" provision was being considered.

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