

**weather
report**

60°
at noon



Today

Sunset, 7:14 p.m.
Tomorrow
Sunrise, 6:22 a.m.
Sunset, 7:15 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temp. 40 degrees
- Humidity 49 percent
- Sky Sunny
- Winds South, 20-30 mph
- Barometer 29.99 inches and falling.
- Record High 88° (1991)
- Record Low 8° (1936)

Yesterday's Data

High 56°
Low 35°
Precipitation .45"

Northwest Kansas

Tonight: Partly cloudy, dry, low 35-40, winds south 10-20 mph.
Wednesday: Partly cloudy, high 70-75, winds south 15-25 mph.

Extended Forecast

Late Wednesday through Thursday: Thunderstorms, low 30, high 60. Friday and Saturday: dry, highs 60s, lows 30s.

24-hour weather information is broadcast at 162.400 MHz.

**local
markets**

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.50 bu.
 - Posted county price — \$2.44
 - Loan deficiency payment — 1¢
 - Corn — \$1.74 bu.
 - Posted county price — \$1.84
 - Loan deficiency payment — 15¢
 - Milo — \$2.64 cwt.
 - Soybeans — \$4.07 bu.
 - Posted county price — \$4.05
 - Loan deficiency payment — 84¢
 - Millet — \$4.25 cwt.
 - Sunflowers
oil current — \$7.75 cwt.
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.48
 - oil 1999 crop — \$8.35 cwt.
 - conf. current — \$17/\$110 cwt.
 - Pintos - \$12 (new crop)
- Local markets courtesy of Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun and Collingwood Grain
Local bean market courtesy of Prairie Pea and Bean

**afternoon
wire**

Late news from the Associated Press
1 p.m.

**No parole seen
in gay slaying**

LARAMIE, Wyo. — Russell Henderson stood before the sobbing parents of Matthew Shepard and apologized for kidnapping their son, lashing him to a fence and leaving him to die from a pistol-whipping on the cold prairie. "I know what I did was wrong. I'm very sorry for what I did," he said. "You have my greatest sympathy for what happened."

Henderson, a 21-year-old high school dropout, avoided a possible death sentence by pleading guilty Monday to kidnapping and felony murder in last fall's death of the gay college student.

Shepard's parents bitterly rejected the apology and so did Judge Jeffrey Donnell, who sentenced Henderson to two consecutive life terms.

Another man, Aaron McKinney, still faces a murder trial in the slaying that prompted calls for new "hate crime" laws.

Grain firm asks city for permit to mix fertilizer

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

Collingwood Grain is mixing anhydrous ammonia, phosphoric acid and water to make 10-34-0 fertilizer, using a portable rig, and manager Brad Cowen approached the Goodland City Commission Monday night about locating two tanks on their property for this job.

Cowen told the commission the mixing is now being done using a temporary semitrailer tank which brings in the anhydrous ammonia. He said the two permanent tanks east of the elevator would each hold 12,000 gallons of anhydrous ammonia.

While Collingwood did not need city approval for the 500,000 gallon nitrate tank that was recently completed, the commission must approve the placement of the ammonia tanks within the city limits. Cowan said if the city approves the request, the application would have to be sent to the state Department of Agriculture for its approval.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the application from the state says "the facility shall be located outside the municipal limits, unless the governing body approves the location."

Mayor Billinger said he was concerned about the health of people in the area, and that there was a city water well nearby.

"The permanent tanks would be a safer setup than the current temporary tanks we are using," Cowan replied.

Bill Thornburg and Ben Brown, who live near the Collingwood operation, said they were concerned about this, and that when the mixing is being done they find it difficult to be outside because of the fumes.

"I agree it does put off steam," Cowan said. "I am concerned about it myself. I have children in school and drinking the water. I am a conservationist and want to do the right thing."

Commissioners didn't seem to know quite what that was, though.

"I don't feel comfortable with the information we have," Commissioner Jim Mull said. "At some point, we as a commission must consider the health of our citizens and the protection of our water supply. I move we table this until we can get additional information."

The motion to put off any action passed 5-0. Pickman said he would contact the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Agriculture Department for information.

The commission listened to the taped reading of the lengthy Southwest Bell franchise for the third and final time before approving the ordinance unanimously. The three-year franchise is to go into effect in January 2000.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved purchasing a mower from W-R Equipment for \$6,093. This was tabled from the last meeting. The other two bids were \$6,100 from Goodland Motor and \$6,975 from Yost Farm Supply.

- Tabled bids on the handicap restroom for Centennial Park until the two bidders can be asked to provide a second option.

- Approved purchase of an electrical line truck from Teague Equipment of Denver for \$103,177. The new truck will have a 52-foot reach and double buckets.

- Approved amendments to the Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation program to allow \$20,000 in funds to be reallocated to the demolition portion of the project. Also approved an amendment which allows city employees to be eligible under the program.

- Approved a home occupation permit for a day care at 503 Main to be operated by Jacque Cooper.

- Approved demolition bids for removal of the house at 1322 Main by Morton Construction, \$5,750, and removal of the house at 1508 Main by Townsend Construction for \$7,250. In the case of the house at 1508 Main, the owner will pay the cost above the allowed \$6,500.

- Approved a list of utility accounts to be charged off as uncollectible in the amount of \$2,999.

- Held a closed session concerning the acquisition of property for street improvements. The commission then approved a motion to allow Pickman to continue negotiations for acquisition or trade of the land.



Fire fighters show off rig

Goodland Fire chief Dean Jensen (above right) explained to City Commissioners John Golden and Barbara Aten the features of the new fire truck the city received last week. The truck (at right) has a number of special features, including a large pump which allows several hose lines to be in use at the same time.

Photo by Tom Betz / Goodland Daily News

City honors teacher with special day

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

Wednesday will be the official presentation of the 1999 Kansas Master Teacher awards at Emporia State University, and Goodland teacher Mary Porterfield is one of the seven being honored this year.

Mayor Rick Billinger signed a proclamation last night honoring Porterfield for her service and declaring Wednesday as "Mary Porterfield Day."

The Goodland City commission joined in honoring Porterfield, and she was given a round of applause.

Tatum Shields, Chris Cooper and Jara McKee joined LeAnn Taylor and Brenda McCants to ask the city for some assistance at the Topside of Kansas 24-Hour Relay Challenge to be held June 5-6.

Schields said the goal is to bring the

community together for an experience where the people build cooperation and raise money for youth programs.

McKee said each team of 10 people will circle the track one person at a time for 24 hours, and each team member will run, walk or crawl for one mile.

Cooper said there are volunteers already signed up, but they need help for the event, and that anyone interested can contact Rhonda Williams at Goodland High School; Brett Randolph, high school senior; or Barbara Fernandez, prevention board coordinator.

Taylor asked the city commission for dumpsters at the site, and for the city to furnish electrical service for the booths and entertainment.

McCants said there would be bands for entertainment and food booths from local organizations.

"I think this is a very positive pro-

gram, and feel we can help," said Commissioner Jim Mull.

Mayor Billinger and the other commissioners agreed, and Public Works Director Ed Wolak said he thought a temporary service could be installed to handle the electrical needs. City Manager Ron Pickman said the city would furnish the dumpsters.

The future of the High Plains Museum is the focus of a special committee the commission appointed last year, and Linda Holton gave an update.

She said the committee has been meeting nearly every month, and has looked at some existing buildings for relocation of the museum. She said after examining two locations and consulting with some architects, it became clear that might not work.

"It was our decision not to use existing buildings because of the costs and

recommendations from the architects," Holton said. "We are now preparing a survey and several focus group sessions to gather citizen input on what the museum should do and what our direction should be."

"We know this is a long way from finding the funds for a future museum, but this process will provide a basis and the architects have said they would help with a floor plan diagram for a new museum."

Commissioner Barbara Aten asked Holton if the group was looking for a site that would be visible from the highway.

"As Commissioner John Golden has said, 'it is all about location, location, location,'" Holton said. "This certainly is part of what we are looking for direction from the citizens on what we need to do."

Turn out light in city, school voting



Voter turnout today was moderate, Sherman County Clerk Janet Rumpel said at midday. There were people ready when the polls opened, including Dave Smith shown here signing the poll book for Dixie Chatfield, election judge at the United Methodist Church.

Photo by Sheila Smith / Goodland Daily News

Houses negotiating on budget, road plan

By Carl Manning

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Little movement has been made by House and Senate negotiators toward reaching agreement on the Legislature's two major issues this year — the state budget and a massive highway improvement program.

As legislators began the final week of the regular session Monday, the emphasis was on reaching agreement on as many bills as possible. The Legislature's first adjournment is planned for Friday, and any lingering issues will have to be faced when they return April 28 to wrap up the session.

The only must-do for the Legislature is passage of a \$9 billion budget to finance state government after July 1. All other measures can carry over until next year, even those stuck in conference committees.

More than five dozen bills have been sent to House and Senate negotiators because each measure was passed in a different form by the two chambers. With each bill, negotiators will craft one version to send to the chambers for approval.

The Legislature does not reconvene until Wednesday, but conference committees began meeting Monday to resolve differences on the multitude of measures.

Each chamber wrote its version of the budget with increased funding for foster care, children's health care, the mentally ill and the developmentally disabled. But the two chambers are far apart, with no quick resolution in sight on how much to increase those budgets.

Senators stuck to their plan to spend \$8.6 million more than the House for foster care and adoption in the next budget year, and to spend \$13.2 million less than the House on children's health care.

House bargainers held firm for increased spending on other social services, including \$16.7 million more than the Senate on the mentally ill and \$12.5 million more on salaries for workers at community organizations for the developmentally disabled.

Another big-money issue for legislators deciding between two competing