

weather report

67°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:02p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:25 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:03 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 60 degrees
• Humidity 48 percent
• Sky Partly cloudy
• Winds S 16
• Barometer 30.14 inches and rising
• Record High 96° (1942)
• Record Low 77° (1992)

Last 24 Hours*

High 65°
Low 50°
Precipitation —

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear tonight, turning cloudy; low 45-50; winds S 10.
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy; high 75; winds SE 10.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday: Chance of thunderstorms each day; highs 80-85; lows 50.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.16 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.08
Loan deficiency payment — 37¢
Corn — \$1.67 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.81
Loan deficiency pmt. — 18¢
Milo — \$2.51 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.91 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.86
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.03
Millet — \$4 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$7.75 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.76
Oil new crop — \$8 cwt.
Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain,
Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op
and Prairie Pea and Bean.)

afternoon wire

Late news
from the
Associated
Press



1 p.m.

Legislature comes to close

TOPEKA — The ceremonies marking the end of the 1999 Legislature were brief and uneventful, despite recent weeks of turmoil among House Republicans.

The event is known as “sine die,” Latin for “without another day.” In both chambers Tuesday, clerks read messages from Gov. Bill Graves before Senate President Dick Bond and House Speaker Robin Jennison declared their chambers adjourned.

Jennison, R-Healy, announced a series of changes in committee memberships, caused by his decision two weeks ago to fire Rep. Phill Kline, R-Shawnee, as Appropriations Committee chairman.

Jennison’s announcement of the changes were met with no response in the House, and the entire session lasted five minutes. The Senate session lasted nine minutes.

Regulations could limit emergency care

By Keith Lippoldt

Goodland Daily News

Regulations implementing a new state law could make it tough to find and train instructors and other volunteers, severely restricting the kind of emergency care that ambulance crews can give in rural Kansas.

“These new restriction have pretty much put a stop to any advanced care in rural Kansas, especially northwest Kansas,” Karen Hooker, director of ambulance and respiratory care, told the Goodland Regional Medical Center board Tuesday night.

When Senate Bill 535 was passed last July, she said, the idea was to allow emergency personnel with more training to perform more on-the-scene emergency services, things that otherwise have to be done at a hospital.

However, the state Emergency Medical Services Board is considering rules under the law which rural ambulance directors say would make it impossible for them to provide have instructors for more than just basic care. The board will hold hearings on the proposal the third week of June, including one June 19 in Hays.

Hooker asked for the board to send a message to the state board hearing committee opposing the rules because they could stop the growth of advanced services in this area. Those include things such as intravenous treatment and other higher-level life saving techniques.

One problem with this plan, Hooker said, is a requirement that emergency medical instructors spend time student teaching, not just once, but at every level as they advance.

“Look at the school systems,” Hooker said. “The teachers are only required to student teach once in their life. If they move from junior high to high school, they don’t have to student teach again. Yet, that is what these regulations are forcing us to do.

“This is not feasible in our field. These are volunteers who work full-time jobs away from the hospital. Additional restrictions being proposed

will increase the level of training to unattainable reaches that will force the service to offer only basic care.”

Other requirements that would make it hard on volunteer instructors include requirements that instructors have made 50 actual emergency runs and have inserted 10 breathing tubes. It could take up to five years for some instructors here to reach that level.

Hooker reported that the ambulance crew has grown to a total of 25 active and reserve members over the last seven years. Of the active staff, 10 have advanced training, five have basic life support skills and one has first aid/cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training. Nine more people make up the reserve force.

Of the 25, 10 are trained as rural responders, who can go out to the scene of a call ahead of the ambulance. This cuts down on the time it takes for emergency personnel to reach a patient outside the Goodland city limits. These volunteers live throughout Sherman County.

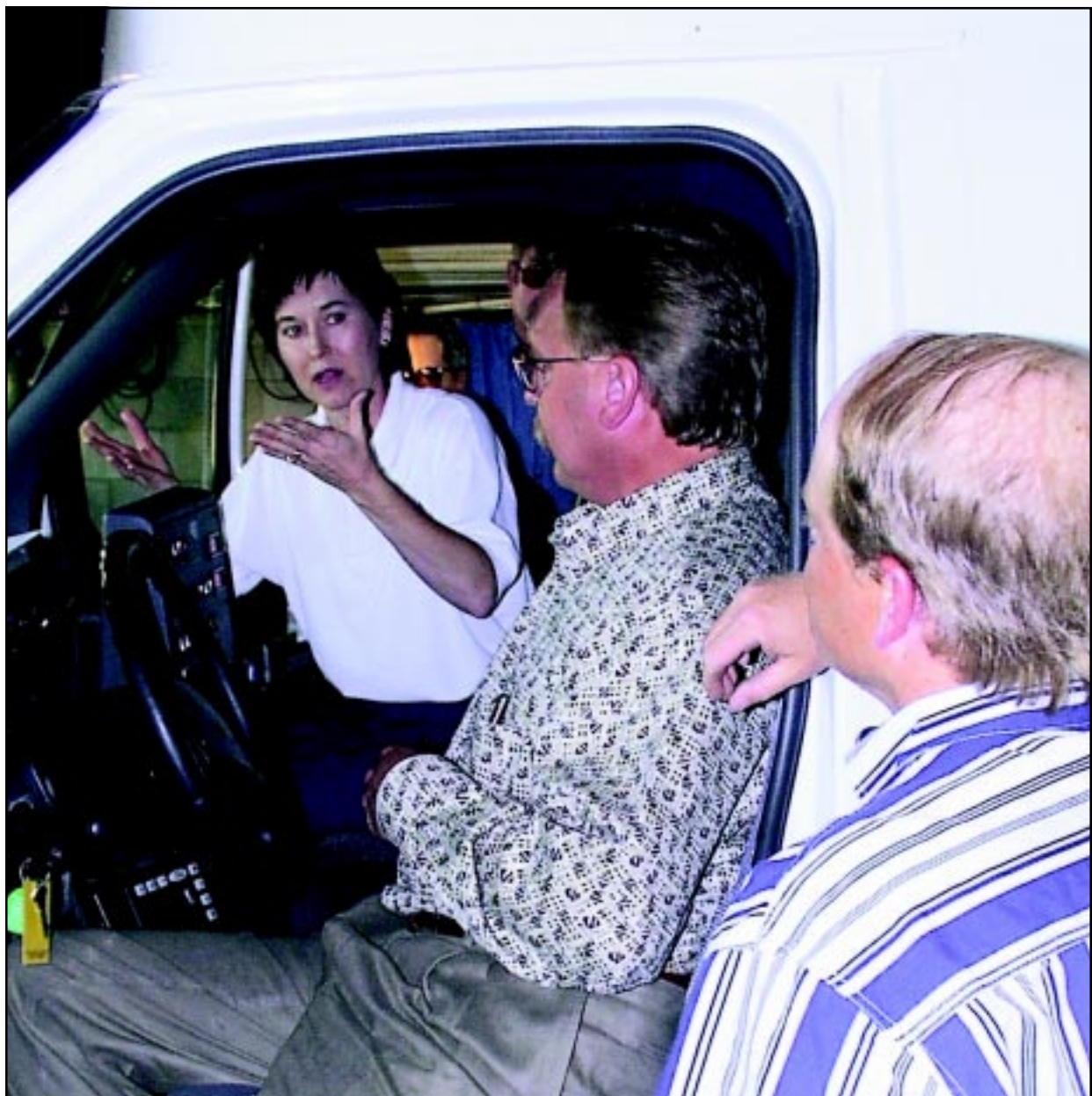
“These people do a great job,” Hooker said. “They are all volunteers. They have full-time jobs but they carry a radio. When they hear a call, they leave their job and come to the hospital for an ambulance. I hope that you will thank them for their service the next time you see them.”

After hearing the report from Hooker, the board voted to send a letter to the committee pointing out problems the regulations could cause in rural Kansas.

“Northwest Kansas hates this plan,” Hooker said. “It could hurt us. We won’t be able to complete our staff. There go our services.”

In other action, the board:

- Heard a report from Financial Officer Andy Laue that, despite construction costs, the hospital is again operating in the black.
- Accepted a bid from Troy Porter of St. Francis for \$12,713 for landscaping around the hospital. Porter will perform dirt work and plant trees and shrubs.



Karen Hooker, director of ambulance and respiratory services, gave a tour of her department’s facilities to the Goodland Regional Medical Center board Tuesday evening. Hooker explained the operation of a control panel to trustee Lynn Hoelting (sitting) and board President Doug Irvin.

Photo by Keith Lippoldt/Goodland Daily News

• Agreed to send Administrator Jim Chaddic and Laue to Nashville later this summer to meet with new professional liability insurance carrier, Willis Corroon.

• Heard from Chaddic that he had been elected to serve on the board of the Kansas Association of Health Care Executives.
• Met in executive session for an hour

to discuss personnel matters. No action was taken.

• Scheduled a joint meeting with Rural Health Ventures for Thursday evening to discuss personnel matters.

Protect your skin from sun

By Keith Lippoldt

Goodland Daily News

With school coming to a close and the weather heating up, fun in the sun can mean more than you may have bargained for.

With more people spending time in the sun without wearing proper skin protection, your chances of developing skin cancer have risen dramatically in the past several years.

The American Cancer Society says that skin cancer makes up just under one half of all cancer cases, with a majority of these being diagnosed as other than melanoma, slower growing and more readily treatable forms of cancer. Melanoma, on the other hand, accounts for more than 7,000 deaths each year.

Although these numbers are increasing each year, cancer of the skin is the most easily preventable. The cancer society says all it takes is knowledge, common sense and protection from the damaging ultraviolet rays from the sun.

Protection from the sun can come in many ways. The most common is the use of sunscreens. These lotions are helpful, but they do not make your skin damage proof.

“Sunscren with a protection factor of at least 15 is satisfactory,” said Vicki Transue, director of outpatient services for Goodland Regional Medical Center. “These products need to be reapplied on a regular basis if you are in the sun for a long period of time or in and out of water. One application is not enough.”

Keep in mind that it is not just the sunbathers who are at risk of developing skin cancer. Anybody who spends time in the sun could be at risk.

Transue warns that children are an especially high risk to overexposure and potential long-term damage.

“It is very important to protect a child’s skin,” she said. “Most of the damage to the skin is done as a small child and the signs begin to show up as



Hospital auxiliary volunteers Bonnie Daily (left) and Irene Kehlbeck signed Harold VanVleet in for a skin cancer screen at the outpatient clinic of Goodland Regional Medical Center .

Photo by Charlie Baker/Goodland Daily News

they grow older.”

Covering yourself with long, loose clothing is an effective way of protecting the skin, Transue said. It is important to remember to cover your head with a wide-brimmed hat to prevent burning your neck, scalp and ears.

Another defense against the potentially deadly rays is understanding the effects that the sun has on your skin. It is a common misconception that the skin is at risk only on hot, sunny days. While there is a danger then, cloudy days can be even more devastating on your fragile outer layer.

Contrary to popular belief, it is not the temperature that matters, but the angle of the sun. Damaging ultraviolet rays are most dangerous when the sun is at it’s highest point. That is why it is recommended that you avoid prolonged periods in the sun between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Transue said.

Even when there is cloud cover, these rays are able to penetrate down to the

earth’s surface and wreak havoc. Short stays in the sun are the safest, and the cancer society says to take advantage of shade whenever possible.

Transue recommends that you routinely check for red, patchy skin and sores that do not go away. Also, if you notice a change in the size, color or shape of a mole you should contact your doctor.

Your skin is not the only area of your

body that needs protection from the sun. Your eyes, and your children’s eyes, are also subjected to the dangers of ultraviolet light.

In selecting sunglasses, choose some that reduce both ultraviolet A and B rays. To provide ultimate protection, glasses should block out at least 75 percent of the visible light. Reflected glare can be reduced with the use of polarized lenses.

Unemployment at two-decade low level

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas’ April unemployment rate tied last December as the lowest in two decades, the state Department of Human Resources said.

Last month’s jobless rate of 3.2 percent was the same as it was in December, which was the lowest in 20 years, said Richard Beyer, human resources secretary. Sherman County’s was even lower, at 1.8 percent.

The April rate was down from 3.6 percent in March and 3.7 percent in February. It was the 15th consecutive month the state’s unemployment rate has been at or below 4 percent.

The 1,391,776 Kansans with jobs in April was an all-time high, up 4,924 jobs from March and 53,832 more than in April 1998.

Here are the unemployment rates for

northwest Kansas: **Cheyenne, 1.9; Decatur, 2.4;** Ellis, 2.4; Ellsworth, 2.2; Finney, 2.9; Ford, 2.5; Gove, 2.2; Graham, 2.4; Greeley, 3.1; **Logan, 1.4;** Ness, 3.4; Norton, 1.6; Osborne, 1.6; Phillips, 1.9; Rawlins, 2.3; Rice, 3.9; Rooks, 2.7; Rush, 2.8; Russell, 3.9; Scott, 1.7; **Sheridan, 1.6; SHERMAN, 1.8;** Smith, 1.3; **Thomas, 1.7;** Trego, 3.7; Wallace, 1.7; Wichita, 2.7.