

The Goodland Daily News

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Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

63°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:15 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:15 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 62 degrees

• Humidity 51 percent

• Sky partly sunny

• Winds north at 10 mph

• Barometer 30.29 inches

and rising

• Record High 101° (1946)

• Record Low 40° (1981)

Last 24 Hours*

High 68°

Low 51°

Precipitation —

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy with 20 percent chance of rain; fog after midnight. Low 50 with southeast winds at 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy with 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. High 70 with south winds of 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday. Chance of thunderstorms Friday night. High 80, Low 50. Dry on Saturday and Sunday. High 90s, Low 50s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.32 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.18

Loan deficiency payment — 27¢

Corn — \$1.70 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.84

Loan deficiency pmt. — 15¢

Milo — \$2.56 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.99

Loan deficiency payment — 90¢

Millet — \$4 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$7.40 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.96

Oil new crop — \$7.70 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.

Gore promises moral America

CARTHAGE, Tenn. — Al Gore formally began his drive for the presidency today, promising moral leadership in a speech that signaled his independence from Bill Clinton and made "the crisis in the American family" the centerpiece of his 2000 campaign.

"With your help, I will take my own values and faith and family to the presidency — to build an America that is not only better off, but better," he told a cheering crowd of about 8,000 that filled Main Street and snaked down the narrow side roads of his hometown, population: 3,000.

"And that is why today, I announce that I am a candidate for the president of the United States." Gore was introduced by his wife, Tipper, and eldest daughter, Karenna Gore Schiff. Mrs. Gore gave way to her daughter because she had lost her voice.



Welcome!

For the ninth consecutive year, Goodland was an overnight host for Rotary Youth Exchange students on a three-week bus tour of the West that will take them to San Francisco before returning to Chicago. The 42 students are on exchanges at Midwestern high schools. Supattra Triyakul (above), a Thai who attends high school in Shawano, Wis., captured the moment on tape. Working on their dance steps (left) were Yazmin Cecena of Mexico City, a student at Cheboygan, Mich., and Matias Weisz from Argentina, who attends school in Lansing, Ill. The students and the sponsors were treated to a barbecue by the Goodland Rotary Club and spent the night with host families from the Goodland area.

Goodland Police staying busy

Goodland Police and ambulance crews were called to the K-Inn Motel late Monday morning with the report of a man bleeding.

The police found a man with apparent self-inflicted cuts to his wrist and arm in his room. The Goodland resident, whose name has not been released, was transported to the Goodland Regional Medical Center for treatment.

"We received a call of a man bleeding in his motel room," Goodland Chief of Police Ray Smee said. "When we arrived, we entered the room first. When we realized that it was not a crime scene, that it was apparently self-inflicted wounds, we called in the ambulance personnel, who then transported him to the hospital.

"I asked him why he did this and he

would not give me a reason," Smee added.

The man was still at the Goodland hospital today.

Tuesday morning, police were called to another Goodland motel, the Comfort Inn, because of a report of a disgruntled employee.

"Basically, an employee was upset at her employers because they would not give her her paycheck," said officer David Becker. "The employers were holding the check until she could produce a Social Security card for identification."

No charges were filed.

Smee also said that there has been a few minor incidents of theft and vandalism reported to his office.

"We are investigating the theft of a CD player from a vehicle and some

minor vandalism in town," he said. "Most of our calls are still animal related."

One investigation that is on going is the fire at the Mossburg IGA from early May. Fire investigators have collected samples and sent them to the KBI office for analysis.

"We are still waiting to hear back from them," Smee said. "If we had suspects we could probably expedite matters by a couple of weeks. At this point, we have no proof that it is arson, so we have no suspects."

Smee explained that the reason for the delay may be because the KBI labs are geared toward investigating methamphetamine labs across the state.

Chief Smee also said that if the results show the use of accelerants in the fire, an investigation will continue.

Stearmans give writer a real thrill

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News

I arrived early in the morning to get some photos of the hot air balloons, but the real thrill was seeing those bright, colorful biplanes sitting in the morning dew.

The pilots had already roused from their tents at the St. Francis airport, and were looking for their first cup of coffee before a day of flights at the annual Stearman Fly-In.

When I considered that the planes were worth in the neighborhood of \$75,000, it surprised me to see the owners sleeping in a pup tent next to their beloved.

But that added to the mystique that I was beginning to feel.

They milled around the two-winged vintage planes, telling flying stories while they checked over their equipment. The round engine's seven cylinders produce just 220 horsepower, but they look formidable.

The sound of the first engine starting in the quiet morning seemed somehow familiar. It must have been from watching old war movies, but it was like I knew what it should sound like. I paid the pilot \$40 for my turn in the front seat.



Stearman biplanes from Kansas and Colorado flew in formation over St. Francis Sunday.

Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News

The high-pitched whine of the starter grew louder and faster as the crew member turned the hand crank. Then, as he stepped back, the pilot hit the ignition, and the engine popped and chugged, until it leveled out to a steady, loping gate.

Once I climbed into the cockpit, I realized that I was in a machine that was built 57 years ago. The controls have all the sophistication of a kite.

There are pedals on the floor for the brakes on the wheels, a lever on the side for the throttle, and a joystick sticking up between your legs, and that's all.

Next came the safety equipment, which consisted of a six-inch wind-

screen, a canvass strap to keep you from falling out, a leather helmet, and a pair of goggles.

I couldn't help thinking, "Boy, these will do a lot of good if we crash."

It was an uneasy feeling, taxiing down the grass runway. The wood and canvass wings were bouncing as the heavy, tentative machine lumbered along.

But the second the wheels left the ground, the plane felt steady and confident. I was thrilled by the drone of the engine, the blue sky and the feel of the wind in my face.

It was more dream-like than real when we quickly dropped altitude and

New state rules could cut level of emergency care

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

The head of the Sherman County ambulance service will be at a hearing Saturday in Hays to protest proposed regulations she says would make it more difficult to have advanced training for the emergency medical technicians.

Karen Hooker told the Sherman County Commissioners Tuesday that many of the proposals appear to be aimed at urban areas, and it appears some of the state board members see them as a way to make emergency service more of a paid profession. Out here, where almost all ambulance workers are part-time volunteers, she said, that just won't work.

The hearing will be held 1 p.m. Saturday at the Hays Medical Center, when members of the state Emergency Medical Services Board will hear comments on the regulations.

She said the Sherman County ambulance has a total of 25 people with 16 active crew members and nine reserves. There are 15 emergency medical technicians, and one person who has completed the emergency medical training, but is not yet certified. Of the EMTs, 10 have the intermediate endorsement which allows them to perform advanced patient care.

The proposed regulations would make it very difficult to provide advanced training in the future, she said.

"We will be able to provide basic emergency medical technicians," she said, "but it will be very difficult to get any advanced training for our people, and we would not be able to have any new intermediate EMTs."

"The intermediate EMTs are intended for the rural areas as a way to provide advance care while still being able to be volunteers. A majority of ambulance services in Kansas are volunteer, and these requirements would be a burden on those who volunteer. It would be different if all the ambulances were full-time paid people, but we do have a life outside the ambulance service.

"We can live with some of the changes, but there are two which will virtually eliminate any advance training."

One change requires every person who wants to be an instructor to student teach at each level of training. Hooker said this creates an extra burden because the volunteer would most likely

have to travel out of the area to do the student teaching.

"We expect a school teacher to do student teaching one time (in their life) no matter how much advance training they take," she said. "I feel if I did student teaching and was certified as an instructor at the first level, it should be sufficient for the next level."

Probably the most difficult proposal is that each advanced EMT would be required to 10 endotracheal intubations on live patients. Hooker said this advanced training is being handled with the cooperation of Dr. Robert McCullough, emergency medical director for the program.

There are about one of these procedures performed a week in Goodland, she said, and it would be very difficult to get 10 of these for each advance student. The only way to do these is when there is one preparing for surgery. If the regulations are changed, a person could complete all the advance training, but without the 10 intubations a volunteer would not be able to perform any of the advance emergency medical care they had learned.

The commissioners agreed to send a letter about the regulations.

Hooker also said with the help of the people of Kanorado, there now is an ambulance located there, but they need some help on an electric garage door opener. She said it would also be a future goal to have a classroom which could be dedicated to the emergency training.

The commissioners suggested she submit a budget for the ambulance service by the first of July.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved the lease of the fairgrounds to the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce for the fireworks show on July 4. They also approved donating \$250 toward the fireworks.

- Toured the new restrooms with architect Blaine Davis and asked about a privacy problem in the men's room. As designed there appears to be a problem with anyone in the hall being able to see the urinals when the door is opened. Davis said he would see about some sort of privacy screen, but that the space restrictions made it difficult under the new federal handicap guidelines. One solution would be to make it a locked restroom, allowing only one occupant at a time.

- Discussed cleaning the carpets in the trailer at the fairgrounds, and suggested that William McKnight get some bids on this as well as some work on the windows and a fan in the kitchen.

- Authorized Commissioner Gary Townsend to sign the papers for closing on land for the new county landfill.

Dairy plan ready to go

TRIBUNE (AP)—Farmers in western Kansas have surpassed their \$1.6 million equity goal to build and operate a 2,800-head commercial dairy, officials announced Tuesday.

The 21st Century Dairies Cooperative expects to begin construction in late June or July on a 160-acre site north of Tribune.

Since the stock offering five months ago, 92 farmers have purchased stock. The offering will remain open until July 15 to allow others to become members.

The most of the cooperative may raise during its equity drive is \$2.5 million. "We hear lots of talk about the importance of adding value, especially during times of low commodity prices," said Chris Williams, vice president of operations for 21st Century Alliance. "A cooperatively owned dairy is a great example of how family farmers, by investing in value added processing, can improve their income."

The project is the second large-scale commercial dairy being built by members of 21st Century Alliance, an organization formed in January 1996 to create value-added opportunities for Kansas farmers.