

weather report

74°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:18 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:23 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 71 degrees
• Humidity 55 percent
• Sky partly cloudy
• Winds south at 15-20
• Barometer 29.92 inches and falling
• Record High 107° (1963)
• Record Low 48° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

High 76°
Low 54°
Precipitation .18

Month 5.07 +2.08; Year 12.38 +2.62

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, low near 55, light north winds.

Tomorrow: partly cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 85, northeast winds at 5 to 15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: chance of thunderstorms, low 60, high in the 90s. Friday and Saturday: dry, lows 60, highs upper 90s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Fireworks fun, but dangerous

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News

The Fourth of July is a time for fun with family and friends, but it is also a time for caution when fireworks are in your plans.

The Kansas Safe Kids Coalition says that in 1996, nearly 3,000 Kansas children 14 and under were treated in emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries.

"We see mostly burns, first and second degree," said Sheryl Lee, emergency room supervisor at Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Lee said fireworks patients include young teens to adults, but most injuries are to the younger kids.

Kansas allows class C fireworks, and there are no age restrictions on who can purchase or use fireworks. The City of Goodland takes another approach, however.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the city ordinance is simple:

"There are no fireworks allowed in the city," he said. "Anything that explodes cannot be used inside city limits."

Sheriff Doug Whitson said that fireworks may be set off in Sherman County, except at Smoky Gardens and the state fishing lake.

"People should use common sense,"

he said. "Be conscience of weather and wind.

"If a fire is started and someone burns down a wheat field, they'll have to pay for the damages."

Some of the more dangerous fireworks are not legal anywhere in Kansas.

"Bottle rockets are illegal in Kansas," said Fire Chief Dean Jensen. He said that sparklers, snakes and smoke bombs can be set off inside city limits, but if someone is caught setting firecrackers and other explosives off in town, it could cost them \$100.

"There is no age limit to purchase or set off fireworks in Goodland," said Jensen., "but people should use common sense. There should always be adult supervision, and small children should not handle fireworks."

Gale Haag, the state Fire Marshal, has published some guidelines for using fireworks safely and responsibly:

- Purchase from reliable dealers only
 - fireworks approved for sale in Kansas.
 - Obey all local laws and ordinances.
- Be especially careful in congested or populated and near dry, open fields.
- Read and follow instructions printed on the packaging.
 - Never allow small children to use fireworks without adult supervision.
 - Use fireworks only in clear areas,



Josh (left) and Jason Topliff stock the shelves (above) of T-N-T Fireworks in anticipation of holiday crowds. They said sales have been good since opening on Sunday. T-N-T's mascot, Sparky, (below) encourages everyone to have a safe holiday.

Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News

away from streets, buildings, or dry grass.

- Keep everyone at a safe distance after each firework is lit.
 - Do not attempt to re-light any fireworks that fail to discharge. Allow sufficient time to ignite, and then dispose of it in a safe manner.
 - Never shoot fireworks from metal or glass containers.
 - Never point or throw fireworks at people or animals.
 - "We hope everyone has a safe holiday," said Lee. "I would love for no one to come in with a fireworks-related injury.
- "Those burns can be very painful."



Board completes old business, looks ahead to reorganization

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland School Board wrapped up its year Monday, cleaning up end-of-year financial details and honoring an outgoing member.

"This year we have done a lot of good things," said Board President Dick Short. "I have really appreciated working with all of you."

Short presented outgoing board member Ron Schilling with a plaque commemorating his four years of service.

Schilling thanked the board and wished incoming member Eric Gray good luck. "They're are good bunch to work with," said Schilling.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said he and district secretary Pat Juhl had meet with the auditor, who reported that the books were in great shape. The board transferred \$119,000 to the capital outlay fund, and \$25,000 into the contingency fund.

Selby suggested that the elevator at

the addition to Max Jones Fieldhouse may be an appropriate memorial to Orval Franklin, who left a portion of his estate to the district.

He told the board that the teacher's union had voted to approve the negotiated package offered by the board by a margin of 59-3.

In other business, the board:

- Approved a bid for new bleachers at the football stadium. The bleachers will be 10 rows and 93 feet long and will seat around 500. There will be a ramp and seating area for wheelchairs. Heartland Seating from Shawnee Mission submitted the winning bid of \$45,196. The price includes installation, but the district will have to pour concrete pads.
- Approved a bid from Modern Distributing Co. of Wichita for a Toro mower at \$13,930. Goodland Green-line offered bid for a John Deere for a similar price, but it had a less powerful engine. Chuck Lutters, head of maintenance for the district, said that

since they have equipment that will fit the Toro, making it a better purchase. No local dealer stocks the powerful commercial model the districts wants, he said.

• Decided to table the discussion of a new roof for the high school until the next meeting to allow Selby to seek another bid.

• Agreed to look into the purchase of the old Medical Arts Clinic building at 520 Main St.

• Accepted the resignation of Sharon Wisdom, migrant bilingual teacher, and waive the 2 percent penalty for late contract termination.

• Approved the hiring of Courtney Weeks as activities secretary at the high school and Christopher Guilott as high school physical education teacher and wrestling coach.

The board will meet at 6 p.m. Friday for its annual reorganization meeting at the district office. The next regular meeting will be at 7 p.m. on July 19 at the office.

New board members, waste fees top agenda

Selby resigns her position while McCollough and Whalen terms end

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Solid waste fees for next year and appointment of three members of the Goodland Regional Medical Board top the agenda for the Sherman County commission meeting at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

Commissioners set the solid waste fees each year, and there have been wild swings in the past two years as the county tried to pay for closure of the old landfill and the opening of a new one south of Goodland.

In the last year, the commissioners have bought a new landfill site and are proceeding with the state approval pro-

cess to begin excavation of the first pit.

Curt Way, county public works director, and Mike Irvin, county attorney, met with the commissioners in a work session Monday to give the commissioners an idea of how the project is going and what money will be needed in the next year.

The county is having to pay for extra monitoring wells at the old landfill site near the Goodland airport, and may be required to clean up the area if the contamination continues to show up in the wells. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has required the county to add three wells to try to find the limits of the contamination.

Last year, the commissioners raised the solid waste fee to \$150 per year for each household, and it is expected to remain at that level unless the costs continue to rise.

The fee is the only means the county has of paying for the landfill project and hauling of trash out of county to Colby and Garden City. The fee shows up on property tax statements which are mailed in November for payment in December.

There will be at least one new member of the medical center board because Bonnie Selby has turned in her resignation to accept the position as assistant county attorney. Selby is expected to become county attorney when Irvin moves to St. Mary's at the middle of July.

Two additional positions are up for appointment, those of Pete Whalen and Dr. Robert McCullough. They could be reappointed.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Will consider allowing a sheriff's department employee the use of a county vehicle to attend a class for two weeks in July.
- Meet by phone with Blaine Davis of Architecture Plus to discuss the courthouse remodeling project and the alternatives to solve the privacy problem in the new men's restroom.
- Hear Way report on a problem with grain dust at the landfill.
- Hear Dave Warren of Chapman Securities talk about financing Old U.S. 24 resurfacing project with sales tax revenues. It appears the project was underestimated by at least \$180,000, and this does not include any of the cost for the city portions of the highway which the county has agreed to take responsibility for repair and maintenance.

The next commission meeting will be 8 a.m. Tuesday in the commissioner room on the first floor of the Sherman County Courthouse.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.28 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.18
Loan deficiency payment — 27¢
Corn — \$1.73 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.81
Loan deficiency prmt. — 18¢
Milo — \$2.46 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.83 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.84
Loan deficiency payment — 1.05¢
Millet — \$4 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$7.40 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — \$2.07
Oil new crop — \$7.55 cwt.
Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$13 (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.

Combines back in fields

GREAT BEND — Combines began sweeping across ripe wheat fields as Kansas farmers finally got a brief break in the wet weather that has plagued harvest.

By last week, however, only 7 percent of the state's crop has been brought in, Kansas Agricultural Statistics reported. That is well behind the 63 percent by this time last year or the 36 percent which is average.

The agency reported Monday that about 81 percent of the state's wheat crop is ripe. That is running behind the last year's level of 94 percent but still ahead of the 66 percent average.

This was the busiest weekend of the harvest so far, but sporadic rains late in the weekend and on Monday in some parts of the state continued to put a damper on cutting. Hardest hit was the northeast part of the state.

Well-deserved retirement



After many years of faithful service, this old Massey-Harris combine two miles north of Goodland will sit out another harvest and leave the work to newer machines. If the weather cooperates, cutting in Sher-

man County should be in high gear by late week. Statewide, as of Monday evening, the harvest was just 7 percent complete, compared to 63 percent at this time last year. Photo by Keith Lippold/The Goodland Daily