

The Goodland Daily News

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Ten Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

FRIDAY

**July 16
1999**

50¢

weather report

71°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:13 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:34 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:12 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 80 degrees

• Humidity 87 percent

• Sky mostly cloudy

• Winds southeast at 15 mph

• Barometer 30.11 inches

and rising

• Record High 107° (1934)

• Record Low 55° (1972)

Last 24 Hours*

High 92°

Low 67°

Precipitation .07

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, low near 60, southeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Saturday: fog early, partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 85 to 90, southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday through Tuesday: chance of thunderstorms, lows 55 to 65, highs in the 90s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Sno-Shack backers



Fans of the Sno-Shack cheer for their team in the championship game of the PeeWee League Baseball tournament. Sno-Shack defeated

Hennick Lumber 11-5 for the tourney title.

Photo by Keith Lippoldt/The Goodland Daily News

Tour set for district facilities

The Goodland School Board will be at 6 p.m. Monday at the district office. The board agreed to meet during this off week to accommodate busy summer schedules. The early meeting time is so members can tour the Medical Arts building, the Max Jones Fieldhouse addition, and the new restroom building at the high school track, prior to the meeting at the district office to discuss regular business.

Some items on the agenda include a discussion of an Eagle Scout project by Bryan Russell and a request by Kiwanis to do public service work at Topside Territory, along with other business.

City meets on Monday

With the water tower completed, all that is left is completing the paperwork that will satisfy the grant requirements.

With the deadline nearing, the city commission will apply for a six-month extension, which City Manager Ron Pickman says is standard procedure.

The commissioners will also vote on bids received to repaint the water tower at Fifth and Kansas.

The commissioners meet Monday at 5 p.m. at City Hall.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$1.96 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.88

Loan deficiency payment — .57¢

Corn — \$1.58 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.56

Loan deficiency pmt. — .43¢

Milo — \$1.95 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.51 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.65

Loan deficiency payment — 1.24¢

Millet — \$4 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6.80 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.62

Oil new crop — \$6.85 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. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Bonds sought for prisons

TOPEKA—Corrections Secretary Charles Simmons wants to sell bonds to finance construction projects at state prisons. But he's worried Gov. Bill Graves' order to cut planned spending in the next fiscal year could doom those plans.

Simmons told the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight that his agency wants to sell 10-year bonds to get \$5.7 million for proposed construction at six prisons.

But Graves has ordered all agencies to cut 6 percent from their proposed spending for fiscal year 2001, which begins next July 1. Simmons said the 6 percent means his agency would have to cut some \$14 million from services.

"If the reduction is realized, it will impact us significantly because it will come from expanded services," Simmons said Wednesday.

Committee meeting to appoint attorney

The Sherman County Republican Central Committee has been called to meet for a convention by chairman William Gattshall at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, at the commissioners room in the Sherman County Courthouse.

The purpose of the convention is to elect a county attorney to replace Mike Irvin, who has resigned the position.

Bonnie Selby has been appointed interim county attorney by the county commissioners, and is also expected to be nominated for the permanent position, said Gattshall.

"We are fortunate to have someone

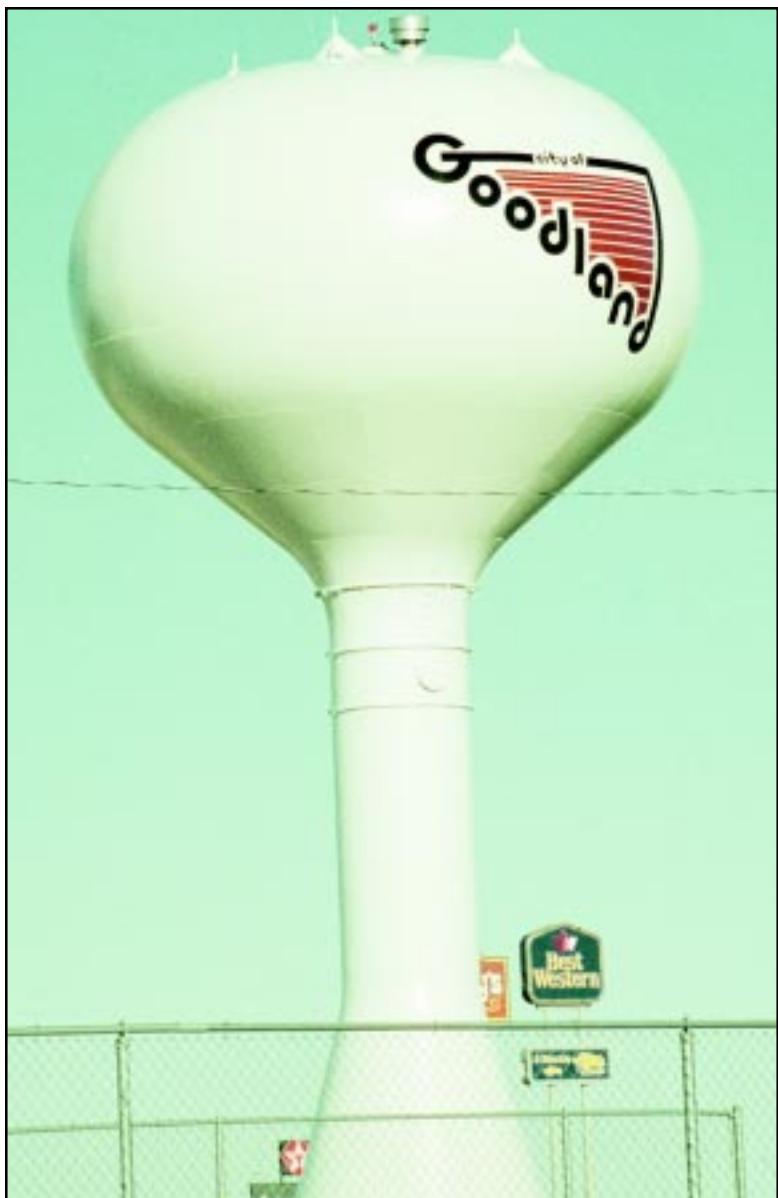
who will do it," said Gattshall. "The person has to be an attorney, and if it is a practicing attorney, they usually don't have time to do it."

The floor will be open for nominations, said Gattshall, but he was not aware of any other nominees. The committee will then vote on any nominees by secret ballot.

The committee will then send their election results to the Secretary of State. The Governor will then appoint the elected candidate as county attorney.

Outgoing attorney Irvin suggested that Selby be appointed to the position.

Water works



Goodland's newest landmark is full and operating. The 500,000 gallon water tower took two days to fill, said city manager Ron Pickman. He said they had to replace one gasket, but the tower went smoothly into operation.

Photo by Keith Lippoldt/The Goodland Daily News

Voters to determine seed future

By Rachel Miscall and Tom Betz

To seed or not to seed, that's the question Rawlins County voters are pondering this month as they open their mail boxes and discover a ballot asking, "Should weather modification 'cloud seeding' be allowed in or over Rawlins County?"

Rawlins County commissioners passed a resolution March 31 permitting the mail-ballot election, and once County Clerk Meredith Hrnchir had everything ready and received an OK from the secretary of state, the election date was set for July 20.

Rawlins Commissioner Henry Cahoj labeled the election both "non-binding" and "advisory." He said it will allow citizens of Rawlins to voice their opinion on whether cloud seeding should continue or not, but legally the election's outcome won't mean anything.

The residents' votes may eventually mean something, though, as the state Water Office, which ultimately makes the decision to allow seeding by issuing a permit, decided last month that each of the nine counties involved in the Northwest Kansas seeding program, which began in 1997, can either hold an election or pass a resolution stating whether residents want seeding to continue over their county.

Wayne Bossert of Colby, manager of Northwest Kansas Ground Water Management District No. 4, said Al LeDoux, director of the water office, expects all counties currently involved in the program—including Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan, Gove, Graham, Decatur, Cheyenne, Logan and Rawlins County—to hold an election or pass a resolution supporting or opposing the program before March 1. If no action is taken by that date the county will be considered a supporter of the program.

Seeding will stop over counties whose residents or commissioners decide they don't want the program, he said.

Rawlins County Clerk Hrnchir has mailed the ballots to all persons in the county, and, the ballots are due back for counting by Tuesday.

Rawlins County Commissioner Bill Lewis said the decision to conduct a mail ballot, although it may be a higher cost to the county, was made so as many people as possible will have the chance to vote.

The Rawlins County election was in place before the state water office sent a letter to Bossert about the March 1 deadline for county responses. He said the counties have not been informed of the letter because it has not been presented to the district board which meets August 5. After that Bossert plans to inform each of the counties of the decision.

The Rawlins election comes after years of disputes, with supporters and opponents both claiming evidence for their positions.

Those who support cloud seeding say it increases rainfall and decreases hail damage to crops. They say crop-hail insurance figures—which basically give an average of hail damage per county—show that over time, counties involved in the program had less damage to crops.

They also say figures show areas which have been seeded have 25 to 50 percent less hail damage than unseeded areas.

Opponents say there is no scientific evidence proving rain is increased or hail is decreased by seeding and be-

See VOTES, Page 3

Seeding controversy not over

By Rachel Miscall

The Oberlin Herald

A July 20 election in Rawlins County will determine whether residents want cloud seeding over their homes and fields, but it most likely won't end controversy over whether the process actually works.

In 1997, Groundwater Management District No. 4 began a weather modification program spanning parts of nine counties, including portions of Cheyenne county, Rawlins, Graham, Logan, Gove and two townships in southern Decatur County. The whole counties of Sherman, Thomas and Sheridan are also included.

It took more than a decade of work to begin the program, which is an extension of one in southwestern Kansas started in 1975.

Wayne Bossert, District No. 4 manager in Colby, says statistics compiled by the National Crop-Hail Insurance Service show seeded areas have received 25 to 50 percent less damage from hail than other nearby areas.

However, Harlan Downing, a Rawlins County farmer and member of

Citizens for Natural Weather—a non-profit group formed to oppose cloud seeding—claims that in the American Meteorological Society's Policy Statement on Planned and Inadvertent Weather Modification it says there's no scientific proof seeding increases rainfall or decreases hail.

Both sides believe they have evidence to back their beliefs.

Bossert says insurance loss figures show the average loss ratio for northwest Kansas, between 1977—two years after the seeding program in southwest Kansas began—and 1996 was 66 percent, while it was 50 percent in the southwest region.

Prior to 1975, loss cost values were similar, but between '77 and '96, average values in the northwest were 6 percent, and 3 percent in the southwest. All non-participating counties, had an average of 4.1 percent, during that 23 years, while participating counties averaged 2.5 percent.

Bossert said another indicator of hail damage is crop hail rates set by insurance companies. Farmers in Northwest Kansas pay high rates for crop insur-

ance.

Sheridan County Kansas had an average corn basic insurance rate of \$9.89 per \$100 of coverage an acre in 1975, while Gray County in southwest Kansas had an average of \$8.30. By 1998, Sheridan County's rate was \$13.37, and Gray's was \$5.04. In 1975, the average northwestern rate was \$10.63 and the southwestern rate was \$9.31. By 1998, the northwestern rate was \$12.47 while the southern rate was \$8.91.

Citizens for Natural Weather say the Meteorological Society's 1992 policy statement show the effects of seeding are still undetermined.

Downing said while the document admits seeding can change the weather, it also says precipitation can either be increased or decreased. He says the statement also suggests precipitation can be made to fall before it would naturally, depriving areas downwind.

Gordon Hawkins, a member of Citizens for Natural Weather, said he believes rainfall in southern Rawlins County, where the seeding takes place,

See SEEDING, Page 3