

weather
report

97°
at noon

Today

• Sunset, 8:04 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:44 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:03 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 81 degrees

• Humidity 20 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds southeast at 11

• Barometer 30.00 inches
and falling

• Record High 106° (1943)

• Record Low 52° (1958)

Last 24 Hours*

High 94°

Low 66°

Precipitation .11 of an inch

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, low near 65, southwest winds at 5 to 15 mph.

Thursday: mostly sunny, high 95 to 100, southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: dry, low 65, high 100.

Saturday: dry, low 65, high 95.

Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, low 65, high 90.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.12 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.94

Loan deficiency payment — .51¢

Corn — \$1.61 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.55

Loan deficiency pmt. — .44¢

Milo — \$2.34 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.59 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.58

Loan deficiency payment — 1.31¢

Millet — \$4 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6.50 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.75

Oil new crop — \$6.40 cwt.

Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$13 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigo 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.

New flu drug is approved

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ignoring the recommendation of its own advisory panel, the Food and Drug Administration approved an drug for the treatment of influenza.

Studies show the drug, to be marketed under the name Relenza, can reduce the duration of flu symptoms by 36 hours, but critics said the benefit does not justify approval.

An FDA advisory panel voted 13-4 in February against recommending approval of Relenza, saying the drug only helped slightly. The panel requested more studies, particularly people in nursing homes and the elderly.

Dr. Heidi M. Jolson, director of the FDA's antiviral drug product division, said Relenza adds a new weapon to the flu-fighting arsenal. She said the need for therapy against flu was a strong element in the decision.

Building sale approved, reluctantly

By Charlie Baker
The Goodland Daily News

Members of the board of the Goodland Regional Medical Center gave a somewhat reluctant approval to the proposed sale of the former Medical Arts Clinic to the Goodland school district at their regular meeting Tuesday.

A verbal offer was brought by Realtor Terry Richardson, since the contract being drawn up was not yet complete. The proposal, according to Richardson, was for the school district to pay \$20,000 a year for 10 years for the building, which was appraised for a little over \$201,000, he said.

Richardson said his understanding was that the county commissioners had approved the offer.

"Financing the sale of this building for 10 years will cost the hospital \$50,000," said board member Larry McCants.

Board member Pete Whalen said he thought it would be better for the building to be owned by the taxpayers and used for a public purpose rather than being used by a private individual or group.

He went on to say that if the county commissioners had approved the offer, he believed the board should go along with it, and made a motion to

that effect.

Member Lynn Hoelting suggested an amendment that would approve the action of the commissioners, but, with an advisement that the board had reservations about the price, and that the commissioners consider the financial repercussions the agreement would cause the hospital.

The motion went to vote, and passed six to three, with Steve Evert, Dr. Greg Bongers, Hoelting, McCants, Doug Irvin, and Whalen voting to approve the motion.

Members Randy Schoenthaler, Dennis Shank, and Joyce Moore opposed the motion.

Officers of the board got a unanimous vote of approval as members voted to reelect last year's officers as a group.

"This board has really come along," said Whalen, "it is a dedicated group that addresses the issues."

The reelected officers are; Doug Irvin, chairman, Lynn Hoelting, vice-chairman, Dennis Shank, secretary, and Randy Schoenthaler, treasurer.

New members Evert and Bongers were welcomed by all. McCants said he was very pleased with the diversity of the board. "We have a lot of different opinions on this board, and that

makes it good.

"There is no rubber stamp action here," he said.

The board voted to form a community relations committee that would handle marketing and public relations. The committee will be chaired by Hoelting, members will be Whalen, Bongers, and McCants.

The finance report was given by Schoenthaler. The hospital had a loss of \$59,195 for the month.

The board also passed a resolution to endorse the fundraising efforts of the foundation committee as benefits will be felt throughout the community.

Taking home a piece of school



By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

Goodland School District held an auction on Friday at their Quonset on 8th Street. It was the district's way of cleaning out all the surplus that was just taking up space. They had items that didn't work, didn't work well, or were not of use anymore and had been in storage for 8-10 years.

Bane Auction was in charge of the sale. Some of the items sold were desks, chairs, light fixtures, cabinets, computers, lockers, typewriters, uniforms and metal shelves.

Desks brought around \$5-\$7. Some good cabinets sold for \$65-\$85. Probably the highest selling item was an overhead hoist, which brought \$100.

After the cost of the auctioneer and advertising, the auction brought in net proceeds of \$961.05 for the school district.

"We felt pretty good about not going in the hole," said Marvin Selby, district superintendent.

The items couldn't be given away or thrown away because they had been bought with taxpayers' money. So Selby, had to go before the school board at a public meeting to get permission to hold an auction, which the board consented to.



Todd Snethen, son of Keith and Debbie Snethen, (top left) rural Goodland, carried a chair to sit down on, while he was at the school auction. Perry and Terry Baird, Peabody, Kan. (top right) carried a desk and chair away after buying them at the school auction Friday evening. Jessica and Melissa Swager, Goodland (left to right) sat in a plastic rocker, (right) while attending the school auction held at the quonset on 8th Street.

Photo by Janet Craft/
The Goodland Daily News

Mergers not to blame for low prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — Low crop prices aren't being caused by agribusiness mergers such as Cargill Inc.'s planned acquisition of Continental Grain Co., says the Justice Department's antitrust chief.

"That price decline is not a product of increased concentration" in agribusiness, Assistant Attorney General Joel I. Klein told the Senate Agriculture Committee on Tuesday. "There are other factors."

Economists attribute the recent decline in crop prices to a worldwide glut of grain and economic problems in Asia and Europe that cut into their food imports. There is no significant difference in competition in the industry now than in 1996, when com-

modity prices peaked, Klein said.

But with the agricultural economy stuck in its worst downturn since the mid-1980s, many lawmakers have been pointing to declining competition among food processors, pesticide makers, seed companies and other agribusinesses as the culprits. Four meatpackers control 80 percent of the nation's beef, up from 36 percent two decades ago.

The Justice Department came under criticism this month from congressional Democrats for allowing Cargill Inc., North America's second-largest grain trader, to acquire the grain operations of Continental Grain Co. even though the companies were required to sell some of their assets.

The Agriculture Department estimates Cargill and Continental control 42 percent of U.S. corn exports, a third of soybeans sold overseas and at least 20 percent of wheat exports.

The Justice Department's action will ensure buyers are still available to compete for farmers' grain, Klein said. It's in farmers' interest for U.S. companies to cut their costs because they have to compete overseas, he said.

Klein also told the panel antitrust laws generally are adequate to protect farm interests, although he thinks Congress should give Justice responsibility for approving railroad mergers.

House again grants China normal trading status

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Clinton's China policy survived a tough challenge when the House voted to approve his decision to grant China normal trade status for another year.

The 260-170 vote Tuesday to defeat a motion to reject that decision came after a boisterous debate in which China critics argued that a nation that spies on the United States and persecutes its own citizens does not deserve trade advantages.

With the vote, the administration cleared an obstacle to its larger goal of concluding negotiations with Beijing on opening up China's markets as a condition to that country's admission into the World Trade Organization.

Clinton welcomed the vote, saying expanded trade "can help bring greater social change to China by spreading the tools, contacts and ideas that promote freedom."

He said he would pursue a WTO agreement "not as a favor to China but as a means of opening and reforming China's markets and holding China to the rules of the global trading system."

Since 1980, both Democratic and Republican presidents have annually extended normal trade status — formerly called most-favored-nation status — and the vocal anti-China faction in Congress has never succeeded in overturning those decisions.