

weather report

88°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 7:31 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 6:09 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:30 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 72 degrees
- Humidity 34 percent
- Sky Sunny
- Winds SE 10
- Barometer 30.06 inches and steady
- Record High 105° (1936)
- Record Low 43° (1928)

Last 24 Hours*

- High 84°
- Low 55°
- Precipitation —

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low near 60, winds southeast 5-10. Tomorrow: Sunny, high near 90, low near 60.

Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday. Dry, lows near 60 each night, highs each day 90-95.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.18 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.15
- Loan deficiency payment — 30¢
- Corn — \$1.54 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.61
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 38¢
- Milo — \$2.38 hundredweight
- Soybeans — \$3.95 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.94
- Loan deficiency payment — 95¢
- Millet — \$4 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$6.80 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.87
- Oil new crop — \$6.70 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.

Turkey asks for assistance

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Turkish officials broadcast appeals today for everything from tents to bulldozers to help begin rebuilding shattered lives after last week's earthquake left some 18,000 dead and 200,000 homeless.

More immediate medical worries, however, began to emerge. Health workers warned that potential killers such as typhoid fever, cholera and dysentery could flare at any time in the squalid encampments of those left homeless.

In a sign of those jitters, Israeli doctors quarantined a 21-year-old Turkish soldier thought to be suffering from typhoid fever.

Yaron Bar-Dayan, the Israeli doctor treating the soldier, later said the man had a severe gastrointestinal fever that could be typhoid. But he added the Israeli team did not have the laboratory facilities to make a complete diagnosis.

Business changes may affect sales tax

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

While Sherman County retail sales continued to boom this spring, officials are worried that low farm prices and the closing of two major businesses in Goodland could effect the rosy outlook.

Figures from the Kansas Department of Revenue for May and June continue to show the county sales tax growing at a rate of just over 20 percent for the fiscal year. However, the figures are skewed by a change in rates in October, when Sherman County increased its sales tax rate by 20 percent.

Steven Brunkan of the Kansas Department of Revenue said the annual state sales tax figures continue to show Sherman County gaining in comparison to Thomas County.

Over the first 10 months of the state fiscal year, which ended June 30, Sherman County has shown a gain of 9.9 percent in state sales tax collections while Thomas County has shown an increase of just 1.25 percent. The April figures show Sherman gaining by 14.4 percent while Thomas increased by 9.6 percent.

Based on the current state figures, Thomas County remains ahead of Sherman in state sales tax collection for the year by about \$497,800. However, the gap has narrowed over the past year as Sherman has gained over \$200,000, reducing the gap from \$719,600 in 1998.

The impact of the store closings and farm prices on sales growth remains to be seen, but it has people worried.

"I don't think we will see much of a dip in the sales because they will be taken in by other merchants," said Ron Harding, executive director of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce. "Where I am concerned is the loss of jobs with the closing of Gibson's Discount Store and Jubilee Foods.

"I hope many of these people can find jobs in the area, but I already know that several will be moving away."

Many blame the closings on the opening two years ago of the Wal-Mart

Super Store, but Harding says, "These are corporate decisions. These are not home-owned businesses, and while it is nice to have the large stores, we must consider them on loan to us.

"We are lucky to have stores like Alco and J.C. Penny in our business community, and I think they will absorb some of the loss of the Gibsons's store.

"It is hard to lose the grocery store, but there are several factors working against keeping that size store open. While people are willing to pay some more for the convenience of a downtown grocery, it is necessary to be competitive with the Wal-Marts.

"I have been told there were several groups looking at the Jubilee building, but was told some of the parts of the contract (offered by the owner) Fleming (Company) were making it difficult. I think they are still trying to find someone to buy the store. It will be more difficult if all the equipment is sold off."

Less than a week ago, Jubilee began a 50-percent-off sale, and within three days many of the shelves had been cleaned out. A check of the store yesterday showed there were limited items on some shelves, and employees were bringing merchandise out of the back room to restock others.

Gibson's is in the process of closing out its inventory, and is expected to continue the sale through September. Harding said agents for Gibsons's have said there are some people looking at that property, but there was no indication what type of business might move in.

"We need to continue our economic development efforts," Harding said. "While we may not be able to handle a 500-employee industry, we will have space for several which would employ around 50 each.

"I am always interested in the businesses which bring even one new job to our area, because they usually bring others which then help expand our businesses."



Going out of business signs are up at Gibson's (top) and there are many items for sale. At Jubilee (above), the selection is getting slim, and workers (left) are cleaning the many empty shelves while others bring out what inventory remains to fill some shelves. Photos by Charlie Baker / The Goodland Daily News

Ten new teachers hired for Goodland schools

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News

Ten new teachers and several new staff members have joined the Goodland School District for the 1999-2000 school year.

"There are more new teachers this year than have been hired since I have been superintendent," said Superintendent Marvin Selby. "There is a lot of enthusiasm. I am really looking forward to the year."

The district has 10 new faculty, including:

- Christopher Guillot, physical education director and head wrestling coach.
- Tom Miles, instrumental music teacher.
- Jon McLean, drop out recovery lab teacher and boy's basketball head coach.
- Carrie Veatch, social studies teacher.
- Casey Veatch, science teacher.
- Gunner Whorton, science teacher and assistant football coach.

- Threse Armstrong, math teacher at the junior high.
- Troy Rall, language arts teacher at the junior high.
- Lynette McLean, at-risk teacher for grades 1-4.
- and Paul Garrison, instrumental music instructor.

The board approved the hiring of Gwen Huddy, seven-hour cook at West Elementary; Debra Hammond and Melissa Hammond, paraprofessionals at Grant Junior High; Cynthia Hurst and Mary Jo Miles, paraprofessionals at North Elementary; Tamra Bowen, secretary for the school nurse; Tammy Freeman, paraprofessional at the high school; Dulci Fyfe, paraprofessional at Central Elementary; Cathy Eddleman, bus driver; Lisa Guillot, paraprofessional at the high school; Barb Bedore, assistant volleyball coach; Chris Guillot, assistant volleyball coach; and Paul Garrison, instrumental music instructor.

The board accepted the resignation of Sharon Halligan as gifted facilitator.

The board asked Selby to invoke a 4 percent penalty clause for going past the deadline for turning in a resignation.

Technology teachers, led by technology director Karla Murray, laid out their plan for the new school year. Murray emphasized the need to provide training and support to teachers. The group also plans to have several sessions open to adults who are interested in learning more about computers and the Internet.

Casey Campbell, a senior at the high school, spoke to the board about a project to earn his Eagle Scout rank. Campbell's plan is to hang eight large banners in the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

There will be a banner for the football team, cross country team, track team, golf team, wrestling team, volleyball team, and the boys and girls basketball teams. The banners will indicate the years that each team was either state champions or were runners up.

Campbell said that he has already

arranged for money for the banners, and was only asking for the permission of the board to put them up. He did ask for the board to allow the maintenance staff to help the Scouts install the banners.

Campbell said that G-Club, Girls Athletic Association, Goodland

Alumni, and the Black and Gold Booster Club, have volunteered to purchase the banners.

In other business, the board approved the Head Start contracts for the 1999-2000 year. It also accepted a milk bid from Vap Distributors of Colby. The firm was the only bidder.

Congressman Moran to address Rotary Friday

Congressman Jerry Moran will speak to the Goodland Rotary Club at noon Friday at the Northwest Kansas Technical School cafeteria as part of his annual listening tour.

Kirk Johnson, district director for the congressman, said Moran will take about 10 minutes to comment about his focus and the goings-on in Washington, then will spend the rest of the time answering questions and listening to his constituents.

Johnson said the tour is designed to help the congressman to keep his feet on the ground, and allows him to take the concerns of his constituents back to the nation's capitol.

Rotary President Marvin Selby said that the public is invited to attend the meeting. Lunch will be served, at \$5 per person.

Selby said that anyone interested in attending needs to call 899-2397 before noon on Thursday to reserve a spot.