

Volume 67, Number 170

weather

report

at noon

• Sunset, 7:21 p.m.

Sunrise, 6:15 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:21 p.m.

• Humidity 32 percent

Sky sunny

High

Low

20 mph.

Precipitation

Today

Tomorrow

Midday Conditions

Soil Temperature 75 degrees

Winds southwest at 7 mph

and falling

Last 24 Hours*

Northwest Kansas Forecast

86° 63°

none

Barometer 29.90 inches

Record High 102° (1985)

Record Low 39° (1944)

Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735



By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News The question of just who owns the Goodland Regional Medical Center may have been settled Monday night, when the hospital board approved signing a quit claim deed to Sherman County.

Former board member Bonnie Selby, now the county attorney, presented the deed and a historical examination of who has owned the property over the years. She said the confusion come from the different names used in the deeds, and while the title may be in compliance, the commissioners felt it was necessary to clear it all up at one time. Board member Pete Whalen, also a lawyer, said that under state law, the hospital board could not own land.

Selby agreed with Whalen, but said that in the past, the board had been incorporated, which would have allowed the ownership. However, she said, because the hospital failed to file proper annual reports and minutes, the incorporation was lost.

chairman of the hospital board, Doug Irvin, to dent, and is working with Dr. Bongers for a sign the deed, saying that the board wanted to cooperate with the county commissioners. Board member Larry McCants seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Prior to the discussion, Selby was honored for her five years on the board and Dr. Robert McCullough was honored for his six years of service.

The medical community's newest addition, Dr. Natalie Griego, was introduced. She has been in Goodland for about four weeks, and said she has been fairly busy.

"I think Pete is the only one I recognize from when I signed an agreement in 1996." Griego said. "I am glad to be here, and thank you for the opportunity.'

She was asked if there was anything the board could do for her to help, but she said there was nothing at this time.

Travis Daise, another product of the "home-

month.

Daise is from Goodland, as is his wife of three years, and he said he is looking forward to returning.

Asked about the toughness of the education process, he replied that it is demanding, but he likes the challenges.

Changes in the emergency room policy manual were discussed, and board member Steve Evert made the motion to approve them, seconded Joyce Moore.

Hospital Administrator Jim Chaddic said the additions were required by changes made in two federal laws.

The motion was passed on a 7-1 vote with Dr. Bongers being the single vote against. When asked by Whalen why he had voted against approval, Bongers said he would rather not discuss it in public.

The Slice of Life golf tournament and auction grown" doctor program, was introduced by Dr. are scheduled for Sept. 11, and Brenda McCants, Whalen then made a motion to authorize the Greg Bongers. Daise is a fourth year medical stu- director of patient relations, asked the board

members to attend the auction and support the hospital foundation in its fund raiser.

She said several members of the Kansas City Chiefs and their cheerleaders will be at the event. but that because of a date conflict with John Elway's retirement party, Denver Broncos team members were not going to be able to attend. She said the Broncos were sorry they were going to miss the event, but have sent lots of auction items.

McCants said the auction last year raised about \$14,000 and the whole event raised about \$35,000 to help purchase medical equipment for the hospital.

On another subject, McCants said the hospital was going to change Room 105A into a home-like environment for terminally ill patients. She said there are many who want to be home to die, and having this room available is one way they can come get that feeling.

The medical foundation, along with vendors and private donors, is helping to furnish the room.

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Treasure Your Library encourages over 200 young readers

Tonight: mostly clear, low 60 to 65, south winds 5 to 15 mph. Wednesday: partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, high near 85, southwest winds 10 to

Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday: chance of thunderstorms, lows upper 50s to lower 60s, highs 85 to 90. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Noon Wheat — \$2.21 bushel Posted county price — \$2.09 Loan deficiency payment - .36¢ Corn — \$1.65 bushel Posted county price — \$1.57 Loan deficiency pmt. - .42¢ Milo — \$2.42 hundredweight Soybeans — \$4.12 bushel Posted county price — \$3.97 Loan deficiency payment - .92¢ Millet — \$4 hundredweight Sunflowers Oil current crop — \$6.90 cwt. Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.76 Oil new crop — \$6.80 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.)



per at the Goodland Public Library on Friday, during a recognition for summer reading program participants.

Jory Nelaimischkies, Erin Fulton, and Sydney Winston (from left, in front below) and Ana McClung, Michael Smith, and Shane Rice (from left, back row) read books to be put in the library in their honor for reaching their goal in the program.

The program, "Treasure Your Library," encouraged more than 200 kids of all ages to partake in the activities throughout the summer.

Participants in the reading part of the

Abby Martin (left) read to Jesse Coo- program were asked to set a goal and keep a log of the number of books or pages they read. A hundred kids met their reading goal, with more than 3,000 books being read. These kids had their names placed in new books of their choosing, which then were added to the children's collection in the library.

> Readers who completed their goals also had their names put in a drawing for bicycles donated by Peoples Natural Gas and Gibson's. Winners were Kaylee Billinger and Lacie Cowan.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News





ATLANTA — A sharp decline in AIDS deaths since 1995 has only widened the gap between how the disease affects blacks who now make up nearly half those killed by AIDS — and other racial groups.

New figures released by the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention show that AIDS killed 17,047 people in the United States last year — a 20 percent decline from 1997.

But the more deaths have dropped, the more blacks with AIDS move toward becoming the majority of those who die, the CDC said Monday during the first National HIV Prevention Conference.

A total of 8,316 blacks died from AIDS last year. That means 49 percent of total AIDS deaths came from a group that makes up only 13 percent of the U.S. population.

Pig firm's plan has opponents ready for fight

lines is being drawn across western Kansas — and like previous fights over corporate hog farming, observers expect this one to spill over into the courts and the Legislature.

At issue now is Seaboard Farms' planned expansion that would nearly double the number of pigs the Merriambased company raises in the state.

Supporters say large-scale hog farms bring needed jobs and money to western Kansas. Opponents say the farms about 35 percent. ruin the air and the water and run family farms out of business.

"There's no question that we'll see Speaker Robin Jennison, a western Kansas rancher and a supporter of corporate hog farms.

LAKIN(AP)—Another set of battle farms have spawned a coalition of environmentalists, family farmers and anti-meat activists.

"If they can use Seaboard's expansion to kind of fuel the fire, they will," he said.

Contractors for Seaboard have applied for state permits to raise 600,000 hogs a year in four western Kansas counties-Wallace, Wichita, Scott and Kearny. That expansion alone would increase Kansas' hog production by

The company ultimately plans to contract for 450 to 500 hog barns in four to five counties, said Jim Hicks, vice some issues this year," said House president of Maple Creek Farms, one of the major contractors for Seaboard. That many barns could produce 1 million to 1.2 million hogs a year. Last

Jennison, R-Healy, said the big hog year, Kansas hog farmers, including

Seaboard, marketed 3.5 million hogs worth about \$240 million — in a year when hog prices were severely depressed.

Opponents fear that's just the beginning

Judy Moore and her husband, Billy, a third-generation farmer in Kearny County, said one hog farm is proposed for 1 1/2 miles north of their farm and one 3 miles to the south.

"Our grandkids won't be able to come out," she said. "One has asthma. The pollution is really bad for anyone with a breathing problem."

Mike Jensen, executive director of the Kansas Pork Producers Council, said raising more hogs in Kansas creates more markets for farmers' grain and more jobs to mill the feed, raise the hogs and process them into meat.

"To me the potential for growth, particularly in the High Plains — we have so much potential because we have the natural resources to grow pigs in concert with the environment," Jensen said.

Ultimately, Seaboard will need 4 million hogs a year to supply a proposed packing plant, which the company said it would build in or near Great Bend.

In its annual report, Seaboard, which has annual sales of \$1.8 billion, said it wants to grow from being the No.7 hog producer in the nation to No. 3 in the next few years.

In 1994, Seaboard invested \$500 million in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas to create its first "hog pyramid,"

See SEABOARD, Page 4

Heat changes school schedule

Goodland Schools dismissed class at 1 p.m. today as the mercury soared into the 90s and will be on their heat schedule Wednesday, Superintendent Marvin Selby said.

"If the forecast stays the same," he said, "and we get some rain, then we will have regular classes on Thursday and Friday."

The schedule calls for dismissal of all classes at 1 p.m. Wednesday. There will be no afternoon kindergarten, Early Childhood, or Head Start classes.

Selby said if the forecast changes, there will be an update in the paper and on radio. Classes will begin at the usual times, 7:55 or 8 a.m., he said.

Surprises, lack of shut-offs slow down water line project

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News Delays in receiving parts, "surprise" water lines not found on the city's maps and a lack of shut-off valves are holding up the replacement of water lines and meters along 13th Street.

there have been several unexpected problems during the project.

backorder," he said. "That really held us up.'

Pickman said the crew from Allied Inc., the company contracted to replace gripe. the water lines and meters, has found several lines that were not on the master plan of the city.

'They are from work that was done and never recorded," said Pickman, classes began.

adding that it takes time to figure out where they are going and what they are for

The biggest problem the surprise lines created was not knowing where the shut-off valves were. He said that at times the crew had to shut down City Manager Ron Pickman said larger sections of the city than they had anticipated.

Pickman said that he has received "We had some valves that went on some complaints from residents along the streets where the work is being done. He said that having streets and driveways torn up has been the biggest

The crew working on 13th Street is now on the north side of Central Elementary School. Pickman said that he had hoped to be past the school before

Blake Bieker, foreman for Allied, said that his crew is about right on schedule according to their plan.

'We should finish 13th Street past the school in about two weeks," he said, "as long as we don't run into any major problems and the weather doesn't turn bad."

Bieker said that he doesn't think that he will have to shut off the water to the school.

"But if we do," he said, "we will do it after classes so we don't interrupt the students."

Pickman said he still hopes the project will be completed by the end of the year. "Things could extend into next year," he said, "depending on how things go and the weather."



Thirteenth Street has become a major cone zone as the city works to replace water lines and meters from Caldwell to Cattletrail. Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News