

weather report

39°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 4:25 p.m.
- **Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 6:47 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 43 degrees
- Humidity 92 percent
- Sky Cloudy
- Winds South 11
- Barometer 30.63 inches and falling
- Record High 72° (1932)
- Record Low 1° (1952)

Last 24 Hours*

High 55°
Low 32°
Precipitation —

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy; low 30-35; winds S 10 turning West. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy; high 65-70; winds SW 10 becoming southerly at 10-20.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday through Friday: Wednesday: dry, high 70, low 30-35, chance of snow and rain in the evening. Chance of snow and rain on Thursday, high 40-45, low 20-25. Friday, dry, high 45-50, low 20-25. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.00 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.02
Loan deficiency payment — 43¢
Corn — \$1.48 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.59
Loan deficiency pmt. — 40¢
Milo — \$2.04 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.91 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.92
Loan deficiency payment — 97¢
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.85 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.87
Confection current — \$11/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$15(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.

Trade talks spark protest

SEATTLE — The World Trade Organization's effort to launch a new round of global trade talks, the largest trade event ever held in the United States, could be shaping up as one of the biggest protest events as well.

WTO critics are calling it the "Battle in Seattle."

Authorities were forced to delay for several hours the start of today's activities after an apparent attempted break-in at the convention center overnight.

Hundreds of reporters and delegates were kept waiting outside as the Secret Service conducted a second security sweep of the huge building. The center had been cleared of all reporters and delegates at 10 p.m. Sunday night for a planned check for bombs and the installation of metal detectors before the start of formal events today.

Cowgirl squads making a difference



Michelle Kibel sprayed glass cleaner (above) on a window, while Erinn Hardy wiped it off, at their cleanup for "Make a Difference Day." Holly Stephens (right) and Michelle Kibel held a trash bag for Alissa Schields, as she was about to put some leaves in it at the Good Samaritan Center.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Twelve girls from the Goodland High School cheerleading squad and drill team and their sponsor, Kim Schields, went to the Good Samaritan Center recently to "make a difference."

They spent the morning doing cleanup projects at the nursing home for national "Make a Difference Day," which was sponsored by Wal-Mart and celebrated on Oct. 23. In recognition of this day, the company gives money to community organizations around the country who do a volunteer project that makes a difference or improvement in their community.

The cheerleaders and drill team members who were at the workday, some of whom are on both teams, were Ana Montanez, Holly Stephens, Alissa Schields, Michelle Kibel, Lindsey Herl, Erinn Hardy, Chelsea Sheldon, Ivy Wassemiller, Stephanie Fairbanks, Jenna Deines, Adrienne Garcia and Adriel Alstrom.

Dolly Irvin, community involvement coordinator for the Goodland Wal-Mart store, contacted Schields to see if the teams might be interested in doing a project to earn the grant money. Whatever idea they came up with had to first be approved by Wal-Mart and then be carried out by the girls before the money would be paid.

Originally, the girls and Schields came up with the idea to visit Katlyn

Topliff, who has leukemia and was in a hospital in Denver. But because of the type of illness Katlyn has and an infectious disease rule at the hospital, the girls had to cancel that plan.

Then Schields decided to contact Paul Rainbolt, administrator at Good Samaritan, to see if there was something the group could do at the nursing home. He told her there were some things he had been wanting to get done. After this idea was approved by Wal-Mart, the group was able to get going on the project.

On Nov. 20, they went to the nursing home at 9 a.m. to do the work. They raked leaves from the trees on the north side of the home; cleared the parking lot of pine needles, leaves, dirt and trash, filling 35 trash bags; and cleaned 80 windows, finishing up around 12:15 p.m.

Afterwards, Schields and the girls were presented a check for \$1,000 by Wal-Mart Manager Scott Schroll in front of the nursing home. Schields said the money would be split equally between the two teams and to buy uniforms for the drill team and shoes for the cheerleaders.

This is the second year Wal-Mart has supported the program as official retail sponsor for "Make a Difference Day." The firm partnered with USA Weekend magazine and the Points of Light Foundation to sponsor the event, which is in its ninth year.



City, county to hold joint meeting

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County commissioners will meet with the Goodland City Commission at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the city building to make plans for opening the new county landfill and handling trash here, rather than shipping it out of town.

The county has been working on replacing the old landfill for over two years, and with construction of a new landfill should begin early next year, so it is time for the city and county to look at changes which may have to be made in the process.

City Manager Ron Pickman told the city commission at a recent meeting that the county was concerned about things which are showing up in the solid waste stream that shouldn't go in a landfill, and that under new guidelines more of this material could cost additional money and manpower.

County Public Works Director Curt Way has told the county commissioners that processing at the transfer station is becoming more complicated, and that the county may need to add an additional person to help. He also told the commissioners there are items which are being found in the waste stream which can be accepted by the Browning-Farris Industries landfill at Garden City, but will not be allowed in the new Sherman County landfill.

One suggestion made at the city meeting would be for the city to help pay for the additional manpower, and that lists of what is not acceptable material be attached to the dumpsters and publicized throughout the community.

City Commissioner Jim Mull said the end result of having the unacceptable material thrown into the dumpsters is that the city and county would probably have to raise rates.

"The people need to know they will be costing themselves more out of their pockets to handle the trash," he said.

At the regular county commission meeting, Dr. Lyle Noordhoek from Hays has asked to be on the agenda at 9 a.m. Tuesday to talk about forensic autopsies and medical legal investigations. He indicated he has heard about the county's concerns with the cost of autopsies over the past few years, and felt he could give the commissioners some useful information.

In other business at their final meeting of November, the county commissioners will:

- Consider a policy on how to handle grain dust at the landfill.
- Consider approving the county's participation in the Juvenile Justice system.
- Appoint a representative to the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development board to replace former County Attorney Mike Irvin.
- Consider county employee Christmas bonuses.
- Sign paperwork on the grant for

the fire truck for Kanorado, and discuss the details with Amy Griffey of the development group.

- Appoint a representative to fill a vacancy on the Area Agency on Aging advisory board.
- Review mower bids with William McKnight, county building maintenance supervisor.
- Hear plans from Paul Rainbolt, Good Samaritan administrator, about installing an elevator and renovating the basement.
- Approve monthly claims vouchers.

Records are tools for tracking public spending

Nineteen Kansas newspapers, including The Goodland Daily News, joined this fall to survey access to public documents held by cities, counties and school districts. This report is part of the results of that project.

By Mary Clarkin

The Hutchinson News

For Dighton a farm couple, Glenn and Alice Eitel, public records are tools for tracking how government spends their taxes.

"We pay usually around \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year in property taxes, and I don't suppose very many people are paying that," Glenn Eitel said.

The watchdogs of Lane County government spending scan public budgets to understand why the overall property tax rate in Dighton last year stood at nearly 190 mills. Tax statements mailed Thursday showed the rate climb to 209 mills. A mill equals \$1 for each \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

"We try to keep up with a lot of that," Glenn Eitel said. "After awhile, you get so exasperated by it, I guess you might lose your mind."

Kansans like the Eitels rely on access to public records for many reasons.

Some monitor how tax dollars are spent. Others search for clues about their ancestors and the land they homesteaded. Still others, touched by crime, scrutinize the criminal justice system.

And the Eitels do more than use public records to track numbers. They sometimes act on what they find.



Several times, Alice Eitel said, she has helped circulated petitions to force issues onto the ballot. For example, she said, in April she helped force a public vote on the school district's capital improvement mill levy. Voters approved the levy.

The Eitels also opposed passage of a Lane County special ballot question in June to issue about \$2.1 million in bonds for Lane County Hospital improvements, but it passed.

They also keep an eye on spending by the Dighton school district.

"We try to watch their budget and when they their budget, and then just keep track if they try to get more money from a special fund," Glenn Eitel said.

They have gone so far as to call the state Board of Education and logged onto the Internet to find information about other school districts for comparison.

For Vera Augustine of Hays, public records open the door to her family's history.

Her grandmother Paulina Herl's will rests in a file on the fourth floor of the Ellis County Courthouse in Hays, seldom disturbed since her death in 1954.

The Volga German immigrant, who was widowed young, reared two boys and six girls. She died at 86 and bequeathed the land to one of her sons.

"Sometimes you look at these things and sometimes it's amusing, and sometimes it's sad," said Augustine, a grandmother and family researcher.

Hutchinson Realtor Jim Davis uses public records to make a living.

He pays for the convenience to reach records in the Reno County Courthouse while working in his office at the other end of town.

To perform a market analysis of a property, Davis will check tax records. How much are the taxes? Are they fully paid? Special as-assessments?

An inventory content sheet, maintained by the county appraiser, describes the property right down to the number of bedrooms and bathrooms.

Larry Williams of Parsons tried unsuccessfully to gain access to state records that he hoped would show whether the criminal justice system is doing enough to protect the public.

In March 1996, his daughter, 20-year-old Pittsburg State University student Carrie Williams, was found beaten and stabbed to death. A few days later, Larry Williams found out that the killer, Gary Kleypas, was a parolee who had killed before.

Williams started asking questions, and those questions led him to the Kansas Department of Corrections. He asked for its records about Kleypas' parole officer, including a copy of his

job review.

The state told him those records were confidential and rejected his requests, Williams said.

He continues fighting today. "It's frustrating because of all I know," he said.

Kathleen Fabrizio wants similar information. Often, she said, she gets the run-around.

She was midway through completing a degree in journalism when she married Mark Fabrizio in 1985. Earlier, in 1976, Francis Donald Nemecek kidnapped, raped and killed Mark's 16-year-old sister, Paula Fabrizio, a park rangerette at Cedar Bluff Reservoir in Trego County.

Three other women and a 2-year-old boy died in northwest Kansas before Nemecek was captured and convicted in Salina. The court sentenced him in 1977 to three consecutive life sentences.

Today, Kathleen Fabrizio is a reporter for the *Western Kansas World* in WaKeeney. On her family's behalf, she constantly seeks information about Nemecek's incarceration.

Nemecek was eligible for parole three times, in 1991, 1994, and 1997. Denied release, he will be eligible again in 2007.

Fabrizius knows Nemecek is in the Lansing Correctional Facility, but while an inmate's disciplinary history is public record, his participation in sex-