

weather report

47°
at noon



Today
• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.
Tomorrow
• Sunrise, 6:47 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil Temperature 44 degrees
• Humidity 56 percent
• Sky Mostly sunny
• Winds North 20-25
• Barometer 29.77 inches and falling
• Record High 76° (1926)
• Record Low -1° (1985)

Last 24 Hours*
High 65°
Low 25°
Precipitation —

Northwest Kansas Forecast
Tonight: Increasing cloudiness; low 30; winds light from the north.
Tomorrow: Cloudy with 50 percent chance of rain or snow; high 40-45; winds gusty 20-30 from the north.

Extended Forecast
Saturday through Monday: Chance of snow Saturday and Sunday; highs 35-40; lows 20-25. Monday; dry; high 40-45; low 30-35. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon
Wheat — \$2.05 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.03
Loan deficiency payment — 42¢
Corn — \$1.51 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.62
Loan deficiency pmt. — 37¢
Milo — \$2.07 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.97 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.06
Loan deficiency payment — 83¢
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.85 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.87
Confection current — \$11/\$7cwt.
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.

Spray empties Kansas school

OVERLANDPARK — Someone ran down a high school hallway spraying pepper spray in a locker area this morning, and 19 students suffered nausea, asthma attacks and eye irritation, police said.
Blue Valley Northwest High School was evacuated for 15 minutes, and classes were canceled at 12:30 p.m. Twelve of the over- come students were hospitalized, and seven went home with their parents, Overland Park Police Sgt. Tom Fredrickson said.
About 1,500 students attend the school.
Fredrickson said the unidentified person emptied the small canister of pepper spray, then threw it in a trash can. No one has been arrested.
“It was not put into the ventilation system,” said Marsha Chapelow of the school district.

Dozens protest Wallace hog permit

By Roxana Hegeman
Associated Press Writer

SHARON SPRINGS — Water.
For the people of this parched region of far western Kansas, that is the bottom line in the debate over corporate hog farming.
On Wednesday, they came out in force to make sure the Kansas Department of Health and Environment knew exactly how precious water is in these parts. More than 100 people were at the hearing, and of those who spoke, only one was in favor of the hog operation.
Opponents included farm people like Elizabeth Janitell, who noted that water supplies are dwindling in the region.
“Our current water availability is of grave concern to us. We depend on the water for irrigation,” she said.
And the issue of clean drinking water also troubled her city neighbors.
Sharon Springs Mayor Ernest Poe and Wallace Mayor John Lock both talked about the difficulties their communities have finding enough uncontaminated water for their town.
“The people of the cities have the right to have enough good clean water so we can continue our way of life,” Poe said.
Lock told state regulators his town has been trying to find good drinking water since 1992, when unacceptably high uranium levels were first discovered in the city’s water supplies.

The town is now in the midst of developing a new well — only to find out that the well for a proposed hog farm would be just two miles away. Lock said he is worried there is not enough water in the aquifer to supply both the hog farm and the town.
At issue Wednesday was a wastewater permit application requested by Maple Creek Farm owner Jim Hicks to raise 21,600 hogs in Wallace County in western Kansas. No one representing Maple Creek spoke at the hearing.
Vic Moran of Sharon Springs said he raised pigs from 1955 to 1985.
“I know how much water it takes, and it will astound you,” he said.
Residents also said they were concerned about odor, property values, quality of life issues, and contamination of the land, air and water.
The only person to speak in support of the hog permit was W.H. Woodmancy, whose farm adjoins a hog operation. He said the neighboring hog farm rarely smells, and noted hog farms would pay taxes which would help lower the taxes others pay on their homes.
“Is a feedlot all right and a hog farm isn’t?” he asked.

“What are you people thinking about?”
He noted that farmers could benefit from selling a million bushels of grain to feed hogs in the region.
“We are farmers in this county. Some of us raise cattle, some of us raise pigs,” Woodmancy said.
But residents have rallied against a growing number of farmers who have signed contracts to raise pigs for corporate hog giant Seaboard Farms of Merriam.
Their outcry has brought state environmental regulators to remote rural communities for a series of hearings on wastewater permits requested by these hog growers.
At least 170 people showed up Tuesday for permit hearings for two 16,200-hog facilities in Kearny County. More than 100 people also showed in Wallace County.
So far, Kansas farmers have requested at least 20 permits for large-scale hog operations — most in Kearny, Wallace, Greeley, Wichita and Scott counties — to raise pigs on contract for Seaboard.
Industry observers say Seaboard would need to have nearly 200 such contracts with large-scale hog growers to supply the 4 million head per year needed to sustain a proposed pork processing plant in Great Bend.
As more farmers sign on with Seaboard to put

large-scale hog operations concentrated in just a few Kansas counties, residents are calling western Kansas “ground zero” for corporate hog farming.
The issue has even divided the agricultural community. Many farmers say they fear for their health, their property values and their quality of life.
In an effort to control the influx of big hog farms, Wallace County commissioners last August passed a one-year moratorium on rural development to give the commission time to draft zoning regulations.
Commissioner John Miller was at the hearing Wednesday to urge state regulators to honor the moratorium.
“Please do not spend any more of your valuable time or public money on this application,” he said.
He also told state officials that when Maple Creek Farms revised its permit application just days before the public hearing, commissioners were unable to obtain a copy from the state’s Topeka or Dodge City offices. The copy they finally received came from Seaboard, he said.
“Should we ask who is the actual applicant for the project? Is it Maple Creek Farms or Seaboard Farms?” Miller asked.

Pathologist offers to help county with its autopsies

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

A doctor who has been doing forensic autopsies in Hays for 13 years and helped the Kansas Bureau of Investigation create a school for coroners is offering to help Sherman County reduce the costs of autopsies.
Dr. Lyle Noordhoek met with the commissioners Tuesday to explain how he might help reduce the costs, and to answer questions about what a coroner’s duties are and when autopsies are really necessary.
County commissioners, after complaining about the high cost of autopsies for nearly two years, put two bills from a Nebraska pathology group on hold Nov. 9.
Last year, the cost of autopsies billed to the county was over \$16,000, about \$4,000 more than had been budgeted. This year the county has received bill for more than \$8,000.
Commissioners complained that the amounts for each autopsy are higher than being charged to other counties. The total is higher than what Ellis County, with more than twice the population, pays, in fact.
“I’d like the opportunity to be the pathologist for Sherman County,” Noordhoek said Wednesday, “and would be interested in working with the hospital as well.”
He has been training Kansas Bureau of Investigation officers, and in September held a coroner’s school in cooperation with the University of Kansas Medical Center.
Dr. Sue Jennings, Sherman County deputy coroner, attended the coroner’s training in September. She told the commissioners it was her first training for the job and she thought it was very worthwhile.
Dr. Noordhoek said he could provide a training session on forensic autopsies for emergency medical personnel, fire and ambulance crews, mortuary employers and law enforcement officers. He said the training is to help at those at the scene know what evidence may need to be preserved and what to look for which would assist the coroner determine the cause of death.
“The training could be as short as 90 minutes to a full day and would provide a clear understanding of the role of the coroner in the process,” he said. “Also, the training could be part of continuing education requirements.”
Commissioner Kenny Davis said he a session would be valuable, and suggested that the county hold one soon.
Jim Chaddic, administrator of Goodland Regional Medical Center, volunteered the hospital as a location.
Dr. Noordhoek said the main ways he can save money is by doing a lot of the consultation by phone with the deputy coroner. He said while not all autopsies

need x-rays, he also has the equipment to do those at a lower cost.
“I don’t have the overhead costs, and don’t need a radiologist for most cases,” he said.
Dr. Noordhoek said that under Kansas law, the coroner must be called when there is a death where there is no doctor in attendance or there is suspicion that the death was other than from natural causes. A coroner must be notified in all cases involving the death of a child under 18, and there is a requirement for an autopsy if the child is under a year old.
Commissioner Gary Townsend asked about the normal billing procedure on autopsies, and if any of these could be paid by insurance.
“If a coroner is called and an autopsy is called for, the bill should be sent to the coroner’s office or the county where the death occurred,” Noordhoek said. “If a family requests an autopsy that has not been requested by a coroner, then the family should be billed. In most cases insurance companies are not billed for autopsies.”
“The state has determined the interest is in the public domain of who was responsible in a questionable death, and the coroner is considered a non-partial observer. It does not happen often, but if a coroner failed to investigate or perform an autopsy, the county or the coroner may be open for litigation. The scene and background investigation is very important to show due diligence.”
Dr. Jennings gave the commissioners a copy of the state laws dealing with duties of a coroner and rates of service.
“I am concerned about someone trying to put restrictions on me,” Jennings said. “Especially when I know what the coroner’s responsibilities are. I have had some problem getting vendor cooperation, but can’t tell the coroner what cases should or should not be done. I have learned that insurance does not pay for any of the postmortems.”
“I’d like to be able to do your forensic work,” said Dr. Noordhoek.
“I have no problem with that and think you do a better job because of your experience,” Dr. Jennings said.
“There is no question of restrictions coming from us,” Davis said, “but we are looking for other ways to do this that might not be as expensive.”
“As to x-rays, sometimes I need them,” Dr. Jennings said, “and they can be pricey. I learned a lot at the training I attended, and am talking to Dr. Noordhoek more since that. I think the problem has been just more bodies in the last couple of years.”
At the end of the discussion Dr. Noordhoek, Dr. Jennings and Chaddic said they would try to coordinate a training session after the first of the year.

Bright, shinning Glory



Goodland merchants are flying American flags downtown, showing patriotic spirit and support for all who have served their country. The Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars Post has been urging people to join the display, which started with just a few flags and has mushroomed into dozens.

Mary Cooper/The Goodland Daily News

Volunteers to pick up food items Saturday

4-H members will be scouring Sherman County on Saturday, picking up donations between 9 a.m. and noon for the annual Genesis food drive.
People in Goodland are asked to place their donations on the front porch or some place visible from the street.
Genesis is accepting potatoes, sweet potatoes, oranges, apples, flour, sugar, brown sugar and nuts. Suggestions for nonperishable food items are canned goods, boxed macaroni and cheese, cereal and the like.
The Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter is working with Genesis to collect pet food, since some of the people in need have pets in need. A can or bag of dog or cat food can be included with the food donations. Any leftover pet food will be used for the shelter’s foster care/adoption project.
The Toys for Tots organization is collecting toys and money so that each child from newborn to 16 will have gifts

for Christmas. These gifts will be included in the boxes.
If you would like to donate new toys or used ones in real good condition, they can be taken to Fred’s Auto Repair, 408 West Business U.S. 24. Money can be taken to or sent to this address also.
Post cards will be mailed to needy families on Dec. 11. Only those receiving cards will be eligible to pick up boxes on Dec. 18. The families on the list were selected by a committee of community organizations.
Genesis is also accepting cash donations. The money will be used for fruit, milk, bread, meat or other perishable items to be placed in the boxes. Please send or give money to Pat Jordan, Genesis coordinator, Box 476, Goodland, Kan. 67735. If you have any questions, you can call her at 899-5073.
The annual Genesis movie, “Dudley Do-Right,” is Saturday. Admission is a donation to Genesis.

Choose angel for special tree

Is there an angel in your life who you would like to honor or remember in a special way?
Hospice Services Inc. will be decorating a tree with angels for Christmas at the First National Bank in Goodland. In this season of giving and caring, the organization invites you to help decorate their Memorial Christmas tree.
Come to the bank and give a tax-deductible donation to Hospice. With your donation, an angel with the name of anyone you choose will be placed on the tree.
The tree will be displayed throughout the holiday season. You may also send your donation to Hospice Services Inc., Box 1003, Goodland, Kan. 67735. The agency will make sure your angel is placed on the tree.
There will be a dedication for the tree at 9 a.m. Friday at the bank, to which the public is invited.