

weather
report

41°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 4:27 p.m.
- Tomorrow
- Sunrise, 7:04 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 33 degrees
- Humidity 41 percent
- Sky partly sunny
- Winds northwest 12 mph
- Barometer 30.01 inches and falling
- Record High 69° (1933)
- Record Low -17° (1989)

Last 24 Hours*

High	34°
Low	13°
Precipitation	.01

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy; 30 percent chance of snow; low 15; winds north less than 10 mph Tomorrow: Partly sunny; high 30-35; winds northwest 5-15 mph; low 20.

Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday. Thursday: dry; high upper 40s; low 20. Friday: dry; high low 50s; low mid 20s. Saturday: dry; high upper 50s; low mid 20s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Group returns 'seed money' to city's fund

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

With Wheatridge Estates construction moving forward toward spring completion, Brenda McCants was at Monday's Goodland City Commission meeting to present a check repaying \$15,000 which the city had given the Senior Housing Corp. to help develop an assisted living facility.

The money was returned to the city by the group because the new assisted living development is a for-profit operation. The city and county had granted seed money to get the project moving forward when planners thought it would have to be a nonprofit effort.

"We want to thank the city for being willing to provide the funds," McCants said, "and we hope the city will utilize the funds in a way to provide funding for other projects."

She said that while the Senior Housing Corp. has sold part of the land, they retain about 11 acres which may be available for a future development.

Depending on the weather, the construction work at Wheatridge is expected to be done about March McCants said.

"With the assisted living becoming a reality, we hope attention can be focused on the need for nursing home beds," she said.

Mayor Chuck Lutters thanked McCants for the efforts of the housing group and thanked the group for returning the money.

Lloyd Harden spoke to the commission about an idea he had to enhance Goodland's image as the "sunflower capital of the nation."

"If you are interested, I would like to design a large sunflower to be located near the highway to attract tourist attention," Harden told the commission.

He suggested the sunflower be about 30 feet tall, and that the construction class at the Northwest Kansas Technical School would be willing to build it.

Harden said he did not have a cost estimate, but wanted to know if the commission was interested he would be glad to design it.

Commission members asked Harden if he knew that there was a group already looking into the possibility of erecting a larger-than-life replica of a Vincent van Gogh "Sunflower" painting.

Harden said he knew there was a group talking to someone from out of town about a very large sign, but did not know the details.

"I like your idea better," said Commissioner Curtis Hurd, "but I don't want to put city money into this."

Hurd told Harden that the other group had ask for money and had been told the city might grant a long-term lease for some city property where the large painting could be located.

Commissioner Tom Rohr suggested Harden contact Ron Harding at the Goodland Chamber office about the group which is trying to raise money for the project.

Kevin Butts was present to discuss his contract with the city take the trash he picks up at Wal-Mart, which expires at the end of the month. Butts is asking the city to consider reducing the monthly cost of \$450 which he has been paying.

Commissioner Jim Mull said he would like to study the figures a bit and look at the basis that was developed when the contract was established about two years ago.

"I agree you may have a point, but I think we need to look at all the figures before making such a decision," Mull said.

"I think this is out of line," Hurd said, "Can we have a special meeting before the end of the month to review this issue and give Kevin an answer?"

After some discussion about a possible date, the commission tabled the solid waste contract until a special meeting to be held at noon, Thursday, Dec. 30.

City Manager Ron Pickman also said

that the city would include payment of additional bills from this year at the special meeting.

In other business, commissioners:

- Approved package beer licenses for the next year for Vista (Coastal) stores located at 17th and Caldwell and Eighth and Caldwell; Travel Shoppe; Cowboy Loop, 17th and Main; Presto Oil, 2417 Commerce Boulevard; Total Convenience store; and Wal-Mart Stores, 2160 Commerce Blvd.

- Approved beer licenses for restaurant consumption at Bowladium Lanes, 509 Caldwell; Pizza Hut, 1803 Cherry; China Gardens, 1108 Main; and Gambino's, 17th and Caldwell.

- Approved reappointment of Glenn Chase to the Electric Board for a three-year term, and approved reappointment of Harold Gillihan to the Plumbing Board for a three-year term.

- Approved resolutions on the highway project for K-27 to include placement of a stop light at the intersection of K-27 and Business U.S. 24; and approved a resolution allowing the state to proceed on the Cherry Street project. The Cherry Street project is expected to be let for bids in the spring, and the intersection project is proposed for construction in 2001.

- Approved a resolution required by state statutes which specifically details the physical boundaries of the City of Goodland. The resolution was necessary because the city annexed land on the northwest part of the city along Kansas and Eighth.

- Pickman announced that the pool bids have been delayed until Jan. 6, and will be considered at the second January meeting of the commission on Jan. 17.

- Showed the commissioners two design options for the new Renner Field entrance sign. The commissioners chose the small of the two designs for the secondary signs and the lighted panel for Renner Field.

- Postponed appointments to the planning commission until the next meeting.

The next commission meeting will be 5 p.m., Monday, Jan. 3, in the commission room upstairs in the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th.

And now, little girl, what do you want?



Cassie Battistoni told Santa about what she wanted for Christmas on Saturday afternoon at the Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall. Sacks of candy were handed out by veterans to hundreds of kids who came through to see the old gent.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Legislators eye changes in access

TOPEKA (AP)—Some lawmakers are not convinced the 2000 Legislature needs to review the Kansas Open Records Act.

Gov. Bill Graves and Attorney General Carla Stovall are proposing the creation of an independent commission to resolve disputes between Kansans and public officials over access to records. They also want to fine public officials who violate the act.

Democratic legislative leaders have outlined a rival proposal. It would create a freedom-of-information officer in the secretary of state's office to resolve open records disputes. The officer could fine errant public officials.

The proposals are a response to a statewide survey by 19 Kansas newspapers, which showed that some local officials are not complying fully with the Open Records Act. A few officials denied access to records that are clearly open, and copying fees can be as high as \$5 a page.

Still, not all legislators are convinced the state needs to create a new agency to deal with open records problems.

"I'm not sure we need to pass a law," Sen. Stan Clark, R-Oakley, said Monday. "The attorney general, I think, needs to get more active."

Last week, Kansas newspapers interviewed 45 legislators about strengthening

the open records law.

Nine favored the Democrats' plan, while eight voiced support for Graves' proposal. Seventeen favored fining public officials who violate the law.

However, 15 saw better education of officials as the solution, and another six said no action is necessary.

House Speaker Robin Jennison, R-Healy, said some action must be taken, though he isn't sure yet which proposal has more merit.

"Clearly, we're going to have to do something," he said. "The challenge we have is to create a mechanism as streamlined as possible, so it's not time-consuming, but yet is fair."

Schools here go all out to put town's seniors into a holiday mood

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Goodland Schools fed about 350 senior citizens a traditional Christmas dinner in the high school gym Friday, treating them to music, gifts, prizes and a lot of loving attention.

High school students served plates of turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, green beans, rolls, and apple salad and drinks to the waiting crowd. Pumpkin pie was served later. Musical entertainment was provided before and during the meal, prizes were given away.

It was the fifth annual holiday dinner put on by the Goodland School Board, school staff and students. They sent out invitations to those who were at last year's meal, but also published advertisements to invite senior citizens of Goodland to the dinner.

"It's been a real fun thing for us to do," said Superintendent Marvin Selby, adding that the event was a joint effort involving teachers, students and school staff.

Head cook Susan Scott and her high school staff were in charge of preparing the meat, potatoes and gravy, dressing and green beans. The rolls and pies were prepared by the cooks at the junior high and grade schools, and apple salad was made by students under

Gwen Cebula's direction.

Kindergarten through fourth grade students from Goodland schools made laminated placemats with a Christmas theme for the diners, while fifth and sixth grade students made laminated bookmarks as gifts.

Students from high school organizations, including Girls Athletic Association, National Honor Society and FCCLA, served the dinner and provided valet parking.

The crowd was entertained by the Goodland High School jazz band and X-Pressos.

The board bought 55 poinsettias from Cobblestone Floral and Garden Center, which served as table decorations and gifts to those whose names were drawn.

Gary Gregory's technology students at the high school made wooden trees for all the seniors to take home with them.

As people came in, they were asked to register their names for a drawing and also to provide names for next year's invitation list.

Selby said students delivered meals to 75 elderly shut-ins.

As the seniors left, they were wished a Merry Christmas and given a small loaf of bread.



A senior citizen left with a poinsettia plant from the dinner held for senior citizens of Goodland at the high school on Friday. The table decorations were given out as door prizes.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

local
markets



Noon

- Wheat — \$2.08 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.95
- Loan deficiency payment — 50¢
- Corn — \$1.60 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.70
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 29¢
- Milo — \$2.29 hundredweight
- Soybeans — \$3.88 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.89
- Loan deficiency payment — \$1
- Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$5.75 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.12
- Confection current — \$11/\$7 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.

Officials fear Y2K terrorism

WASHINGTON—Although troubled by the arrest of a man trying to smuggle explosive materials into Washington state from Canada, U.S. authorities say they know of no specific terror threats against domestic targets.

But the arrest, and suspicions that the man may be linked to terrorist groups, prompted officials to heighten security and to caution Americans to be on the lookout during the holiday season for signs of terrorist activity.

The U.S. Customs Service said Monday it was putting 300 extra inspectors on duty at high-priority entry points.

Meanwhile, U.S. Border Patrol officers said they arrested an Algerian national with a falsified Canadian passport at a border station in Beecher's Falls, Vt., on Monday.

Arrested with him was a woman of unknown nationality.