

weather report

32°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:04 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:28 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 33 degrees
• Humidity 85 percent
• Sky cloudy with light snow
• Winds northwest 16 mph
• Barometer 30.16 inches and falling
• Record High 69° (1964)
• Record Low -27° (1989)

Last 24 Hours*

High 43°
Low 16°
Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy; low 20; winds northwest 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny; dry; high mid 40s; winds northwest 10-20 mph; low 20-25.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday. Friday: dry; high 50s; low 20-25. Saturday and Sunday: dry, high 50s; low 20s. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.08 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.94
Loan deficiency payment — 51¢
Corn — \$1.62 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.69
Loan deficiency pmt. — 30¢
Milo — \$2.32 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.98 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.87
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.02
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.85 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.

Americans may be target

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials are tightening security at airports and warning Americans worldwide they may be targeted for terrorists through mid-January as investigators try to connect recent threats to Osama bin Laden. Terrorism suspects arrested in Jordan have been linked to bin Laden's network, but U.S. authorities have not yet made a connection to an Algerian arrested while trying to bring bomb-making equipment into Washington state, a senior Clinton administration official said today.

Manhunts are under way for up to three people suspected of ties to Ressaam, who was arrested Dec. 14 after arriving in Port Angeles, Wash., after crossing the border from Canada, and for a California man said to have ties to bin Laden, alleged mastermind of the bombing of two U.S. embassies last year.



Kids wrap up their season

It was a busy week for Goodland students, who went to movies and gave concerts. Sixth graders (above) got off a bus at the Sherman Theatre on Tuesday to go see "Air Bud 2-Golden Receiver." Seventh and eighth grade band students (right) performed a concert Tuesday night, playing four songs. The seventh and eighth grade vocal choirs led by Shelly Cole also performed.

Photos by Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News



Ex-history teacher dies at 97

Longtime Goodland High School social studies teacher Audrey Smith, 97, died Tuesday at Goodland Regional Medical Center.

"Miss Smith wrote her own obituary," said Goodland lawyer Ron Vignery. "She modestly omitted the tremendous impact she had on the lives of thousands of her students. I am one of those students and to Miss Smith, I want to express the gratitude of all those students one last time."

"Thank you, Miss Smith, for being one of a kind."

Among her many honors, Miss Smith was chosen as a Master Teacher by Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia in 1956, listed in the first edition of Who's Who for American Women in 1958, inducted into the Kansas Teachers Hall of Fame in Dodge City in 1978, and given an honorary Educator's Award by the Goodland Alumni Association in 1999.

During the Eisenhower administration in the 1950s, when the Interstate Highway System was being planned, she was appointed by the governor of Kansas as a state delegate to the Na-

tional Highway Conference in Washington.

She sponsored two senior trips at Kanorado High School and was an assistant sponsor for a group of Kansas seniors to Washington and New York. She and Wanda Mae Vinson, longtime head of the Kansas State High School Activities Association, organized the Goodland High Kayette group, which she sponsored for several years. She retired in 1971.

She was born Feb. 9, 1902, at Coldwater, the daughter of Carrie (Lease) and Joseph W. Smith. She graduated in 1920 from Coldwater High School. She attended the University of Kansas for two years, taught 11 years in rural schools, then returned to earn a bachelor's degree from KU in 1935. She taught at Jetmore and Kanorado schools for eight years and at Goodland High for 28.

Miss Smith had been active in Round Table Research Club and the Sherman County Teacher's Association, of which she was a charter member. She had been active in the local, state, and national Business and Professional

Women's Club for 50 years and was state president in 1953-54. She attended 13 national conventions, five of those as a state delegate.

She was a member of the American Association of University Women, Delta Kappa Society, and the Christian Church in Coldwater, later transferring her membership to the First Christian Church in Goodland.

Her main hobby was traveling, and she had visited all but two of the 50 states, never travelling to Carolina. She also visited eight Canadian provinces, Puerto Rico and St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at the church in Goodland with Pastor Loren Strait officiating. Graveside service will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Crown Hill Cemetery in Coldwater, with Pastor Mike Elrod officiating.

Friends may call from 3-8 p.m. today and from 8 a.m. to noon Thursday at Koons Chapel, Goodland, and before services at the church.

Miss Smith was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Jean Proctor.

Memorials may be given to the Center for Basic Cancer Research at Manhattan, the Kansas Arthritis Foundation, or the church.

Town to mostly close for holidays

Most government offices and many businesses will be closed Friday for an extended Christmas holiday, and will also close early for the New Years holiday next week.

The Goodland Daily News will not publish on Friday to allow our employees and carriers to have an extended Christmas holiday, and also there will be no paper on Friday, Dec. 31.

Sherman County offices will be closed Thursday and Friday this week for Christmas, and next week the courthouse will close at noon on Thursday to close the books on the year. The county offices will be closed on Friday,

Dec. 31.

The City of Goodland will close on Friday and Monday for Christmas, and will be closed on Friday, Dec. 31, for New Years.

The Sherman County transfer station will be closed Friday and Saturday for Christmas, and on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for New Years.

First National Bank will close at 2 p.m. on Friday this week and again at 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 31.

Bankwest will close at noon on Friday, but has not determined whether or not they will be open on Friday, Dec. 31.

Western State Bank will close at noon on Friday, and again at noon on Friday, Dec. 31.

The Goodland Post Office will close the window at 1 p.m. on Friday, and mail will leave at 4 p.m. that day. Saturday, the office will be closed, but there will be package delivery. The post office will be open regular hours on Friday, Dec. 31, and will be closed on Saturday, Jan. 1.

If you need groceries, get them early. Wal-Mart will close at 6 p.m. Friday and be closed all day Saturday. The store will reopen at 7 a.m. Sunday.

County divides sales tax funds among agencies

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

The Sherman County commissioners got a refund Tuesday, and then decided to split the money left in the health services sales tax fund between the hospital, health department and nursing home.

Brenda McCants started the meeting by presenting the commissioners with a check for \$15,000, which was the county's contribution to the Senior Housing Corp. project to bring assisted living to Goodland.

McCants thanked the commissioners for their support of the project, and said that the group will be looking for more development, as they still own over 11 acres of land. She said the new Wheatridge Acres will bring assisted living to the county.

"This may relieve some of the pressure on our nursing home, but there is a serious need for more nursing home beds," McCants said. "We are glad we were able to use private funding and put the public money back into future projects."

"We might be willing again to do this for a similar project," said Commissioner Kenny Davis.

"We want to commend you and your board for your efforts, and appreciate what you have accomplished," Commission Chairman Gary Townsend added.

With the addition of the \$15,000, the total available in the health services sales tax fund was a little over \$200,000. The commissioners had discussed dispersing the funds to the Goodland Regional Medical Center, County Health Department and Sherman County Good Samaritan Center for their use without having to decide which specific project or programs it would benefit.

To maintain a reserve in case of some other need, the commissioners agreed to hold \$75,000, and that the rest would be divided among the three entities.

Exactly what the division should be was the question, with each commissioner having a different way of dividing the money. Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld suggested 50 percent for the hospital, 30 percent for Good Sam and 20 percent for County Health. Davis suggested 50 percent for the hospital and to split the remainder equally between Good Sam and County Health. Townsend felt there was a greater need to put money aside to help with the expansion of the nursing home, and suggested that 25 percent go to the hospi-

tal and 75 percent be put in a Good Sam expansion fund.

A compromise was reached where the hospital would receive 40 percent (\$48,274) and the remaining 60 percent would be split between County Health and Good Sam, with each receiving \$36,206.

The commissioners also established a separate account for the Good Samaritan Center health services funds on a 2-1 vote with Frankenfeld and Townsend voting in favor, and Davis voting against on the basis it was unnecessary. This is separate from the annual Home Maintenance Fund, which the commissioners set aside to help with repairs.

Townsend said he thought this was a good way to handle the system, and said he hopes the county can do this again next December, using the same percentages for passing out the money.

"I think this is better than having them come to us all the time when they need additional funds," Davis said, "and it puts the money in their hands to make the necessary decisions on how best to use it."

The commissioners also approved a motion transferring the money received from the sale of the lot north of the hospital, which was purchased by Cesar Miller for a new pharmacy, to the hospital. That amount was \$11,151, County Clerk Janet Rumpel said.

Shortly after the commissioners made this decision on how to split the sales tax money and the land sale, Andy Laue and Jim Chaddic, finance officer and hospital administrator, appeared to discuss the hospital budget for the next year. Laue explained the hospital budget, and said the hospital expects to see a small increase in revenue, and a similar increase in expenses as well. However, he said the bottom line will show a slight loss even after the county's taxes are added back in.

The county gives six mills of the property tax to the hospital from the general fund, which is about \$300,000 a year, and that will reduce the expected loss next year to \$31,150.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Amended the 1999 budget to comply with state requirements.
- Asked County Attorney Bonnie Selby to complete the drafting of the county land leases for the next year, and to prepare a cash-basis lease to be used beginning in 2001.
- Approved the Sherman Racing Association's dates for racing at the Sherman County Speedway next year.



Kids make wishes known to gentleman in red suit

This letter arrived at the North Pole at the last minute, but many other letters by West Elementary students and other Goodland kids are in the Letters to Santa Section inside today's Goodland Daily News:

Dear Santa,
for Christmas I would like any of the following Pokeman items, trading cards, a poster, a Nintendo game, or a book.
I would also like a Packers football

helmet, or a tramp, and a Smash-mouth C.D. Please bring my sister a tape player, or play jewelry set, and I guess you could throw in a baby doll and stroller.

I guess thats enough for tow very good kids. Have a safe sleigh-ride and be sure to rotate your reindeers and check their hoofs before you leave.

Your friend,
Loren Strait Jr.
and my sister Kortney.