

weather
report

65°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:30 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:28 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:31 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 43 degrees

• Humidity 35 percent

• Sky partly sunny

• Winds southwest 20 mph

• Barometer 29.78 inches
and falling

• Record High 77° (1982)

• Record Low -02° (1939)

Last 24 Hours*

High 72°

Low 26°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy; 50 percent chance of rain; low 35; winds northwest 20-30 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny; dry; high 60; winds northwest 15-25 mph; low 25-30.

Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday. Thursday: chance for thunderstorms; high 60s; low 25-30. Friday: chance for rain; high 55; low 30s. Saturday: dry; high 50-55; low 25.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.30 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.25

Loan deficiency payment — 20¢

Corn — \$1.73 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.87

Loan deficiency payment — 12¢

Milo — \$2.67 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.33 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.46

Loan deficiency payment — 43¢

Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.80 cwt.

Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.92

Confection current — \$13/\$8 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$12 (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.

Banks want
to add secrecy

TOPEKA — A bill that would add another exemption to the Kansas Open Records Act is moving quietly through the House; it would allow banks to keep secret the names and addresses of minor stockholders.

House members planned to take a final vote on the bill after giving it first-round approval Monday with almost no discussion.

The Legislature entered the seventh week of its annual session facing an important deadline. Most bills must be approved in their chamber by Saturday or die.

Legislators have talked about strengthening the Kansas Open Records Act, but the bill before the House would close some banking records to the public.

The bill would make confidential the names and addresses of those who own less than 5 percent of a bank or holding company.

Clinton to unmask medical mistakes

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton wants hospitals to tell patients and the government how often they kill or seriously injure their patients.

Hospitals nationwide would have to disclose serious and deadly mistakes if Congress adopts a White House plan developed in response to a report last year that estimated medical mix-ups kill as many as 98,000 Americans each year.

Clinton also planned today to order several new requirements that do not need congressional approval, including an immediate reporting requirement for the 500 Defense Department-administered hospitals that serve an estimated 8 million people. And the Health Care Financing Administration will require error reduction plans this year in all 6,000 hospitals that participate in Medicare.

The Food and Drug Administration has a year to develop new standards to help prevent medi-

cal mistakes caused by sound-alike drug names or look-alike products. The agency will also come up with new standards for labels that highlight common problems such as errors in dosage size.

The White House wants all hospitals to report errors within three years, but cannot force compliance without legislation from Congress.

There already are plans in Congress to respond to the Institute of Medicine report on medical mistakes that could short-circuit the White House plan by requiring faster or more comprehensive reporting.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., predicted a bipartisan medical error bill will pass this year, and two Senate committees are holding hearings.

The White House sees its plan as a compromise between patient advocates who want full disclosure of medical mistakes and doctors and hospitals, who fear disclosure means more lawsuits.

The White House wants a mandatory national reporting system, administered by the states, that would collect information about preventable deaths and major injuries by hospital and type of problem. Names of individual doctors or other health care workers would not be public.

Hospitals would not have to report less serious mistakes or close calls, although the White House hopes they would do so voluntarily, a senior White House official said Monday.

“The whole idea here is to not blame people,” said the White House official. “Obviously, we have a problem in medical errors, and we have to acknowledge it. Acknowledging it is the first step, but we can’t make it punitive.”

The president’s proposed budget for next year includes \$33 million to improve the reporting system for medical mistakes at the FDA.

Dr. Sidney Wolfe, head of the Washington-

based Public Citizen’s Health Research Group, said the White House approach does not go far enough. Hospitals can still mask the true level of mistakes by failing to perform enough autopsies, and patients deserve a full accounting, Wolfe said.

On the other end of the argument is Dr. Nancy Dickey, immediate past president of the American Medical Association. She said there is no evidence that hospitals are safer in states with reporting systems in place.

Eighteen states already have some kind of mandatory reporting system.

In November, the Institute of Medicine, a private organization chartered by Congress to advise the government on scientific matters, estimated that medical mistakes kill between 44,000 and 98,000 Americans each year. The institute said it found flaws in the way hospitals, clinics and pharmacies operate.



Spring day in February

Moms and kids were at Topside Territory playground enjoying the weather as the temperature climbed into the 70s Monday. Holton Witman, 4, rode on the merry-go-round (above), while Brandon Sissel, 5, pushed. Isabel Salinas (right) pushed her daughter, Kimberly Fuentes, 5, and a friend, Sonya Garza, 3, on the tire swing at the playground.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News



Farm/City Celebration will give farmers turn to treat ‘city cousins’

This year’s Farm/City Celebration banquet will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 23, at the Elks Lodge.

This is the twelfth year for the celebration, sponsored by the Sherman County Farm Bureau Association, K-State Research and Extension, and the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

Sponsors says the banquet is a way for one part of the community to thank another, and this year farmers are treating the business sector. Several growers will be manning barbecue grills and 4-H junior leaders will be serving as everyone celebrates agriculture in Sherman County. Entertainment will be by Gayle Becwar, a comedian and

magician.

The Sherman County Agricultural-Agribusiness Person of the Year award, instituted in 1992 as an annual part of this event, will be presented during the program. This award is given by the Farm/City Celebration committee to a Sherman Countian who exemplifies “a spirit of concern, dedication and genuine feeling of enthusiasm for the preservation and expansion of the quality of life in Sherman County.” Last year’s award was presented to farmer Ken Palmgren.

Producers wishing to invite a business person may purchase tickets for this year’s celebration by calling the Farm Bureau office at 899-2378.

Legislators coming here to listen to their districts

State Sen. Stan Clark and Rep. Jim Morrison will be at the Butterfly Restaurant at Goodland’s Renner Field airport from 10-11 a.m. Monday to talk to voters.

Earlier Monday, as part of a regional tour, Clark, an Oakley Republican, and Morrison, a Colby Republican, will be at the Ramada Inn in Colby from 9-10 a.m.

Saturday, Clark and Rep. Gayle Mollenkamp, R-Quinter, will be in Tribune from 10-11 a.m. in the courtroom

of the Greeley County Courthouse. The two will then travel to Sharon Springs to meet with people from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Sen. Clark and Rep. John Faber of Brewster will be at the St. Francis Library from 12:15-1:15 p.m. The two will travel to Atwood, where they will talk to people from 2-3 p.m. in the Midwest Energy Room. From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. they will be in the Decatur County commissioners room on the second floor of the courthouse in Oberlin.

Honor for Goodland auctioneer a complete surprise for his widow

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Charlene Cole said she didn’t have a clue that her husband would be inducted into the Kansas Auctioneers Association Hall of Fame at the group’s convention this year.

It’s the highest honor a member can receive for dedication to the profession, but she figured somebody else would get it, not Curt, who died in 1998.

Cole’s secretary, Sharon David, and the Cole’s two daughters knew more than they had been letting on, though.

Curt Cole, who died unexpectedly in November 1998, was honored at the association’s 44th annual winter convention in January at Topeka.

The Hall of Fame was started in 1991 and only two members are inducted each year. The award is kept a secret prior to the presentation. A slide presentation was given and a story told about the member’s auctioneering career.

Charlene said she went to this year’s convention with the idea that she would be attending workshops and presenting the Cole New Member Scholarship to a beginning auctioneer.

When the slide show began for Hall of Fame inductees, Charlene said, she turned to David and said they needed to submit an application in the next year or two for Curt.

Then, a picture of her husband came up on a screen and Charlene said she was asked to come up to the



Curt Cole taking bids for an item.

were her daughters, Cristin and Cynthia, and other relatives. They had been hiding in the hall.

Later, Cole found out that David and her daughters had been working on the award since October.

Cole’s daughters flew from Texas and Florida for the event. Curt’s sister, Virginia Blain, Goodland, put the girls up in Lawrence, where she owns a condominium. Charlene said she and Sharon almost ran into some of relatives in a parking lot when they were driving out, but Charlene never saw them. The surprise was complete.

Other family members who attended were Carla Schmidt and Jeri Ann Blain, nieces from Lawrence; Bill and Nancy Cole, brother and sister-in-law from Goodland; and Jackie, Terry, Callie, Whitney, Tiffany and Landon McCaffrey, daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren from Vona, Colo.

Curt and Charlene Cole began their auction and real estate business in 1977 and Curt served as president of the association in 1993. Prior to that, he served on the board, helped with the bid calling contest at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson and served on other committees when asked. He was a member of the National Auctioneers Association and the Certified Auctioneers Institute.

Curt was always willing to serve the association that meant so much to him and his profession, Charlene said. The group was only too happy to return the favor.

podium. She remembered thinking that her family should be there. Then she was told to turn around, and here