

weather
report

58°
at noon

Today

• Sunset, 5:38 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:18 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:39 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 40 degrees

• Humidity 28 percent

• Sky partly sunny

• Winds southwest 31 mph

• Barometer 30.07 inches
and falling

• Record High 77° (1967)

• Record Low -11° (1922)

Last 24 Hours*

High 56°

Low 30°

Precipitation .03 inches

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy; 20 percent chance of rain or snow; low 35; winds southeast 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Cloudy; 70 percent chance of rain or snow; high 40; winds northeast 15-25 mph; low 20-25.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday. Friday: dry; high 45-50; low 25-30. Saturday: dry; high 50s; low 30-35. Sunday: chance of rain; high 50s; low 30.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.13 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.04

Loan deficiency payment — 41¢

Corn — \$1.73 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.85

Loan deficiency payment — 14¢

Milo — \$2.61 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.31 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.32

Loan deficiency payment — 57¢

Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.70 cwt.

Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.99

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.

Wheat faces frost danger

WICHITA — Recent rains, coupled with unusually warm winter temperatures, have put Kansas wheat fields at increasing risk to a late freeze damage, experts say.

The wheat either never went into dormancy or broke dormancy early. With the moisture now, wheat is expected to start forming grain heads within a week or two, making it susceptible to frost.

Roger Stockton, crops specialist with Kansas State University Research and Extension in Colby, said Tuesday that now that the crop has some moisture, it will start to grow a head of wheat four to six weeks ahead of schedule.

That concerns him more than the wheat condition report released Monday by Kansas Agricultural Statistics showing 27 percent of Kansas wheat in poor or very poor condition because of the long dry spell this winter.



With expansion work wrapping up at Max Jones Fieldhouse, Mike Stroyek (above) put a coat of varnish on the new gym floor. The lines and logos were painted on over the weekend, and the floor got another coat of varnish Tuesday. Jim Helten (below), an employee of KONE Elevator of Wichita, moved materials into the elevator shaft at the fieldhouse. His firm expected to finish this week.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

School board to inspect Edson gym with residents

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

Depending on when the Max Jones Fieldhouse expansion is completed over the next few weeks, the school board will hold an open house on either March 13 or 27 to show off the facility.

Superintendent Marvin Selby told the board at Monday's regular meeting that the floor has been painted and all the logos are in place. He said one coat of finish has been applied and a second was put on Tuesday. Next week the edge molding is to be installed.

He said the elevator has arrived and the installation crew is hoping to have it completed by the end of the week. He said there are some minor things to be done by plumbers and painters, but they should be done in the next few days.

Work has begun on replacing the sidewalks outside, and depending on the weather, these could be done by next week, Selby said.

The board agreed that if the building is ready next week, the district would hold an open house in conjunction with the next board meeting on Monday, March 13. However, if the project is not completed by then, the open house would be held on Monday, March 27, again in conjunction with a regular meeting.

On the Monday when there is not an open house, board members will meet early and go to Edson to look at the old school gym, which citizens are asking to keep open as a community center.

Jim Cress, representing that group, appeared at the meeting to ask about the plans for the Edson gym. He was accompanied by Rick Farris, Cody McDaniel and Brent Flanders.

Cress said there were several possible ways the gym could be kept open. He said the Edson citizens would like to see it available as a community center, and as an auxiliary gym for practice and other sports activities. The idea would be to have the district keep the gym, and the Edson citizens would find a way to contribute to the maintenance of the building.

He said the group also examined the possibility of either having the district donate the building to a non-profit group or to sell the building to the group. Cress said if the district was willing to entertain these options, it would take some time to get the non-profit corporation organized.



Superintendent Selby said he felt it would be a good idea for the board to look at the building before making a decision. President Dick Short thanked the Edson representatives for coming and said the board would let them know when the board would be visiting.

Board member Ben Duell said he hoped the group had looked at the costs of heating and the upkeep of the roof. He said a group trying to keep the Ruleton School had problems because that group was not prepared to handle the heating of the gym in the winter, and the cost of maintaining the building —

especially the roof.

One of the Edson representatives said they were looking at those costs, and that they would also ask the district to consider doing some maintenance to the floor and replacing a skylight which has been leaking.

The board members did not specifically indicate any direction about the future of the gym, but said they would look it over.

Selby asked if the Edson group could contact the owner of the old school

See FIELDHOUSE, Page 4

County says group to pay all road costs

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County commissioners said Tuesday that they will insist that backers of a special benefit district pay all of the costs to save paving on the Nemechek Road and to keep it up to state and federal standards.

Otherwise, commissioners said, the county would wind up being responsible for maintenance, and it doesn't have the money.

Commissioner Kenny Davis, in a statement of their position, said commissioners felt they didn't get to explain their position at a court hearing held Feb. 17. He said they wanted to let the road backers know how things stood. He said the Kansas Department of Transportation would have to approve the road and it would have to be maintained as to federal aid standards.

About 15 citizens from the area, along with attorney Ron Vignery, who is representing the group, were at the meeting.

"The problem is in the definition of what we want," said Larry Ihrig, a farmer in the area who is a leader in the push to save the road.

Ihrig said the citizens want to keep the road without spending any more money than they have to.

Vignery asked if they could check with a bond counselor. The citizens would like a chance to seek their options, he said.

He added that he hoped the commissioners hadn't prejudged the situation. The citizens want to work with the commissioners, he said.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby asked Vignery if the district backers were willing to take on more than the 12 percent minimum cost outlined in state law.

Vignery said they hadn't researched that, but that they had checked to find other solutions.

John Sanders, a plaintiff in the court action on the road, said he thought some money could be found.

Davis said the commissioners' hands were tied because of the law.

"Then we need to look at a way to get around it," said Sanders.

Selby said she and the commissioners were trying to look at options. Sanders asked for some conditions with some logic.

Davis said as a commissioner he needed to be consistent.

"Is it right to make taxpayers pay for a road that goes nowhere?" he asked.

Farmer Ken Palmgren, who lives in Washington Township, said the people in his township don't want to pay for a road they don't use. He said he realized that these roads are very costly. In the past, people in his township patched holes in old U.S. 24 in an effort to keep

up the road, but it wouldn't last, he said.

Selby said the commissioners were forced by the law and the petition to make this decision. She suggested that the district make a second proposal.

"Someone needs to start the process, but it can't be the commissioners," she said.

Ron Nemechek said the road south of Kanorado where pavement was torn out is in bad shape and that he's surprised the county hasn't been sued.

Davis said that the work was never completed because the county ran out of time.

Brad Schields wondered if instead of using its money to tear the road out, the county could use it to maintain the pavement.

Davis said the pavement on the golf course road, the west extension of Eighth Street, would probably have to be taken up some day.

"Liability is a concern," Davis said.

Schields suggested leaving up the minimum maintenance sign on the Nemechek Road.

Commissioner Gary Townsend said the commission would have to have a hearing.

"What if we found a loophole in the law?" asked Lance Ihrig. "Will you say no, still?"

Nemechek said he saw a contradiction.

"You say you are worried about liability from the Nemechek Road, but what about the Kanorado roads. They are terrible," he said.

Commissioner Chuck Frankendorf said the county's engineers are telling them that the life has gone out of the oil on the Nemechek Road.

Sanders said they have other alternatives.

"If you have alternatives, then you need to let the commissioners know," said Selby.

"Do you want to continue with this law or do you want to look at a different direction?" asked Davis.

Harry Hunsley, Russell, who was there to talk to the commissioners, said he was a retired Ford County public works director. He said to fix the road right, you would need to tear off the asphalt and then stabilize the base.

Once that was done, he said, you would need to put six inches of asphalt on the road, at a cost of about \$100,000 a mile. Then about six years later, a seal would need to be put on it, costing about \$9,000 a mile.

Hunsley said if the road was designed for a speed of more than about 30 miles per hour, you would need shoulders on the liability would be horrendous.

He said it's not an easy situation, but that a county should either have 100 percent asphalt or 100 percent gravel roads. The meeting was then adjourned.

Boy, 6, who shot girl found gun in 'flop house'

MOUNT MORRIS TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—The 6-year-old boy who killed a fellow first-grader lived in a "flop house" where drugs were found and used a stolen handgun he apparently discovered loaded and lying in a bedroom there, authorities said today.

The boy's father, now in jail, told a sheriff's deputy he had "a sinking feeling" his son was involved when he heard about the shooting.

Genesee County Prosecutor Arthur Busch said the house where the boy and his mother and brother were staying with an uncle was frequented by strangers, and the father said people there traded crack for guns. The uncle was arrested on an outstanding warrant and was to be questioned, police said.

"This boy comes from a very troubled home," Busch said on NBC's "Today" show. "He is really a victim of a drug culture and a house that's really in chaos."

Kayla Rolland, also 6, died a half-hour after she was shot in the chest at Buell Elementary School on Tuesday morning. Busch said there may have been "some sort of scuffle or quarrel on the playground" between the two a day earlier in which one slapped the other.

When he was questioned, the boy didn't seem to understand the gravity of the shooting, Police Chief Eric King said. Later, he "sat there drawing pictures," King said.

Because of the boy's age, charges against him are unlikely, Busch said.

Busch said someone could face charges for enabling the boy to get the .32-caliber handgun, which officials said had been reported stolen in December. Investigators also found a stolen 12-gauge shotgun and drugs in the house, the prosecutor said.

"It's our understanding from the po-

See SHOOTING, Page 4