

weather
report

67°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:44 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:09 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:45 p.m.

Middy Conditions

• Soil Temperature 47 degrees
• Humidity 58 percent
• Sky mostly cloudy
• Winds south 27-36 mph
• Barometer 29.71 inches
and falling

• Record High 70° (1987)
• Record Low -04° (1948)

Last 24 Hours*

High 73°
Low 38°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy; thunderstorms likely; low 35-40; winds southeast 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy; chance of showers; high mid 50s; winds northwest 30-40 mph; low 30.

Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday. Thursday: dry; high mid 50s; low 25-30. Friday: dry; high 50-55; low 30s. Saturday: chance of showers; high 55-60; low 30s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.15 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.05
Loan deficiency payment — 40¢
Corn — \$1.75 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.90
Loan deficiency payment — 09¢
Milo — \$2.65 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.37 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.39
Loan deficiency payment — 50¢
Millet — \$3.70 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.95 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.04
Confection current — \$13/\$7 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.

Gore, Bush
looking ahead

LOS ANGELES — John McCain boasted of lighting a “prairie fire” among voters but wondered whether his campaign was running out of time as front-runners George W. Bush and Al Gore began looking past today’s Super Tuesday primaries to the general election. Underdog Bill Bradley acknowledged, “We’ve got to win some today.”

Awaiting primary results in Austin, Texas, Bush was already predicting a tough, personal race against the vice president, saying Gore “would rather fight than debate.” He added that although “there may be a sense that maybe this primary is ending,” he was prepared to keep fighting McCain for the Republican nomination.

McCain, who was behind in the polls in some key states, predicted heavy voter turnout and took credit for attracting new voters.

Water park approved, pool closed

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

After two years of planning, design, bidding and rebidding the city commission approved building a new water park for \$2.2 million, and for safety reasons will not open the old swimming pool this summer.

Two bids were received by Sullivan and Palmer who are the architects for the water park project, and the low bidder was Rhoads Construction Company at \$998,200 for the general contractor work and \$1,323,000 for the new pool. The combined price without alternates was \$2,341,200.

After taking out \$25,000 for play water fountains, that a citizen had agreed to purchase, the combined cost drops to \$2,296,200, and the architects also included a list of alternates which could reduce the cost further.

Annette Fairbanks, who has headed the citizen’s committee, said the number of alternates included would allow the city to negotiate with the low bidder to reach the established price level.

Commissioner Jim Mull made the motion to allow the city manager to negotiate with the low bidder to build a water park not to exceed \$2.2 million. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Curtis Hurd.

“It is still too much money,” said Commissioner Rick Billinger. “We are going to have to cut further to get this down, and I wonder are we going to approve this before we see what more can be cut.”

Billinger also asked if the problem with disability access had been solved with the proposed slides. Fairbanks said the determination had been made that since it was a prefabricated structure and would be separate from the regular pool the slides did not have to meet the federal disability guidelines.

Commissioner Tom Rohr asked about putting the slide into the main pool, and was told that such a change would actually require a change in design of the pool to accommodate such a change, and then the slides would probably be required to meet the federal disabled access guidelines.

“With my motion the price is locked in,” Mull said, “and it will be up to the city administration to negotiate the price down to what we set.”

“There are lots of places where we can save,” Hurd said. It is Ron Pickman’s job to find an acceptable level.”

When the vote was taken it passed 4-1 with Billinger being the lone “No” vote. Mayor Chuck Lutters and Commissioner Tom Rohr joined Mull and Hurd in approving the motion.

With the new water park moving forward the next item of discussion was what to do about the old pool this summer.

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Mayor Lutters said that for safety reasons and because the pool has been leaking so much water he would like to see it closed this year.

Billinger suggested having an engineer look at the pool to see if it is safe to open, and if it is not safe “we wouldn’t open.”

“I think there is a concern about liability with the pool,” Hurd said, “because if there is a problem the city would be liable because of the knowledge that a potential problem exists. This is a real potential for catastrophe. I think we ought to save the money and use it for the demolition of the old pool.”

“The current pool has served this community well for over 40 years,” Mull said. “It is time to abandon it and not put any more money into this.”

Hurd made the motion to close the pool and Mull seconded. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

On a related matter Roxie Yonkey, as a spokesperson for a newly formed Goodland Baseball Committee, asked the commission to consider naming the new ballpark “Memorial Park.” She said the new committee was hoping to raise funds to help with the improvement of the ballpark, and that after quite a bit of discussion it was the committee’s recommendation that the new ball field be called “Memorial Park” on the basis that it would honor more of those who had been part of the ball history of the area.

Mayor Lutters suggested that the city would look at all the requirements about giving the new ballpark a name and put it on the agenda for the next meeting Monday, March 20.

Scott Weber, coach of the Goodland K-18 baseball team, talked about the various projects the baseball committee felt needed to be done, and was hoping that if the group was successful in raising the money the city would be able to help with installation.

Lutters suggested that the group put the projects in a priority order, and that the city would do what was possible to assist and encourage the baseball committee’s projects.

“We want to do it right the first time,” Weber said. “We are looking forward to a great year, and feel the priority projects this year are a perimeter fence, batting cage and nice dugouts.”

“It is commendable that you are willing to put some effort into this project,” Billinger said. “We certainly want to reinforce your efforts and assist where possible.”

Don Monter, 323 E 13th, asked the commission to consider amending the junked motor vehicle ordinance to allow for him to keep his “stock car” on his property. He suggested that a modification be made to the ordinance which would define a stock car as being a vehicle which meets the requirements to be operated on the Sherman County Speedway, and that such vehicles not be considered inoperable.

Mull asked if this would apply if Monter had as many as five “stock cars” in his yard, and how would it be determined which ones were actually running. “I agree this is great family entertainment, and we are encouraging people to be involved in this activity,” Mull said, “however, what I am concerned about is the growing number of junk cars in the city.”

City Attorney Perry Warren said he could see an amendment which would simply define what a stock car is and requiring it to be behind a fence would be possible amendments he could draft.

The commission suggested that Warren draft such an amendment to be presented at the next meeting.

In other business the commission:

• Approved adopting the 1999 edition of the National Electrical Code which replaces the 1996 code currently being used. There are no changes in the city’s amendments to the code, City Building Inspector Jerry Nemecheck told the commission.

• Adopted an ordinance officially vacating a section of old Cherry Street which is located behind McB’s Corner. The commission also approved a quit claim deed to officially transfer the property to Virgil Baumfaulk of McB’s Corner.

• Approved a sidewalk permit for Alco Discount Store for plants and garden supplies.

• Approved a home occupation permits for Bernadine Taylor for a daycare at 314 Eustis Avenue Apartment #4.

• Approved reappointment of Leo Townsend to a three-year term on the Board of Building Appeals.

The city commission meets at 5 p.m. the first and third Monday, upstairs in the City Administration Building at 204 W. 11th.

Gas prices may hit \$1.80 in summer

By Pauline Arrillaga

Associated Press Writer

James McKenna isn’t too worried that gas prices could go as high as \$1.80 per gallon this summer.

That might sound odd coming from the top tourism official in Lake Placid, N.Y., a vacation spot that even he calls a “rubber-tire destination.”

McKenna estimates that tourists driving up from New York City would pay about \$8 more in gas each way should prices increase. In today’s booming economy, he said, that’s still a bargain.

“You can’t even get a glass of wine for eight bucks,” he said.

The Energy Department on Monday predicted that gasoline prices, already averaging about \$1.50 for a gallon for unleaded, would spike at \$1.75 to \$1.80 this summer because production isn’t keeping pace with demand.

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said prices of \$1.75 or more are not a certainty this summer. It likely depends on how much the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will allow oil production to increase, he said.

“Hopefully, we are going to avoid” such a spike in prices, Richardson said on NBC’s “Today.” “Our strategy is to work with OPEC, to get them to increase production sizably so that doesn’t occur, along with a number of other domestic initiatives the president has already taken.”

He added: “We are going to do more to intensify our energy diplomacy with OPEC and non-OPEC members. ... We’re going to try to get more gasoline out in the market.”

The timing couldn’t be worse. The period between Memorial Day and Labor Day is typically the busiest driving season of the year, with an estimated 270 million people hitting the road for vacation, according to the American Automobile Association.

Haircut is reward for money raising students



Grant Junior High teacher and coach Troy Rall said if the students raised \$1,000 in the Pennies for Patients project he would let the winning group shave his head. The students did raise \$1,000.55 and this morning the students got to shave Rall’s hair. The barbers were Jessica Owens, Michael Hall, Adam Elliott, Jocelyn Lucas and Teagan Raile. Counselor Sally Bruce said the project was a very positive effort for the students, and was a chance for the school to participate in a community project. The students heard from Katlyn Topliff, who is suffering from Leukemia, and adopted her as their school project. Bruce said Rall had first thought to use \$500, but the students had raised \$480 in the first week, so the bar was raised to \$1,000. “I didn’t think they would raise that much,” Rall said, “but I guess it is a real motivational tool to get the chance to make

a teacher look funny.” The project raises money for the Kansas chapter of the Leukemia Society of America and is used to help families with their living expenses, Bruce said. “I lost both my parents to cancer,” said Rall, who is an English and literature teacher as well as junior high football and high school wrestling assistant coach. “That is why I was willing to do this for such a worthwhile project.” The barbers took turns using the electric clipper on Rall’s head, and after about 15 minutes most of the hair was gone. “Today I look like ‘Oscar,’” Rall said, “but in a few months I will have it back--I hope.” The barbers were part of Sue Hagerman’s class and raised \$163.05 of the money. There were 15 groups taking part, and Principal Jim Mull contributed the final \$22 to reach the \$1,000 goal.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Liberal wins pancake-flipping rivalry

OLNEY, England (AP) — Lisa Spillman of Liberal, Kan., bested Olney’s quickest sprinter today in the annual pancake race with a winning time of 63.3 seconds.

The village of Olney renewed the Shrove Tuesday challenge earlier in the day as Avril Soman won the England leg of the annual pancake race in a time of 65 seconds.

It was the 51st race in a series of friendly competitions across the Atlantic. Liberal now leads by two in the contest with 26 wins and one tie.

Spillman, 23, had hoped to beat her time of 60 seconds posted last year, however the physical therapist was slowed by a strong head wind. She beat out seven other runners to take the race.

Olney’s 28-year-old winner finished first

in a field of 21 women in the 415-yard (380-meter) dash from The Bull pub to the ancient Church of St. Peter and St. Paul. Each carried a skillet holding a pancake, which had to be flipped at the starting line and again at the finish.

Soman, who also won the race in 1997, exclaimed that she was “overjoyed, really, and ready for a good drink.”

“They have an advantage, in that they know the time of this race before they run,” Soman said.

Nathalie Thomas, a bank supervisor, won last year’s race in Olney with a time of 66 seconds — not good enough to beat Liberal’s Lisa Spillman who clocked 61 seconds.

Thomas is pregnant and didn’t trace this year.

Shrove Tuesday, known in Britain as Pancake Day, traditionally was the last day for merrymaking before the start of Lent. Pancakes were thought to be a good way to consume the fat the faithful were supposed to do without during the period of self-denial.

According to legend, the Olney race started in 1445 when a harassed housewife, rushing to be on time for church, arrived at the service still clutching her frying pan with a pancake in it.

After a lapse during World War II, the race was revived in 1948.

Liberal, in southwest Kansas, joined in friendly rivalry two years later, after seeing a picture of the Olney race in Time magazine.