

weather
report

34°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 5:47 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:05 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:48 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 37 degrees
• Humidity 85 percent
• Sky mostly cloudy
• Winds west 7 mph
• Barometer 30.12 inches
and steady
• Record High 87° (1989)
• Record Low -20° (1948)

Last 24 Hours*

High 38°
Low 24°
Precipitation .04 inches

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Decreasing cloudiness,
low 20-25, winds northwest 5-15
mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, dry,
high 50-55, winds southwest 10-20
mph, low 25-35.

Extended Forecast

Sunday through Tuesday: dry,
high 55-65, low 25-35.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.19 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.12
Loan deficiency payment — 33¢
Corn — \$1.77 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.89
Loan deficiency payment — 10¢
Milo — \$2.67 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.35 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.39
Loan deficiency payment — 50¢
Millet — \$3.70 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.95 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.88
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.

Clinton may
veto wage bill

WASHINGTON — Now that
the House has passed a \$1 increase
in the minimum wage over two
years combined with \$122 billion
in business tax cuts, negotiators
will have to sort things out with the
Senate's \$1 wage boost over three
years and different tax cuts.

President Clinton, meanwhile,
says he'll veto any minimum wage
bill if it includes a large tax relief
package that uses too much of the
projected federal budget surplus.
Today, he again appealed for a
"simple and clear" minimum wage
proposal, and said he had received
encouraging signs that an agree-
ment might happen.

"I'm going to keep working on
it," Clinton said. "I think the
American people question why
Congress can't do something as
simple as raising the minimum
wage without loading it up with
special favors."

Orange wave precedes road work

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Drivers along I-70 from Goodland to Edson are seeing the first signs of the spring construction "cone zone" as Koss Construction prepares to rip out and replace the eastbound lanes.

Kristen Brands, spokesman for the Kansas Department of Transportation district office in

Norton, said a pre-construction conference was being held today with Koss about the I-70 project, which is expected to resume within the next week.

Koss will be rebuilding six miles of the eastbound lanes from east of Goodland to Edson as the last part of a project begun last year.

Brands said a pre-construction meeting is to be held on Thursday, March 23, on the K-27 project

from Commerce Road north to the intersection with Business U.S. 24.

This project will include new concrete under the I-70 overpass, and an extensive cone zone is expected to last for several months while the lanes are rebuilt. This project will also include the median and frontage roads north of I-70 up to the intersection with U.S. 24.

Other projects expected to begin this year are the Cherry Street project to redesign the east entrance to the city, and a slurry seal on I-70 from the Colorado state line to the west Goodland exit.

Brands thought there might be some maintenance done on K-27 north of Goodland, but the major project to rebuild this road will be on the 2001 calendar.

Hospital board holds meeting

Noon session closed
for personnel matters

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Regional Medical Center board held a special closed noon meeting on Thursday, first asking for 30 minutes to discuss personnel, then extending the session for a half hour.

There was no action or discussion after the closed session.

Their last monthly meeting was held at 6 p.m. on Feb. 28 at Sugar Hills Country Club, with dinner before the session.

An offer from WWB, LLC to purchase the Medical Arts Clinic was the main item. The board cannot own or hold real estate, so after reviewing the offer, a motion was made to accept the offer, but had to be approved by the Sherman County commissioners. The board received approval after Chaddic met with the commissioners on Tuesday, Feb. 29.

Andy Laue, chief financial officer, gave the financial report. His main item of discussion was the policy change for paid time off for employees that has not been used up. Instead of Jan. 1 being the date to pay those out, it has been changed to the employee's anniversary date, to spread the expense over the year. He said there was a loss shown on operations and attributed it to a decrease in outpatient volume for January and the big payout for time off.

The board renewed the hospital's property and liability insurance for the year. The property insurance is through Don Fiegel of Goodland and the liability insurance is through Willis Insurance in Wichita.

Administrator Jim Chaddic said the hospital has hired two new respiratory therapists to fill vacancies. Chaddic said the hospitals in Colby and Burlington have new administrators.

Chaddic will be going to a couple of state meetings. They are the spring administrator's meeting and the Rural Health Symposium, both in Manhattan.

The Community Relations Committee, which is a standing committee of the board, talked about ways to let the community know what services are available at the hospital.

The next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 20, at the hospital.



Finishing a retreat

Construction continued Tuesday on the duplexes at Wheat Ridge Acres on West Eighth. Heath Hutchison (above left) helped while Dave Hutchison nailed shingles in place on the roof of the middle duplex. Both are of Goodland. Kenny Petracich, Goodland, (below) was nailing shingles in place on the same roof. Kelly Morris, St. Francis, (left) worked on plumbing.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News



School board plans tour of Edson gym Monday

The Goodland School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday at the district office, then board a yellow school bus for a ride out to tour the Edson gym with residents there.

The tour and a meeting in Edson with those interested in keeping the gym open are expected to take about an hour and a half. The board should return to Goodland and reconvene its regular meeting about 7 p.m.

After returning, the board is expected to again discuss the Edson gym's future, and may decide how to proceed.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said he did a walk-through of the Max Jones Fieldhouse expansion Thursday, and there are a few minor details which need to be finished. He said there is quite a bit of dirt work to be done outside, but that will have to wait for good weather.

Inside, the brick work has been done on the elevator and installation has been completed. Painters will be back next week to finish painting the elevator and do some touchups. The plumbers have a couple of vents to install, but the electrician replaced the transformers Thursday and has completed his work, Selby said.

The floor edge work is to be completed early

next week and then the bleacher crew is expected to arrive by midweek to install the seating.

Because the last week of March is spring break, Selby said, the district will put the open house off until at least Monday, April 10, the next school board meeting.

With the regional Kansas Kids tournament at Max Jones Saturday, Selby said the new upstairs restrooms and concession area will be opened.

In other business, the board will:

• Consider granting a senior option to a young lady who would like to graduate at midyear to enroll in a communication technology program at the Northwest Kansas Technical School.

• Hear recommendations on the high school block schedule. Selby said the high school has been on block schedules for four years, and the program was to be evaluated. Staff members Joann Warman and Mary Porterfield are expected to present the recommendations.

• Consider a donation to the high school science department to be used for equipment.

Selby said an executive session with the building principals Monday went well, and that the board agreed to extend all principals' contracts for two more years.

Even Uncle Sam can't stop slide in Kansas farm income

By Roxana Hegeman

Associated Press Writer

WICHITA — For Kansas, 1998 was a tough year down on the farm. Bountiful crops sat unsold in bulging grain elevators amid the dismal prices. Cattle and hog markets were still down.

Statistics released Thursday show huge government subsidies that year bailed out the farm budget, providing a safety net that caught falling earnings at \$23,016 net income per farm in Kansas.

In its annual cash receipt report, Kansas Agricultural Statistics outlined its balance sheet for Kansas agriculture in 1998.

As expected, the statistics office reported sales were down for major crops produced in Kansas that year. All told, farm marketings that year totaled \$7.78 billion — down 9 percent from 1997, KAS said.

Livestock receipts were down 8 percent, while crops receipts dropped 10 percent.

The typical Kansas farm that year brought in \$146,588 in gross income, down from \$151,871 a year earlier, KAS said.

Kansas farmers cut their production costs for

such things as feed, fertilizer and repairs. They paid more for seed and taxes. And they borrowed more heavily, paying more for interest.

By the time the farm record books had been put away, the average Kansas farm in 1998 netted just \$23,016. That is down from last year's \$26,995 — for the third consecutive year of falling farm incomes.

"It is not keeping pace with inflation, even though inflation is pretty moderate," said Duane Hund, a Kansas State University Research and Extension farm analyst. "How many of our families working in town could continue their standard of living with decreased disposable income every year? Not too many would tolerate it very long."

Those kinds of earnings show why so many farmers subsidize their personal living expenses with off-farm jobs, he said.

The newly released KAS report, the latest official accounting of how farmers are faring, has limited use because its 1998 data is too old to reflect current farm conditions.