

weather report

64°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:40 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:46 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:41 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 49 degrees

• Humidity 42 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds southeast 12 mph

• Barometer 30.08 inches

and steady

• Record High 94° (1965)

• Record Low 23° (1967)

Last 24 Hours*

High 62°

Low 34°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, patchy fog possible, low 40-45, winds south 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, dry, high 75, low 40s, winds south 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: dry, high mid to upper 80s, low 50. Friday: chance of thunderstorms, high 90, low 40s. Saturday: chance of thunderstorms, high 70s, low 40s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.20 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.09

Loan deficiency payment — 36¢

Corn — \$1.96 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.05

Loan deficiency payment — 5¢

Milo — \$2.97 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$6.25 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.89

Loan deficiency payment — 25¢

Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6.30 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.35

Confection current — \$13/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Silgo 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.

FBI, Marines may take area

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico — With U.S. warships looming offshore, protesters held an all-night vigil today blocking a contested Navy bombing range on Vieques Island, amid reports that federal agents were planning to evict them.

At sunrise, the activists broke into applause to celebrate their continued stand outside the gates of the base, after a night spent playing dominoes, reading, praying and preparing for a raid they believe is imminent.

Tensions increased Monday with reports that the USS Nashville and USS Bataan picked up 1,000 Marines in North Carolina en route to Vieques. The Marines reportedly would secure the range's perimeter once protesters are removed. Arrests would be carried out by federal agents in an FBI-led operation, according to Pentagon officials.

City agrees to back plan on development

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Listing six major projects as priorities, Stephen West, head of the Chamber of Commerce economic development committee, asked the City Commission Monday to release \$30,000 budgeted for development projects.

Despite a call for tighter control from the mayor, the commission eventually voted to just give the Chamber the money, but asked for quarterly reports on how it is being spent.

"I do not want to be in this business," Commissioner Jim Mull said after about 45 minutes of discussion. "I believe we should give them the money and let them come back to us and tell us what they have done.

"I agree all these are important, but in my opinion, some are more important than others, and there are even some I don't want to really see pursued. We can all continue to discuss this and will each have a different opinion of what should be done. I think we are hiring the Chamber to handle these in the way they feel is the best."

The commission voted 4-1 to give the \$30,000 to the Chamber, adding that there must be at least a quarterly reports on what is being done with the money.

Commissioner Rick Billinger had questioned West, president of Western State Bank, and Ron Harding, Chamber executive director, about the priorities and asked if the list should have included other items, such as a labor and wage survey.

The six projects listed were: Airline service, grocery store replacement, retail store replacement (Gibson's), sunflower industry expansion, two call-center clients, and family dairy research.

Harding said the chamber did not have money to continue working on all the projects without city and county help.

"We have discussed these at length, and we are here to ask you to give us an idea of which you feel we should pursue," West said.

Grocery, airline key targets of effort

Chamber of Commerce leaders identified six priority projects for economic development to the City Commission on Monday, including replacements for Goodland's grocery, a major retailer and airline service.

The Chamber also wants to pursue initiatives to beef up the sunflower industry and bring in two call-center clients and a major "family" dairy, said Ron Harding, Chamber executive director, and Steve West, head of the economic development committee.

Harding said one contact is working toward starting an air service for Goodland, and that he is planning to move his headquarters to the city and begin the lengthy process of complying with the Federal Aviation Administration requirements to establish passenger service from Goodland to possibly Denver and even Salina or Hays.

"This will take at least a year or possibly 18 months," Harding said, "and will probably take at least two trips to Washington to help step the application through the FAA process. The important thing is we need to keep showing the federal people that we are working to be able to use the subsidy money which should be allocated to Goodland for air service or we may lose it."

On the grocery project, Harding said he had checked with the Docking Institute at Fort Hays State and it would be possible to get a feasibility study done, but that it would take about six months.

Billinger and Rohr said they did not like the idea of spending \$14,000 for a study for one business, and said they would be happier if it could be a general study.

"There is no such thing as a general feasibility study," said City Manager

sue," West said. "We have given you our estimate of what it will cost to work on all six over the next six months, and we know it will take more than the \$46,000 we have shown."

Billinger and Commissioner Tom Rohr had questions about why a separate labor and wage survey was not listed as a priority. Harding said it was probably too late to get one done this year, and that would have to be part of the priority for next year's budget. He agreed that nearly every one of the six listed projects would need a labor survey and most a wage survey.

Billinger said he thought the list was sufficient to support giving the Chamber the \$30,000.

Mayor Chuck Lutters said he did not agree with handing over the whole \$30,000, and wanted to have a more specific listing of which of the projects the chamber wants the city to fund.

"We should give them the \$30,000 and let them spend it where they think it ought to be," argued Commissioner Curtis Hurd. "That is what I tried to get done at the last meeting, but got out voted."

Others on the commission disagreed, saying that part of Hurd's prior motion was to have a city representative on the economic development panel.

"I think we tied their hands with the prior approval in the last motion," Mull said. "I move that we allocate the \$30,000 to the chamber for economic development, and that there be a quarterly accounting of how the money is being spent."

Hurd seconded the motion, which passed on a 4-1 vote. Lutters was the No vote, saying he wanted to see more detailed requests for how the money would be spent.

Lutters asked if the commissioners wanted to have the Chamber come back to talk to them during the upcoming budget meetings. Mull said he thought there was only a need to see a plan from the chamber about what they planned for next year.

Ron Pickman. "Each study is market specific for the type of business involved."

West said getting the feasibility study does not guarantee Goodland will get a new grocery, but it will give the chamber a recruiting tool to find someone who matches the needs determined by the study.

"We are asking someone to invest at least a million dollars in our community to open a new grocery store, and having the study gives those we are talking to a basis to make decisions about how would be best to proceed," West said.

Harding said there is someone interested in occupying the old Gibson's building, but that the client did not want to own the building. He said another person had been identified who would be interested in purchasing the building and then leasing it back to the other business.

"We would get the biggest bang for our buck with the sunflower industry expansion," Harding said, "because we not only impact the city, but it would also impact the farmer. We have already seen quite an impact on Sherman County over the past 10 years with the development of the sunflower industry, and we have asked the State of Kansas to put \$40,000 into a new health study which could enhance the use of the NuSun Oil Sunflowers."

The economic impact of the sunflower industry on Sherman County was estimated to be annual revenue of \$50.7 million to the farms, and an estimated \$735,000 a year in tax revenue. Harding said the new project could add

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Safe skills win kids prizes in bike rodeo

Saturday morning, 26 youngsters gathered at the First United Methodist Church parking lot for a bike rodeo sponsored by the Goodland Scouts and Goodland Police Department.

The youngsters had their bikes inspected and then took turns driving a special course (above) with stop signs and a slalom set of cones. The police officers graded the riders on how they approached stop signs and if they used the proper hand signals when they stopped and made turns.

Alyssa Brady (left) won a new bike, and Kayler Rietcheck, Nathan Brady, Jason Krayca, Jessica Geist, Cory Millam, Kuter Isaac and Bryan Lee each won helmets.

Police Chief Raymond Smee said the object was to get the young riders thinking about riding safely as the spring turns into summer.

The prizes were donated by Alco, Wal-Mart and Coca-Cola. This is the first time the Scouts and police have jointly sponsored the rodeo, which was started as a project by the Scouts and then opened to all youths.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News



Speaker surprises House, quits job

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Robin Jennison's announcement that he won't be returning next year as House speaker started what could be a one-person race for the chamber's top leadership job.

Majority Leader Kent Glasscock, Manhattan, immediately became the leading candidate to replace Jennison since he holds the No. 2 leadership job in the House.

Jennison, R-Healy, said Monday that he won't seek re-election to the House and is starting a new company to promote hunting in Kansas. Rumors had been circulating for weeks that he would not seek a second two-year term as speaker or run for the Legislature again.

Glasscock said he would make a final decision within a few days. He said he had discounted the rumors about Jennison and "assumed that Robin would be back."



Rep. Glasscock

"Obviously, I'm going to seriously consider it," Glasscock said. "I'm inclined to make the race."

Jennison said he would be surprised if anyone ran against Glasscock.

"I think Kent's done a nice job as majority leader,"

Jennison said during a Statehouse news conference. "He's indicated a willingness to discuss issues with a cross section of the caucus."

The House votes for speaker the day it convenes in January in odd-numbered years, but the minority party traditionally has ratified the person the majority party designates during a December meeting.

Republicans hold 77 of 125 House seats, and they are likely to keep their

majority after the November general election. If so, they will pick the new speaker from among their ranks.

Speaker Pro Tem Doug Mays, R-Topeka, also is considered a potential candidate.

"It is something I might be interested in, but whether I want to run is an open question," Mays said. "I haven't given a lot of thought to it."

Another potential candidate is Rep. Mike O'Neal, R-Hutchinson, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

O'Neal said the job "is not something that I have personal ambition for" but said some colleagues have asked him about it.

He said that if other House members asked him to run, "I would consider it."

Both chambers will have new leaders when the Legislature convenes again in January. Senate President Dick Bond, R-Overland Park, also is retiring.

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