

weather report

74°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 5:23 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:23 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil Temperature 62 degrees
- Humidity 61 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds south 38-33 mph
- Barometer 30.03 inches and falling

- Record High 107° (1963)
- Record Low 48° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

High	72°
Low	55°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 50 percent chance for thunderstorms, low 55, winds northeast 10-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 30 percent chance for thunderstorms, high 90, low 60, winds northeast 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: chance for thunderstorms, high 95, low 60. Sunday and Monday: chance for thunderstorms, high 90s, low 60s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.68 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.50

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$1.75 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.62

Loan deficiency pmt. — 37¢

Milo — \$2.23 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.12 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.28

Loan deficiency payment — 62¢

Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.80 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.83

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.

Wildfire burns nuclear site

RICHLAND, Wash. — A huge wildfire that roared across the Hanford nuclear reservation was burning out of control early today in the arid sagebrush country of southern Washington.

At least 25 homes were destroyed and thousands of people were urged to evacuate.

The fire, started Tuesday by a fatal car wreck, exploded late Wednesday, doubling in size to 100,000 acres. It closed highways and briefly threatened a Hanford building holding radioactive waste, then jumped the Yakima River and began burning homes near Benton City, about 10 miles west of Richland.

"It looks like the sky is on fire. It looks like hell. It's scary," said Betty Upington of Richland, where some people were also asked to evacuate.



Goodland native Joe Diaz has been running a fireworks stand outside Goodland for 27 years. Though he spends summers here, he lives in Colorado, where he owns Tri-State Fireworks. Joe and his sister Connie (below), who runs the stand, sold firecrackers to long-time customer Levi Schlosser on Wednesday afternoon.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Kid finds calling in fireworks

When he was 12, Joe Diaz set up his first fireworks stand three miles west of Goodland.

At 37, the Goodland native is still selling firecrackers, fountains, sparklers, snakes and other Fourth of July favorites across the road from the original site, but now his business is a whole lot bigger.

Decorated with red, white and blue banners and streamers, the small stand hasn't grown too much, but it's only one of a chain of stands across the tri-state area.

He said the stands go up every year in late June, and come down after the Fourth of July. (In Kansas, fireworks can be sold only between June 27 and midnight on July 5).

Because it rained all day Tuesday, the stand went up a day late this year, Diaz said, but it will be open through Wednesday.

Diaz, who spends summers in Goodland with his family but lives in

Colorado, has turned his tiny business into a company called Tri-State Fireworks, based in Brighton, Colo. Not only does he sell fireworks, he said, but organizes displays in the tri-state area, including major displays in the Denver area and Goodland's annual show.

Come Tuesday night, the firecracker guru will be lighting up skies in Goodland, Oberlin, Atwood and other northwest Kansas cities. Of course, he will actually be in Goodland, where it all started.

If it had only been a year earlier, Diaz said, his first stand would have been closer to town.

In 1974, the Sherman County commissioners passed a resolution saying fireworks can only be sold three miles outside the city limits for safety and traffic reasons.

The City of Goodland does not allow any type of firecrackers or fireworks to be sold or set off in the city limits without an exhibition license. The law



doesn't say anything about possessing fireworks.

Diaz said his father, also named Joe — who worked as a darkroom technician and production worker at *The*

Goodland Daily News for over 40 years — started him in the fireworks business.

"The Fourth of July was bigger than Christmas," he recalled.

Thieves steal new life from area honeymooners

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Newlyweds Beau and Tamara Hodges set out with a trailer loaded with wedding gifts and belongings to make their home in Alaska, but their plans changed when thieves stole the trailer from outside a hotel in Canada.

The couple were married on June 10 at Goodland. She is the former Tamara Goodrum, 18, daughter of Russ and Roxanne Goodrum of Goodland. Beau, 21, is from Alaska, where his parents, Tracy and Pam Hodges, still live, but had lived in Goodland for a little over a year.

The honeymooners left Goodland on June 18 for Alaska, where he was to take a job as a youth pastor. They were driving a new Chevy Malibu and pulling a trailer full of wedding gifts and personal belongings. They stopped in Edmonton, Alberta, last Thursday at the



Tamara and Beau Hodges

Executive Royal Inn. The trailer was locked and parked in front of their room.

Sometime between 3 a.m. and 5:30

a.m., thieves unhooked the trailer from their car and took off with it.

"I'm still blown away," Beau was quoted as saying in *The Edmonton Sun*.

"My emotions are being jerked in 500 different directions."

The couple was on a television news broadcast after the incident and Tamara was shown crying, her father said.

Edmonton police found the abandoned trailer, minus its license plate, in an alley around 11:20 a.m. the next day. All that was left was some clothing and a framed picture of Tamara's family.

"I'm supposed to be a new bride starting a house with my new husband and I don't even have anything to cook with," Tamara said in a story in *The Sun*.

But the people of the Canadian city were generous to the couple after the story got out. They donated cash, a barbecue grill, household items, small appliances, and bedding, among other things. Also, the hotel let the couple stay for free.

So far, the police have not caught the thieves.

Goodrum said he and his wife were shocked.

"They had taken every precaution to prevent this," he said. "We were concerned for them and we couldn't get there to help them."

He said that after the Edmonton police and citizens came to their aid, the family was relieved.

"They were able to take our place as comforters and caregivers," Goodrum said.

The Hodges are moving to Soldotna, Alaska.

"We're incorporating the move with our honeymoon," Beau told *The Sun*. "and we lose everything in the process, even our keepsakes, our love letters to each other, our wedding gifts. Everything is gone."

Goodrum said the couple left Edmonton on Monday morning and should arrive in Alaska today or Friday.

Landfill waste fees won't rise

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County commissioners face the annual deadline for setting the waste fees for the next year on Friday, and they expect to leave the charges where they are, at least for now.

The county has been gathering information to estimate operating costs for the new landfill, which will open this fall. The commissioners are expected to leave the basic fees at \$150 per household, but have to set the fee now so it can be on property tax bills this fall.

If costs go up, they can't raise the fees later, so they have talked about adding a tipping fee by the ton on trash brought to the transfer station. That probably wouldn't even come up until later in the year, said Commissioner Chuck Frank-enfeld, if at all.

Solid waste fees bring in about \$500,000 a year, says County Clerk Janet Rumpel, and are the only income for the landfills and transfer station.

City officials weren't aware of the tipping fee idea, said City Manager Ron Pickman, but if the city had to pay, it would have to add the cost to monthly trash bills, now \$10 for a residence.

The state certificate for the new landfill has arrived and Curt Way, county public works director, will ask the commission chairman to sign documents accepting it.

"It has all the proper signatures from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment," Way said. "It has taken a long time to get this, but it is now official. We have Permit No. 794."

Way will also talk to the commissioners about bids on a road grader and loader for the road department.

County Treasurer Shelby Miller has asked for a closed session with the commissioners for a personnel evaluation.

Paul Rainbolt, Good Samaritan administrator, will update the commissioners on remodeling plans, and review bids to remove some diseased trees on the north side of the property.

The commissioners, starting at 8 a.m., will also:

- Consider a donation for fireworks to the Chamber of Commerce.
- Review a fairground lease with the Chamber for Tuesday for Fourth of July activities.
- Appoint a Freedom of Information officer for the county.
- Review and approve the claims vouchers.

The commissioners don't plan to meet Tuesday because of the holiday, but may put off the next meeting until Tuesday, July 11, at 8 a.m.

Hospital leases new type of machine to look inside humans

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Regional Medical Center board voted to lease a spiral computerized tomography scanner and ultrasound machine Tuesday, with six members in favor and two abstaining.

Board members Larry McCants and Lynn Hoelting abstained. McCants said

he had a conflict of interest and Hoelting said he wasn't sure about the deal.

Later, during board discussion, Hoelting said a spiral scanner is quite a financial commitment. He felt the board needed to decide where they were going in their next level of medical care and he didn't think they had a plan in place.

Dr. Greg Bongers, also a board member, asked why the hospital would lease instead of purchase.

McCants replied that the hospital can't borrow money without the approval of voters, but it can lease the half-million-dollar General Electric machine.

Administrator Jim Chaddic said at

\$10,708 a month to lease a spiral scanner and ultrasound machine, and it would take 15 extra scans a month to pay for the equipment. To the east of Goodland, he said, Norton and Hays had spiral scanners, but to the west, there were none until Denver.

Mike Boettcher, radiology supervisor, said the hospital is doing 54 scans

a month now and believes that the hospital can do 40 extra a month. He said a spiral scanner would take the place of certain tests done with an x-ray machine and shows things in more detail. An x-ray shows a two dimensional image, while a spiral scan shows indi-

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