

weather  
report

95°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Tomorrow

- Sunrise, 5:26 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 79 degrees
- Humidity 33 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds east 10-17 mph
- Barometer 29.93 inches and steady
- Record High 106° (1964)
- Record Low 44° (1931)

Last 24 Hours\*

High	99°
Low	64°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Clear, low 65-70, winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Sunny, high 100, low 65-70, winds south 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday: high 100, low 65-70.

(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.47 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.32  
Loan deficiency payment — 13¢  
Corn — \$1.65 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.54  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 45¢  
Milo — \$2.06 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$3.92 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.14  
Loan deficiency payment — 76¢  
Millet — \$4.00 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$5.60 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.82  
Confection current — \$13/\$7 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigo 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.

Oil rigs start  
drilling plains

LAWRENCE — Higher oil prices might be the bane of drivers across Kansas, but they've given the state's producers reason to hope — and to drill.

The Kansas Geological Survey said 19 rigs are drilling in the state, compared with three when oil prices dropped below \$10 per barrel early last year.

Generally, \$15 is considered a break-even price. Current oil prices of about \$30 a barrel are an incentive.

"Higher crude prices have led to more exploration activity, and that's a positive thing," said Tim Carr, a geologist for the survey, part of the University of Kansas.

Higher oil prices are a politically sensitive issue. Some consumers complaining that oil companies are price-gouging. But what's happening in Kansas is an example of another side to the issue, Carr said.

# Two new wells ready to boost system

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Two replacement wells for the city water system have been drilled and sealed, the Goodland City Commission learned Monday, and after test pumping, installation of piping and building well houses, they will be ready to use.

The work is part of the continuing water improvement project, said City Manager Ron Pickman. The finishing details have been contracted out to sub-contractors, so it is difficult to tell when work will be completed, said Public Works Director Ed Wolak.

The work may be completed within the next month, according to the contract, Pickman said.

There were few items on the meeting's agenda due to the holiday. Only commissioners Curtis Hurd, and Rick Billinger, Mayor Chuck Lutters and Pickman were present.

One item was to vote to accept the low bid on an air conditioning unit for the airport lounge from a Colby company. Commissioners said there were only two local bids, both higher.

"I don't know why other locals don't bid," said Commissioner Hurd, "Now they will be upset that we went with an out-of-town bid."

Eight bid invitations were sent out, Pickman said. Three companies responded, two from Goodland and one out of Colby.

The commission voted to accept the bid from CB Heating and Air Conditioning at \$5,852. The other bids were \$9,895 from Townsend Construction Co. and \$7,271 from Goodland Sheet Metal.

"The difference in the bids is just too great to go with a local company," said Hurd.

The commission also voted on home occupation and special use permits for an embroidery business run by Chris Williams at 506 Sherman and a baking and cake decorating business run by Kathy

Collins at 1311 College Avenue.

The permits were passed on a 2-1 vote, with Hurd voting against the permits. He said he would like to see the businesses down town.

In other business, the commissioners;

- Appointed City Clerk Mary Volk as the free-dom of information officer. She will be in charge of public records requests for the city.
- Heard Pickman say budget workshops will be held Monday through Thursday from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- Discussed the first baseball games at Memorial Field.



# Fire in the sky



Amber Wells, 10, had the spirit of the Fourth of July painted across her face at the Freedom Fest celebration Tuesday night. She was one of hundreds that got their face or other body part painted by Melody

Hartzler. Kelsey Leiker, 14; Erinn Abernathy, 14; and Kelsi Ihrig, 13 (bottom, from left to right) looked across the fairgrounds while riding the Ferris wheel.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

# Thousands come to celebrate Fourth

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Children snuggled closer to their parents and giggled with each loud pop. There was a resounding "Wow" as trails of light shot into the night and everyone clapped as the fireworks formed a huge, red heart in the sky.

Judging from spectators' reactions, Goodland's Fourth of July fireworks display was the best between Denver and Salina this year.

"I have had a lot of people tell me that they have seen fireworks in a lot bigger cities," said Jo Simmons, Chamber of Commerce office manager, "but they said this was better."

And it wasn't just a few people who said it. Simmons said Wednesday morning that she heard it from dozens of people.

Ron Harding, executive director of the Chamber, said 5,000 people gathered at the Sherman County Fairgrounds on Tuesday for Freedom Fest 2000, Goodland's annual July 4 celebration. The event has grown over the years and now includes live music, food, carnival rides, face painting and, of course, fireworks.

The Chamber gathers donations to pay for the fireworks each year. The

display is organized by Joe Diaz, a Goodland native who owns Tri-State Fireworks in Denver. This year the display cost \$7,500 and lasted about 25 minutes. The explosions started at 9:55 p.m., after Diaz promised the crowd the show would be the best between Salina and Denver.

Diaz, who organizes displays across northwest Kansas and Colorado, said while some of the fireworks were set off by hand, about 70 percent of the display was electronically controlled.

There were many climactic moments, leaving people guessing which spectacle would end the show. Finally, as lights exploded in the sky, "Good Night" lit up in front of the stadium where people were sitting and burning lights formed the image of the American flag.

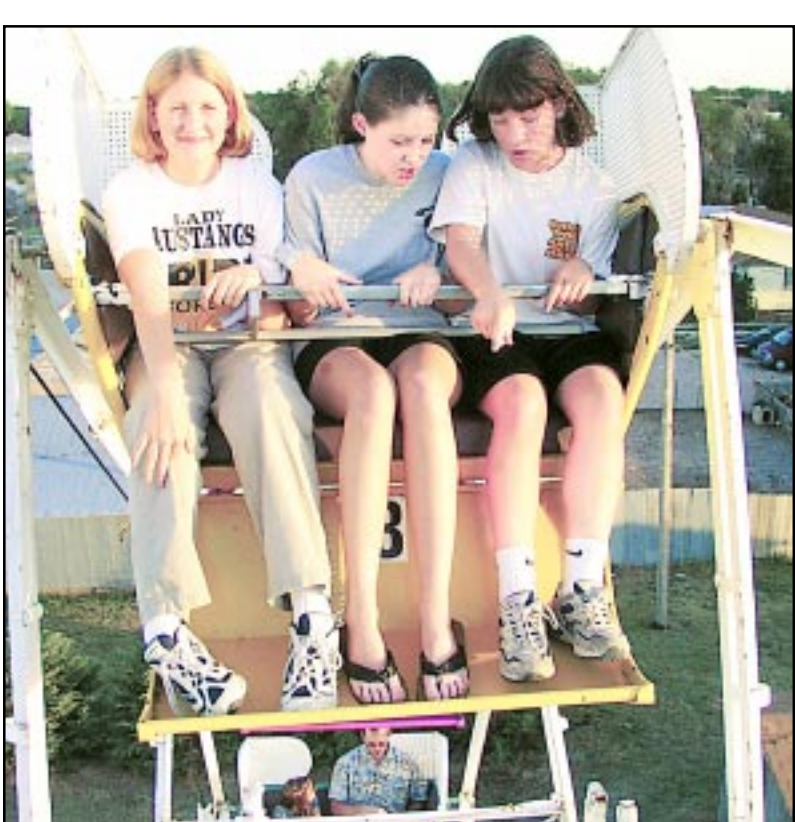
Simmons said the display gets better every year.

"It was great last year, too," she said, "but it was better this year."

The fireworks weren't the only draw.

People came from across northwest Kansas for the entertainment, food and rides.

"We heard they had rides and music," said Wendy Doyle, a St. Francis



woman who was resting near "The Spider" with her grandchildren, Kory, 2, and Kyra, 1, also from St. Francis. She said it was their first time at Free-

dom Fest.

And it made for a full day.

"I don't know about them, but I am tired," Doyle said.

# Waste fees won't rise this year

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Solid waste fees will not be raised for 2001, the Sherman County Commission decided on Friday.

"I've thought about it, and we just can't raise household fees," said Commissioner Gary Townsend in a conference call from the Denver hospital where he is recovering from a bone marrow transplant.

The commission looked at the possibility of raising fees for businesses and mobile homes, but a 50 percent increase, which would be necessary to raise the needed money, would mean that mobile homes would be paying as much as a regular residence.

"We need to sit down with the city and work things out," said commissioner Chairman Kenny Davis. "We have about a year to work with it."

Commissioners said that they might have to hold off on construction work on the new landfill for a while.

Davis asked to delay the signing of the permit for the new landfill in order to let County Attorney Bonnie Selby look over the documents. The permit will be signed as soon as Selby approves it.

The commission approved the purchase of a new motor grader and loader. The cost, \$124,321, will be taken out of the special equipment account, and will be paid for in four annual payments.

Paul Rainbolt, the Good Samaritan Center administrator, updated the commission on the plans to remodel their building's basement. This will be done out of their own budget, and remodeling of the rest of the building is being planned. Those plans may require some funding from the county, he said.

In other business, the commission:

- Passed a resolution naming County Clerk Janet Rumpel as freedom of information officer to take requests for access to public records.
- Appointed Selby to the Northwest Kansas Community Corrections board.
- Approved the Chamber of Commerce's request to lease the fairgrounds on Tuesday for Fourth of July activities, and the board agreed to donate \$500 to the Chamber's fireworks fund.
- Heard from Townsend, who said that he will be moved out of isolation on Tuesday and will move to an apartment on the hospital grounds.

# Deadline close for disaster loans

Farmers and ranchers in Sherman, Cheyenne and Thomas counties have until Monday to apply for emergency disaster loans at their county Farm Service Agency, said Sherman County Farm Loan Manager Gordon Colip.

Those who had damage as a result of hail, high winds, tornadoes, excess rain, flash flooding or lightening between May 16 and July 15, 1999, may be eligible.

Eligible applicants must operate a family size farm or ranch, be unable to get credit elsewhere, and have suffered a 30 percent production loss on at least one crop.

"Loans covering production losses may be made at 3.75 percent interest rate, and are scheduled for repayment as rapidly as feasible, consistent with the applicant's reasonable ability to pay," Colip said.