

weather report

80°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 6:59 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:28 a.m.
• Sunset, 6:57 p.m.

Middy Conditions

• Soil Temperature 73 degrees
• Humidity 27 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds northeast 15-20 mph
• Barometer 30.33 inches and falling
• Record High 97° (1955)
• Record Low 31° (1993)

Last 24 Hours*

High 84°
Low 49°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Clear, low 50, light east winds. Tomorrow: Sunny, high 85-90, low 50-55, south winds 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday and Sunday: dry, high 90-95, low 50-55. Monday: dry, high 85-90, low mid 50.

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



Commissioner Kenny Davis (above, center) showed fellow Commissioners Kevin Rasure (left) and Chuck Frankenfeld the weed problem along County Road 18 on Tuesday. Road and Bridge Supervisor Curt Way (below) looked at weeds. Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Officials take closer look at weeds

Pesky plants are invading roads

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

With newly sworn-in Commissioner Kevin Rasure making his first official meeting Tuesday, Sherman County commissioners took a short trip to inspect invader weeds from Texas which are narrowing some county roads.

After completing their regular agenda, the commissioners went to take a look at the weed problem northwest of Goodland at the request of Commissioner Kenny Davis.

Davis took the commissioners; Curt Way, road and bridge supervisor; and reporters to a site along County Road 18 north of Eighth Street. He pointed out an encroachment of weeds along both sides of the road which appear to have narrowed the driving lanes making it more dangerous for vehicles trying to pass.

"I have heard from a number of people about weed problems, and this weekend I decided to take a drive around the county looking at the situation," Davis said. "I think the southern part of the county is in fairly good shape, but northwest part has some serious problems.

"This is not to pick on anyone, but to give everyone a first-hand look at what we are dealing with. I think this is something we will have to find a way to handle, and the experts tell me this new weed we are seeing is very tough to control.

"They tell me it is called Palmer amaranth, and that it is coming up from Texas."

Along Road 18, the weeds have grown out onto the road about three feet on each side, making the road appear much narrower.

"I have only seen these weeds over the past two years," Way said. "I know they are very difficult to mow or blade."

"You should hit one with a corn header," Davis said. "It just makes the whole combine shudder because of



the size of the trunk."
"We have seen this before," Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld said. "I know we had complaints about this same thing last year."
Davis said he thought the problem would get worse with the upcoming corn and milo harvest.
"I am worried about the trucks that will be traveling down these roads," he said, "and not wanting to drive into

the weeds when they pass another truck."

County Weed Control Director Darrell West said the Palmer amaranth is a problem, but that it is not listed as a noxious weed.

"There is not enough money in the budget to handle the noxious weeds we now have without trying to add this," West said.

He agreed with Davis that the weed

is difficult to control, and that it resists chemical herbicides.

The commissioners agreed the weed is a problem, but no specific remedy came up. They suggested that Way get together with West to see what they can do.

When the commissioners returned to the courthouse, they adjourned the meeting.

The main item on the agenda had been a resolution creating a county administrator position, but this was delayed because the draft had not arrived from Randy Allen of the Kansas Association of Counties.

Frankenfeld said he hoped the resolution would be available for the meeting Sept. 19. He said he had asked Allen to draft the resolution after the commissioners had each given him comments on the proposed job description.

The commissioners held three closed sessions, two with County Attorney Bonnie Selby on personnel matters, and the third with Way involving personnel.

After the closed door session with Way, Commissioner Frankenfeld made a motion to approve a recommendation from Way for raises for landfill employees.

Commissioner Rasure seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

No details were given at the meeting, but Way said they were merit increases for two employees which had been included in the budget.

Mary Ann Snethen, who acted as commission secretary for the Tuesday meeting, said that one employee would receive a raise of 46 cents per hour and another 75 cents per hour as recommended by Way and approved by the commissioners.

The commissioners were to hold a special meeting Thursday morning with John Hendrich about locating a monitoring well on his land north of the old county/city landfill north of the airport.

The next regular commission meeting will be 8 a.m. Tuesday, in the commissioners room on the main floor of the county courthouse at the corner of Eighth and Broadway.

Members of service honored

Top state honors go to volunteers

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Two members of Sherman County's ambulance service have won top state honors.

Nina Mersch was named Emergency Medical Technician of the Year and Gary Winter Emergency Medical Service Educator of the Year. Both are volunteers for the Northwest Kansas Emergency Medical Service and Winter is regional Emergency Medical Service coordinator for the state.

They were selected by the Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association from nominations submitted by services throughout Kansas. Their names were announced at the annual convention Aug. 17 and 18 in Wichita. Mersch received a plaque and a \$150 gift. Winter received a plaque.

"Gary and Nina really deserve this honor and I'm pleased that others across the state recognize the quality of personnel that we have in a volunteer service," said Karen Hooker, director of the ambulance service.

"A total surprise," Mersch said about finding out she had been chosen.

She said a representative of the state group called her to tell her about an hour before she was leaving to go to Connecticut.

"I think I had to ask him several times about it," she said.

Mersch has been with the service since March 1994, although she took a couple of years off for health reasons. When she came back, she took a class to brush up on her skills.

Mersch said she thinks Hooker nominated her for the award.

"I didn't know anything about it until I got the call," she said. "My daughter even kept it a secret that I was nominated."

Her daughter, Shawna Anderson, also is an emergency medical technician.

Mersch said she became an emergency medical technician when she went to what she thought was just a cardiopulmonary resuscitation class.

She said the emergency medical class was tough, but she was glad she did it.

"I was one of Karen's first students," Mersch said. "That was the first year she was teaching the class."

When she's on call, she either goes to the ambulance or directly to the scene of a call ahead of the ambulance. She is also an EMTI, which means she can start IVs in the field.

"I appreciate all the support from my peers," she said. "They helped me a lot. I've had a lot of support from the community. It's really rewarding being an EMT."

Mersch lives in Goodland and works at Wal-Mart. Most of the time she's on call during the day while she's at work.

"They allow me to do this at work, which is nice," she said. "I really appreciate it."

Winter, a farmer, lives south of Kanorado. He became an emergency medical technician in 1995.

He said one reason he decided to become an EMT was "because we are so far out in the boondocks." He helped coach football and wrestling at Grant Junior High. He said since he didn't have a teaching certificate, he had to take two classes, a class called "Effec-

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Principal becomes accreditation ambassador

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Sharon Gregory, principal of Central Elementary School, says she wants to improve Goodland schools, likes change and new challenges and isn't afraid of hard work.

That's why when she heard the North Central Accreditation Association, a regional group that accredits schools and colleges, was hiring experienced

teachers to help schools across the country improve, she jumped at the chance. Never mind that it meant a heck of a lot of work.

Gregory said as the Goodland district's school improvement coordinator, she already is responsible for helping the district's five schools reach curriculum and student goals. She thinks the new outside job should help her with that.

"I saw it as a way to help make Goodland schools better," she said.

Eight months, two training sessions, hours upon hours of studying and one grueling test later, Gregory was certified as a North Central Association ambassador in late August. That means she will get paid to train teachers and administrators in other states on the association's school improvement process.

The Goodland School Board presented a certificate to Gregory at a meeting Monday night, with President Dick Short saying she was the only candidate from Kansas to get ambassador status this year.

Short read a long list of requirements for the job, including teaching experience, a graduate degree, experience

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Sharon Gregory