

weather report

79°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 6:57 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:26 a.m.
• Sunset, 6:55 p.m.

Middy Conditions

• Soil Temperature 71 degrees
• Humidity 24 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds south 25-30 mph
• Barometer 30.20 inches and falling
• Record High 99° (1955)
• Record Low 34° (1951)

Last 24 Hours*

High 83°
Low 51°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Clear, low 55-60, south winds 5-15 mph
Tomorrow: Sunny, high 90-95, low mid 50s, south winds 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: dry, high 90-95, low mid 50s.
Monday and Tuesday: chance of thunderstorms, high 80s, low mid 50s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHZ.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Flu shots may be scarce

National shortage of vaccine possible

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Flu season is coming to Sherman County fast, but health officials don't know when the vaccine to head off the virus will get here or whether they'll get enough to go around.

The county Health Department's annual flu vaccine order, which is typically around 1,200 doses, usually arrives in early September, but hasn't come in yet. A national shortage apparently is to blame.

Staff and patients at Goodland Regional Medical Center start getting flu shots in October most years, but they may have to wait since the vaccine distributor can't promise anything.

Rural Health Ventures, a group of doctors in the Medical Office Building east of the hospital, usually has 400 to 500 doses of flu vaccine in stock by August, but storage areas are bare and the pharmacist who does the ordering says it may be mid-October, maybe later. By then it might be too late.

"I think if we can't get it by November," said Cesar Miller, owner of Goodland Medical Arts Pharmacy, "there's really no reason to get it at all."

It's the same story at clinics, hospitals and health departments across northwest Kansas, and a federal agency is telling all U.S. medical providers to expect flu vaccine supply delays and possible shortages due to manufacturing problems.

"Everybody is kind of waiting to see when we will get it," said Dorendo Harrel, health department administrator, "and how much we will get."

That means people in Sherman County who plan to get a shot to ward off the virus, which puts millions of Americans in misery every winter and kills about 20,000, may have to wait.

Even if medical offices here land some doses, there's no guarantee everyone who wants a shot will get one.

"We will not start offering the vaccine to the general public until the high-risk population is taken care of," said Harrel, adding that the department may receive only part of its order.

She said the elderly, those with weak immune systems and medical staff will get shots first.

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Jennifer House, who has several photos on display for the "A Day in the Life of Sherman County" photo competition, shows her son Drew a picture she took of her husband Andrew, feeding their calf, Bubba. Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Photos depict day in county's life

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

People walking through the Carnegie Arts Center over the next few weeks may think that they are taking a stroll down the streets of Sherman County.

Familiar faces and sights stare back from white matting in a colorful display of the "A Day in the Life of Sherman County" photography contest winners.

Forty-five photos were selected to be enlarged for exhibit. Fifty people entered selections, and the winners' photos were joined by pieces from the Goodland Photography Club.

The pictures were taken during the course of two contests held in February and July. The show is scheduled to

run through Oct. 1, with extended hours during the Flatlander Fall Festival from Friday, Sept. 29, through Sunday, Oct. 1. The festival includes crafts, food concessions, games, raffles, entertainment, drawings and souvenirs, all centered around downtown Goodland.

The contest began in February with a workshop at North Elementary

School, said Rebecca Downs, the director of the center. Kids were encouraged to join the photo contest when it started a week later.

Contestants were judged by a panel which selected the finalists, then a professional photographer was asked to pick the winners.

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City will talk about recycling payments

The Goodland City Commission will continue talking about a request from Kansas Recycled Resources to pay \$3 a box for recycling of magazines and newspapers at its regular meeting at 5 p.m. on Monday.

The commission discussed the request at its last meeting, but City Manager Ron Pickman wasn't present, and the discussion was put off.

Pickman said commissioners plan to talk about whether they want to continue recycling with Jeremiah Wickham, who runs the new program.

The commission will also talk about repairs in the city. On the agenda is the airport administration building roof, which has been under repair since April 10. Members will discuss estimates on a new barrel roof hanger and taxiway.

Commissioners will look at bids for new windows on the airport administration building, and look at bids for a new roof on the power plant.

Commissioners will also talk about:

- Demolition bids for buildings at 1815 Caldwell Avenue and 17th and Montana Avenue.
- Appointing Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust and League of Kansas

Municipalities voting and alternate delegates.

• Pickman's report on the progress of well No. 4, part of the city water project, which hasn't been pumping as much water as anticipated.

• A proclamation to be announced at the beginning of the meeting declaring this "America Goes Back to School Month."

Construction workers gut building for offices

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

There is a lot of wide open space, dirt, concrete and equipment at the old Medical Arts Clinic in Goodland, as a construction crew makes changes inside.

The building at 520 Main, built in 1970, was purchased earlier this year by WWB to be rented as office space.

Rhoads Construction of Goodland is the contractor on the remodeling project.

Darwin McClung, president of Rhoads, said his company began remodeling in July and was shooting for Oct. 1 as a completion date, but will probably not be finished until mid-October or Nov. 1.

"It's running a little slower than I was hoping," McClung said, "but it just takes time."

He said the inside was gutted except for a wall in the reception area. The existing walls had to be torn out in order to arrange the space for offices rather than exam rooms.

McClung said there will be 18 private offices, which are to be rented by Kennedy and Coe, an accounting firm in Goodland. Their space will include two file storage areas, a large conference room, two smaller conference rooms and a storage area.

A beauty salon will be put in where the pharmacy used to be. Carol McClure of Goodland will rent the space.

Dr. Kenneth Austin has office space on the southwest part of the building, where Dr. Thomas Melcher, an orthodontist, used to see patients. Austin has been seeing patients at his office since around the middle of August. He has a waiting area, two exam rooms, a private office and a big file storage room with the entrance on the south.

"We made a parking lot on the south side for Dr. Austin's patients," said McClung.

The plumbing is being done by McClure's Plumbing and Heating of Goodland. Shad's Electric and Marty Electric are doing the electrical work and Goodland Sheet Metal has the contract on the heating and air conditioning work.

McClung said the corporation will do some work on the outside of the building, but will not make any major changes except for four windows on the east side of the salon.

The landscaping will be cleaned up, McClung said, and the exposed laminated arches at the front entrance that are weathered will be repaired, but probably not until next spring.

McClung said four trees that were



Carpenters worked Friday morning on remodeling the old Medical Arts Clinic. Paul Medrano (left) applied adhesive to a piece of sheet rock, while Will Weisshaar held it. Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

either dead or nearly dead were cut down and others were trimmed. "We had to redo quite a bit of the

Commission to test water by drilling

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

County Commissioners met Thursday morning with John Hendrich Jr. about drilling a test monitoring well on his family's land north of the old city/county landfill.

The state Department of Health and Environment has asked Sherman County to drill additional wells north of the existing landfill to see how far underground contamination has spread near the old landfill.

Two monitoring wells on the landfill site have shown contamination, and the state officials have asked for additional wells to try to find the boundary of the contamination.

The commissioners held a conference call with James L. Rogers, a geologist, and Mark McMullen, an engineer from Terranext of Lakewood, Colo., the county's consultants on its landfills.

Rogers explained that the test well can be drilled in a day, and that it would be in place for two to three years with samples taken at least annually. He said there would be some above-ground obstacles which would have to be farmed around while the well is being used. When it's removed, a bentonite

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afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press



1 p.m.

Official warns auto insurers

TOPEKA — Insurance Commissioner Kathleen Sebelius has told companies they cannot increase auto insurance premiums for Kansas who've had accidents caused by defective tires.

Sebelius last week sent a bulletin to the 180 insurance companies that write auto policies in Kansas. The bulletin was a response to a national recall of defective tires.

The bulletin applies to special surcharges imposed after accidents to reflect a greater risk involved in insuring a driver. It says that such surcharges, when an accident is caused by defective tires, are discriminatory and an unfair trade practice.

Sebelius had a news conference Thursday to announce her action. She acknowledged that her office received only one or two complaints.