

weather report

78°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 6:36 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:41 a.m.
• Sunset, 6:34 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 61 degrees
• Humidity 16 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds south 10-17 mph
• Barometer 30.23 inches and steady
• Record High 97° (1953)
• Record Low 26° (1985)

Last 24 Hours*

High 78°
Low 35°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 50, south winds 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, chance of rain in evening, high 80s, low 50-55, south winds 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday through Monday: dry, high 80, low 40-50.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.65 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.47
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$1.61 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.50
Loan deficiency pmt. — 49¢
Milo — \$2.60 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.39 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.15
Loan deficiency payment — 75¢
Millet — ask
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.25 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.55
Confection current — \$15/\$6 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$15
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Abortion pill approved here

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday approved U.S. use of the abortion pill RU-486, a major victory for those who battled for 12 years to bring the early-abortion method to this country.

Proponents say the pill, which has been used by millions of women in 13 countries, could transform abortion in the United States by making it more accessible and more private. But it can be used only in the earliest days of pregnancy. It could be available to doctors within a month.

Anti-abortion organizations have fought to keep RU-486 out of the United States.

"We will not tolerate the FDA's decision to approve the destruction of innocent human persons," said Judie Brown of the anti-abortion American Life League.

Elevator bankrupt; investigation ends

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

A bean storage facility in Ruleton that had its storage license suspended and was being investigated by a federal agency, filed for bankruptcy last week, and most farmers will get their product back or the amount it was worth, an investigator said Thursday.

"We started our investigation because we heard rumors that the elevator was having financial difficulties," said Vernon Steenhard, chief of the li-

censing branch in Kansas City, Mo.

Prairie Pea and Bean, L.L.C., which was under investigation by the United States Department of Agriculture licensing branch, involuntarily filed papers for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, said a representative of the bankruptcy court in Topeka.

The required papers were filed with the bankruptcy court last Wednesday, the representative said, and the elevator is listed as filing for an involuntary Chapter 7, which means the bank is forcing the company to file.

Steenhard said now that Pea and Bean has filed, there will be no further investigation and the matter will be turned over to the bankruptcy courts.

"We will be working with the court," said Steenhard.

He said because Pea and Bean was a licensed facility — which means the product stored there was backed financially by the U.S. government — most of the people who stored there should be getting their product back, or the amount it was worth.

Chapter 7 bankruptcy, called liquidation cases in the courts, means a business is forced to close and the assets are sold and divided among creditors.

Because the filing is involuntary, Pea and Bean's bank is forcing the foreclosure.

The elevator now has to wait for an answer from the courts, the bankruptcy court representative said, and then a hearing may be held.

Galen Diehl, owner of the elevator, could not be reached at his office or at home.



Rural firemen wet down hay bales that burst into flames on a gravel road about 5 miles east of Goodland Wednesday. The department (below) mixes a wetting agent with its water to produce foam that helps put out fires faster. Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Trailer, bales burn in fire east of city

Hot bearing could have started fire

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

A trailer was damaged and over a dozen round bales of hay burned Wednesday afternoon, when a load of hay Dallas Eckhardt was hauling suddenly burst into flames on a gravel road.

Rural firemen and Sheriff's Deputy Robert Lamb were called around 2:30 p.m. to a farm about 5 miles east of Goodland, said Ken Griffith, chief of the rural fire department, where the dispatcher said a trailer carrying hay was on fire.

As firemen turned their hoses on the glowing bales, a river of white smoke ran towards the sky.

Once the fire was under control, Deputy Lamb said, a farmer used a tractor to help the firemen take the hay bales off the trailer and spread them out.

The chief said firemen stayed on site for an hour and a half snuffing out any hot spots.

Griffith said a wetting agent the department mixes in with its water produces a foam that helps to put out the



flames. Some piles of hay laying around the farmstead, owned by the Eckhardt family, were black and white, with the foam covering the

blackened hay.

"The trailer had extensive damage and all of the hay was lost," Griffith said, adding he wasn't sure how much

the damage would cost Eckhardt.

The chief said a hot bearing may have started the fire, but the department is still investigating.

Board member resigns

Hospital in red, finance officer says

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Chairman Doug Irvin announced at Tuesday night's Goodland hospital board meeting that board member Randy Schoenthaler had turned in a letter of resignation.

Irvin said Schoenthaler said he had to resign because of conflicts in meeting times and his job. Schoenthaler was also chairman of the board finance committee.

Irvin appointed board member Joyce Moore to take his place. Other members of the committee are Dennis Shank and Steve Evert.

Board member Dr. Greg Bongers said that Wednesday would be Dr. Jed McKee's last day in Goodland.

"He will be sorely missed," Bongers said. McKee had practiced internal medicine while in Goodland.

Chief Financial Officer Andy Laue reported on the hospital's finances.

"August again was not a particularly good month," he said.

The hospital showed a loss of \$98,028 for August, which was down \$20,810 from the \$118,838 loss shown in July.

He said there was an \$8,200 loss due to the completion of the sale of the old clinic. The clinic sale is completely off the books now, he said.

"Salaries, wages and benefits really exceeded budget," Laue said.

Shank asked how salaries and wages came to be over budget.

Laue said the hospital is over staffed for the amount of volume it has.

"Why was our outpatient revenue so much better?" asked Bongers. Chaddic replied it was due to cataract surgeries.

Dale Schields, human resource director, said a change in paid time off for employees contributed to the loss. He said the change honored time for last year and this year.

"Once we get through this year, we should be better," he said. "We knew this year was going to be a tough one."

Schields said he, Chaddic and Laue were working on some travel expense guidelines, which would call for people traveling together to meetings rather than taking separate vehicles and have lower food bills.

Board member Pete Whalen asked Chaddic what other administrators were saying about their hospitals.

Chaddic said most of the administrators in the area were having the problem with less patient volume like Goodland. He said Colby's administrator was the only one to say he is keeping

See HOSPITAL, Page 7

County to create administrator job, start looking to hire

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County Commissioners are expected to approve a resolution Friday morning creating a county administrator position and beginning the process of finding someone to fill the position.

The resolution was discussed at the previous meeting, but with Commissioner Kenny Davis absent the item was put off.

Once the resolution is approved, the commissioners will discuss advertising

to fill the position, and an agreement with Randy Allen of the Kansas Association of Counties to assist in the recruitment and screening process will be made. The process is expected to take more than a month, and the commissioners are hoping to have the position filled by the end of the year.

Since it's the final meeting of the month, the commissioner's will consider payment of claims vouchers for the month, and will review the contract for the annual audit as presented by

VonFeldt, Bauer and VonFeldt.

Commissioners will discuss rules and regulations for Smoky Gardens, and consider appointing a supervisor for the caretaker to form a clear line of responsibility.

Dale Neill, owner of KOA Kampground, and Ron Harding, Chamber of Commerce manager, will appear to discuss the Travel and Tourism committee, and the commissioners are expected to appoint several members as recommended by the committee.

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Marshall Hatfield will talk about the current process and policy for salvaging material at the transfer station.

The commissioners will look over a letter from People's Natural Gas suggesting the county opt for an even pay plan for the county billing. The letter was presented at the previous meeting, and the commissioners delayed action to gather additional information.

A closed session is scheduled for a personnel matter.