

weather report

69°
at noon



Today
• Sunset, 6:16 p.m.
Tomorrow
• Sunrise, 6:54 a.m.
• Sunset, 6:14 p.m.

Middy Conditions
• Soil Temperature 53 degrees
• Humidity 37 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds south 13 mph
• Barometer 29.93 inches and falling
• Record High 91° (1989)
• Record Low 22° (1948)

Last 24 Hours*
High 65°
Low 32°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 20 percent chance of rain, low 45, south winds 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 65-70, low 45, south winds 15-25 mph.

Extended Forecast
Thursday: chance of thunderstorms, high 65, low 45. Friday and Saturday: dry, high 65-70, low 35.

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

local markets

Noon
Wheat — \$2.80 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.72
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$1.85 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.63
Loan deficiency pmt. — 36¢
Milo — \$2.76 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.24 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.01
Loan deficiency payment — 89¢
Millets — ask
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.30 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.51
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.

Candidates gearing up

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Mindful of the high stakes for the second presidential debate, Al Gore vowed to "do my best to get the details right" on Wednesday night. George W. Bush, prone to verbal gaffes when tired, scheduled plenty of rest for the day and low-key preparation.

On his way Wednesday afternoon to look over the debate hall in nearby Winston-Salem, Bush said he wanted to "tell people what's on my heart, what's in my mind."

Both teams said their candidates did not intend to be the first to go negative in the 90-minute debate, being held in a less formal setting than their first encounter in Boston last week. It starts at 9 p.m. EDT.

The two will sit at a table with moderator Jim Lehrer instead of standing behind lecterns.

County gets bids on dump

Engineers asked to review all costs

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County commissioners opened three bids Tuesday morning for excavating the first cell at the new county landfill, and turned them over to the consulting engineering firm for review.

There was a difference of over \$100,000 between the top bid and the lowest, but as Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld said it would be better to have the consultants review the bids to see if they are bidding the same things, and to give the county a recommendation about which would be the best.

The highest bid was \$250,306 from Meier Construction of Burlington. Sporer Land Development of Oakley bid \$175,666, and Grasser Construction of Stratton was the apparent low bidder at \$147,936.

Curt Way, road and bridge supervisor, said he understood from Mark McMullen, engineer for Terranext of Lakewood, Colo., the review of the bids would be completed by Friday, Oct. 20, so the commissioners could make a decision at the Tuesday, Oct. 24, meeting.

The three contractors had been at a pre-construction conference with McMullen and Way on Sept. 6, and inspected the site south of Goodland at that time.

They had until Friday to submit their bids.

At the conference, McMullen told the contractors that the preliminary design had been approved by the state Health Department, but that part of the excavation of the first cell would be an on-site test to determine the amount of moisture and compaction which would be required to create the soil liner.

After a series of tests, the excavation can begin, but actual construction of the soil liner will have to await approval from the state.

Once the contract is awarded, excavation should begin within a few weeks, and the first cell should be completed and ready to be opened in the spring.

It has taken three years to get to the contract point since the state health department ordered the closure of the old city/county landfill northeast of the city.

The state had been discussing problems with water contamination at the old landfill for over 10 years after a well first showed some contamination. County Clerk Janet Rumpel said at least one or two previous commissioners had been told about the contamination problems over 10 years ago.

In another matter, Commissioner Kenny Davis told the others that a bill from Dennis Saint for construction of a shelter at Smoky Gardens had been handled, with the Smoky Gardens Board returning \$2,000 to the county to help bring the fund into balance and cover the bill.

Davis also said he had been asked about striping of County Road 65 (old Hwy 24), and had asked Way to find out the cost and whether it is required by the state.

Way said state transportation officials said the road "should" be striped, but that because of the lower usage it was not required.

He said the estimate to stripe the 35 miles across the county was \$26,000 per year, or \$87,000 for an epoxy paint which should last three to five years.

Davis suggested this was an expense which had not been included in the original plans for chip sealing the road, and that it would not be something they could expect to do in the near future because there is not enough money.

Commissioners Frankenfeld and Kevin Rasure agreed that while it would be nice to stripe the road, the continuing cost is something the county is not in a position to handle.

It was suggested that if there is an increase in traffic which would require the striping, the county would then find a way to raise the money.

Setting records...



Cowgirl Julia Darnauer (left) spiked the ball in the match against Oakley after Ashley Hallagin set the ball for her. Kendra Brack waited to assist. Goodland won the match against Oakley, as well as their matches against Weskan and Grinnell, setting a new record for the Goodland High School volleyball program with the longest winning streak, 29 match wins. See story and more photos on page 8.
Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Florida cat lost near Goodland

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

Dina Holbert of Naples, Fla., had a blowout on one of her tires on Sept. 29 between Kanorado and Goodland, but that wasn't the only problem she had. Sometime while she and a truck driver were changing the tire, her cat, Cheeka, jumped out and disappeared.

Holbert said she was heading east on

I-70 about mile marker 12 when her tire blew out.

It was early in the afternoon, she said, probably around 2 p.m.

Cheeka is a medium-sized male, white Persian with long hair. He has no tags and no front claws. He is about 6 years old and will answer to his name, Holbert said.

"He's an indoor cat, but can survive outside," she added.

Holbert said when she realized the cat was missing, she looked out around

the area, but didn't see him.

She said she wasn't able to stay around and look for him because she had someone driving a U-haul filled with her belongings who by then was ahead of her. After she got her tire fixed at Frontier Equity Exchange in Goodland, she had to take off.

She is anxious to get her cat back, said she thinks he may have gone to a nearby farm house.

If anyone finds the cat, call her collect at (941) 592-6545.

State delays 620 area code to February

TOPEKA (AP) — State regulators have modified their schedule for starting a new area code in Kansas, giving the largest telephone company another month to prepare.

Southwestern Bell had asked the Kansas Corporation Commission to reconsider its schedule for putting the 620 area code into effect in southern Kansas. Under the KCC's original plan, a period of "permissive" dialing, where people could use either the old or new area code, would have been in effect from Jan. 1 to March 31.

Under an order issued Tuesday, the permissive dialing period will begin Feb. 3 and continue for nine months, rather than three.

The KCC plans to split the Wichita area from the rest of the region covered by the 316 area code. Wichita would keep 316, while other communities would have 620.

In requesting more time, Bell questioned whether it could prepare its switching systems and adequately notify customers of the change before the beginning of the year.

The company noted that the period includes the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, when it is short-staffed and "most customers do not focus on informational inserts."

Abstract art



Moviegoer Tyler Henderson and theater employees Brandon Sparks and Verla Terry (from left) looked at a community painting on Tuesday evening at the Sherman Theatre. The painting was done on Sept. 30 during the Flatlander Fall Festival in Goodland.
Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Group to study building

Schools will look at air conditioning

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

After discussing plans to build classrooms, science labs or a cafeteria in the high school's courtyard, the Goodland School Board decided Monday to form a committee to study building options and the cost to air condition schools.

Board members said if the district was going to spend a million dollars or more building in the courtyard, they wanted to make sure the space would be used in the most advantageous way now and in the future.

They decided to kill two birds with one stone by having the committee study installing air conditioning in the district's five schools. Again this year, the district had to end the school day early in August because classrooms were unbearably hot. Superintendent Marvin Selby said there's been talk of extending the school year, which means it would start even earlier.

Glen Strait, the district's architect and owner of Strait Associates in Colby, presented plans at the meeting for a \$700,000 to \$1.5 million project, including putting two floors of classrooms, science and computer labs and an elevator in the 7,000-square-foot courtyard.

Strait, who has helped with remodeling work in Colby schools, told the board it would be 25 percent more expensive to build in the courtyard than to build new space.

Introducing Strait, Superintendent Selby said a few years ago the school board decided expanding the high school's science program was most important after building a new gym and weight room. Strait said he met with teachers and administrators last year to discuss new classrooms and he designed a plan based on what they said.

Selby said later that the district has one payment left on the \$1.6 million Max Jones Fieldhouse addition, which was finished last spring and includes a gym, weight room and dressing rooms, and it will be debt-free.

Member Mike Campbell said the board had talked about moving the junior high into the courtyard addition if enrollment — which is on a steady decline in most districts in Kansas — dropped enough to warrant it. He said the board should make sure that would be possible.

"If we're going to invest at this

See SCHOOL, Page 7