

weather report

65°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:52 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:10 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:51 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 58 degrees

• Humidity 70 percent

• Sky mostly cloudy

• Winds south 17 mph

• Barometer 30.08 inches
and falling

• Record High 86° (1937)

• Record Low 17° (1925)

Last 24 Hours*

High 69°

Low 36°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy, 40 percent chance of showers, low mid 40s, winds south 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Cloudy, 70 percent chance of thunderstorms, high mid 50s, winds 20-30 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Chance of rain, high 60-65, low 35-40 Monday: Dry, high 60-65, low 35-40 Tuesday: Chance of rain, high 50-55, low 35.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

County puts off digging

Officials to choose landfill bidder later

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County commissioners agreed Thursday to put off selecting the contractor for excavation of the new landfill until their regular meeting at 8 a.m. Tuesday, giving them time to wrestle with the choice over the next few days.

The commissioners held a special meeting Thursday morning to talk by phone with Mark McMullen from Terranext of Englewood, Colo., the county's engineering consultant on the landfill project.

McMullen told the commissioners he did not find anything wrong with any of the three contractors or their bids. He noted that the bid by Meier Construction of Burlington was quite high, but he thought all three were qualified.

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

The engineer said the bids from Sporer and Grasser were within about \$30,000 of each other, but did not make a specific recommendation. McMullen said Sporer had done some work on a pond which was similar to the landfill, but said his engineering firm could work with any of the three firms.

Both of these lower-cost firms said they are ready to proceed, McMullen added.

He said his firm would have people on site when the test pad was being done, and that they would also be present before the liner and sump were installed at the bottom of the cell. All are critical to preventing leaks or contamination from the landfill.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked McMullen how Terranext's assistance would cost the county.

McMullen did not say how much the total job would cost, but estimated the test pad part would be \$8,000 to \$12,000. He said he would provide a cost estimate for the remainder of the work within two weeks.

Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld asked McMullen if he had any concerns about any of the contractors.

"I think all three are pretty equally qualified," McMullen said, "and I think with the work plan, we can stay on top of the project. I have confidence in all of the contractors."

"It is now our decision," said Commission Chairman Kenny Davis.

"I think it was important to hear from McMullen to tell us if there was a problem with any of the contractors," said Frankenfeld.

Davis said the bid decision would be put on Tuesday's regular meeting agenda.

"We do not necessarily have to take the low bid," Davis said, "and I would like the time to consider the details of each bid before making a decision."

Frankenfeld and Rasure indicated they were satisfied with the information on the low bidder, and were ready to proceed with a motion. They agreed to wait until Tuesday to give each time to consider all the details.

Mitch Tiede, write-in candidate for commissioner, was in the audience and asked what the difference was between the Sporer and Grasser bids.

"Sporer has some experience in this," Tiede said, "and may be better for the county."

Other items on Tuesday's agenda include:

- Presentation of a plaque to the children of Gary Townsend in memory of his service as commissioner.
- Sign a contract with the Goodland Public Library to serve county residents.

- Get an update from Administrator Paul Rainbolt on the future plans for the Good Samaritan Center.
- County Attorney Bonnie Selby has asked to meet with the commissioners concerning some bill questions.

The commissioners meet in the commission room on the main floor of the county courthouse.



Book or treat...

Instead of going to Storytime, children who visit the Goodland Library each morning got dressed up Thursday and went across the street to the courthouse for treats. Chandler Pettibone (above) was dressed in an oversized football uniform. Brevin Gough (far left) and Ryleigh Paxton discovered that cowboys and cheerleaders can get along as they walked out of the courthouse hand in hand.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Two injured in accident are recovering

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Two people injured in a two-car accident last week are on their way to recovery this week.

Bonnie Thompson, 52, was driving to a Bible study meeting on Oct. 18

when her vehicle clipped the back end of Larry Gutsch's truck at the intersection of County Road 67 and County Road 19.

Thompson's vehicle skidded into a ditch and caught on fire, while Gutsch's truck rolled twice before landing.

Dan Knitig, a sales representative at Elliott's, was driving to a friend's house when he saw flames under the hood of Thompson's car. He and Gutsch freed Thompson, whose foot was caught behind the gas pedal.

Thompson was flown to Denver

Health Medical Center. Her husband Ron Thompson said he was called after the accident by the family pastor.

He is an airplane mechanic and was working on a job in Dallas and went im-

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Elevator manager switches companies

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

As of Monday, Frontier Equity Exchange has a new general manager. Brad Cowan, general manager of Collingwood Grain in Goodland for over 4 1/2 years, took on the job.

Cowan said it was a fairly big decision for him to make.

"I was looking to work with a local board from the community," he said. Frontier is a member-owned cooperative, while Collingwood is a division of food industry giant Archer-Daniels-Midland.

In his new position, Cowan said he will have more administrative responsibilities and more employees, with four elevators to manage rather than two.

With Collingwood, he managed elevators in Goodland and Kanorado, but with Frontier, he will manage the operation in Goodland, plus those in Ruleton, Brewster and Bird City.

He said he is excited about working with a local cooperative.

"It's an advancement for me and a chance to stay in the community for several years," Cowan said.

He said he is looking out for the best interest of his family, as he and his wife like Goodland and want to raise their children here. Cowan said the town has an excellent school system and he enjoys the activities his family is involved in.

"Everything we're involved with is good for my family," he said.

Cowan moved to Goodland in 1996 from Plains, east of Liberal, where he also worked for Collingwood.

He is a member of the Sherman County Fair Board, the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce board and the executive board of the county Extension Service.

He said he spends his time away from work going to his kids' sports activities and helping them raise show pigs.

Cowan was hired by the seven-member board of Frontier Equity to replace

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Crossing to close again

The Cherry Street railroad crossing, which opened briefly this week, will close again next week so that new asphalt can be laid.

Work on the southeast entrance into downtown closed the crossing for a week as the Kyle Railroad replaced the wooden planks with concrete and the city poured new concrete approaches.

Ed Wolak, city director of public works, said the crossing will have to be closed again some time next week as the material used to fill in the concrete approaches and the asphalt is taken out and the holes are filled with asphalt.

He said the approaches are smooth now, and he has heard a lot of compliments on the work.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.76 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.53
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$1.81 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.67
Loan deficiency payment — 32¢
Milo — \$2.69 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.90
Loan deficiency payment — \$1
Millet — no posted price, ask.
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.25 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — \$4.50
Confection current — \$15/\$6 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$15 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco 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.

Hackers cause little damage

SEATTLE — Microsoft said Friday that hackers who broke into its computer network gained access to blueprints for software under development but did not see codes for the company's most popular products.

"This situation appears to be much narrower than originally thought," said spokesman Mark Murray. "The investigation shows no evidence the intruder gained access to the source codes for Windows ME, Windows 2000 or Office. That is very good news."

Windows is the company's flagship operating system for personal computers and networks, and Office is its package of word processing, spreadsheet and other business software.

The hackers viewed codes only for products being designed for release years from now.

Show us the spirit...



Goodland High School cheerleaders performed stunts for the crowd at the home football game Thursday night. Though the Cowboys lost 35-14, the girls cheered on. Story and more photos on Page 8.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News