

weather report

18°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 5:14 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:46 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:15 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 36 degrees

• Humidity 88 percent

• Sky cloudy

• Winds north 20 mph

• Barometer 29.94 inches
and falling

• Record High 76° (1943)

• Record Low -22° (1936)

Last 24 Hours*

High

52°

Low

24°

Precipitation

trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Blustery, 80 percent chance of snow, low 10, north wind 15-20 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, 20 percent chance of snow, high 20-25, low 0-5, north wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: dry, high mid 30s to lower 40s, low 10-20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Parking formula delayed

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland City Commission decided Monday to put off talking about parking regulations for big vehicles, like semi-tractor trailers and recreational vehicles, until its first meeting in March.

Commissioners said they wanted to review existing ordinances and talk with the public before making a decision.

At a previous meeting, the commissioners heard that the city has three parking ordinances that contradict each other and are causing problems for the police as they try to enforce the rules.

One says no one can park a truck-tractor or semitrailer in a residential area for more than two hours a day. Another limits parking to one hour a day anywhere in the city, and a third, included in the state uniform traffic code, says no one can ever park trailers or farm machinery on city streets.

The commissioners asked City Attorney Perry Warren to combine the best aspects of the three ordinances into one and to set rules for the parking of boat trailers and recreational vehicles. At this week's regular meeting, the commissioners said they were not satisfied with the proposed ordinance, but couldn't decide how to make it right.

The commissioners said they get complaints from citizens about recreational vehicles and trailers being parked in the same spot on a street for days, weeks or months and they want to stop that. However, they said, too strictly limiting parking time for trailers and recreational vehicles could prove unfair to hunters, tourists and movers.

Police Chief Ray Smee said the city can't make exceptions for out-of-towners.

"You have to allow locals to do the same thing," he said. "You can't differentiate."

Smee said the way the ordinances are written now makes it almost impossible to enforce any kind of parking regula-

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Appreciating art through young eyes ...



Youth art on display

Third grade students from Central School walked to the Carnegie Arts Center Wednesday afternoon to look at artwork done by elementary students which is on display this month. Jessica Lake, Alyssa Brady and Eric Ross (above, left to right) from Marilyn Sowers' class looked at glass and beaded fruit that is for sale at the center. Angie Hillmer (right) from Lori Lalicker's class looked at pictures of snowmen made by kindergartners at North School.

Photos by Janet Craft/
The Goodland Daily News



People want to keep K-27 open during work

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County commissioners said they received a petition at last week's meeting from citizens against the closing of K-27 while it is rebuilt this summer, when they met Tuesday.

It doesn't look like there is much they can do to change things, however, since the highway job goes to bid next week and the state says it's way too late to change plans.

The Kansas Department of Transportation has scheduled repairs on the highway from the intersection of Business U.S. 24 north to the Cheyenne County line, starting in April. The citizens want one lane of the highway kept open while the repairs are being made, commissioners said at their meeting this week.

Rasure said the problem is that the highway is being torn up and not just resurfaced. Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld said he had contacted the department about the petition.

Frankenfeld said this issue was brought up in 1998. At that time, he, Commissioner Gary Townsend, and Curt Way, county road and bridge supervisor, went to Norton to talk to state engineers, along with someone from the city and the Goodland Chamber of Commerce office.

The commissioner said the department officials said they couldn't keep the road open because it would cost way too much. The "official" detour will be on K-25 through Atwood and Colby, though county roads east and west of the highway will be beefed up to handle local traffic.

"We've tried everything we can,"

Frankenfeld said.

There will be a local access route west of Goodland, on county roads, which the state will pay to have beefed up some. More than two years ago, commissioners turned down a state plan to pave a detour on county roads, ending in Edson. They said grading and preparation required in the plan would have cost the county too much, although the state was willing to pay for the paving.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the transportation department is to take bids on the job next week, on Thursday, Feb. 15.

"I think the tentative start date is April," he added.

The commissioners discussed signing an agreement between Sherman and Sedgwick counties to make mortgage credit certificates available to county residents. By signing the agreement, the commissioners will provide residents an opportunity to participate in a Mortgage Savers program which offers first-time homeowners a 15 to 20 percent tax credit on their annual home mortgage interest on their federal tax returns.

After calling Ranson Housing, which is the compliance agent for Kansas in this year's Kansas Mortgage Savers program to ask a few questions, commissioners passed a motion to sign the agreement.

The commissioners asked County Attorney Bonnie Selby what her recommendation was on a request from Trego County for a \$1,000 membership fee for the juvenile detention center at WaKeeney.

Selby said with the number of juve-

niles from the county who are taken to detention, the membership would save the county money. It costs \$150 a day to keep a juvenile there with a membership and \$250 a day without one.

Frankenfeld asked if this was renewable, and Selby said it was. A motion to approve the fee carried.

Daryl West, county noxious weed supervisor, met with the commissioners to discuss an annual noxious weed report to be sent to Topeka and get their signatures.

West said the report shows the bud-

get, expenses and income, along with chemical disbursements for the year for the department. It also states he will be the noxious weed supervisor for this year. The report includes information for West to complete on the amount of noxious weeds in the county. The state department selects 10 sections of land in the county to be inspected by West for noxious weeds. The report is due by Feb. 15, he said.

"So, they randomly select the sections to be inspected?" Frankenfeld asked.

"Yes, it is done by computer," West replied.

"Do the weeds get more difficult to eradicate?" Rasure asked.

West said yes and that some people don't want to do anything about the weeds on private land.

"I'm going to have to crack down on them," he said. "The only tough part about that is getting paid for it."

West said he can hire a spray applicator to kill weeds on private land, but

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Senate cuts payment center money

TOPEKA (AP)—Senators working on the state budget hope to pressure other legislators to correct problems in the new center that processes all child support payments in Kansas.

The Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday endorsed a \$1.76 billion budget for the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services without including money for the Kansas Payment Center.

The Legislature has never endorsed creation of the center, which went into operation last September.

Instead, SRS cited authority from a state Supreme Court order to establish the center, which replaced a county-by-county child support system. Officials said the centralized system was needed to comply with federal law and that its loss could cost Kansas about \$36.9 million in federal funds a year.

"I think the purposeful decision is what I'd like to see the Legislature

make," said Sen. Tim Huelskamp, R-Fowler, who proposed delaying a decision on money for the payment center.

The Senate and House Judiciary Committees have held hearings on the payment center but so far have made no recommendations about its operations. A California company, Tier Technologies Inc., has the contract to run the center under SRS supervision.

Besides initial difficulties processing checks, legislators continue to hear complaints from parents that child support checks arrive late.

SRS Secretary Janet Schalsansky said in early January that up to 3 percent, or about 9,000 checks a month, weren't processed routinely. She has since testified the number continues to decrease.

In theory, if the Legislature doesn't recommend funding for the center, counties would resume processing child support checks.

Schalsansky said changing the pro-

cessing system again would just cause more confusion and potentially more delays.

"We just need to continue to work and demonstrate that the payment center is working before the end of the session," she said after Wednesday's meeting.

Neither the House nor the Senate Judiciary Committee is considering a bill that would legitimize the center's operations.

House Chairman Mike O'Neal, R-Hutchinson, said he was still awaiting evidence that the center is getting the job done.

"I want the pressure on SRS," O'Neal said. "I want to see SRS and Tier Technologies scrambling to make the case for continuing to run the system the way it is."

The Ways and Means Committee still can recommend the center's funding at the end of the session.