

weather report

34°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:30 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:28 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:31 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 33 degrees

• Humidity 96 percent

• Sky cloudy

• Winds south 10 mph

• Barometer 30.21 inches and steady

• Record High 73° (1935)

• Record Low -2° (1939)

Last 24 Hours*

High 34°

Low 23°

Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 20-25, northwest wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of rain or snow, high 40s, low 30, north wind 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast


Friday: chance of rain, high 45-50. Saturday: chance of snow, high 30s, low 20s. Sunday: dry, high 40s, low 20s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.73 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.68

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$1.93 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.90

Loan deficiency payment — 9¢

Milo — \$3.12 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.04 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.90

Loan deficiency payment — \$1.00

Millet — \$7.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6.25 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.61

Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$14 (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.

Suspected spy hurt security

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI is trying to calculate the national security damage allegedly wrought by one of its own agents, Robert Philip Hanssen, accused of spying for Russia for more than 15 years.

FBI Director Louis Freeh says the intelligence losses appear to be “exceptionally grave.”

An FBI affidavit describing Hanssen’s alleged spying said he passed along to Soviet and later Russian agents 6,000 pages of documents — a virtual catalogue of top secret and secret programs.

Attorney General John Ashcroft asked former CIA and FBI Director William Webster to convene a panel of experts to review internal security procedures within the FBI and recommend changes.

Intelligence experts estimate that Hanssen’s disclosures were highly damaging.

City wants to hold line on utility rates

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

With the continued cold temperatures driving the energy equation, the City of Goodland is trying to hold the line on the water and power rates City Manager Ron Pickman told the city commission Monday.

“We are trying to keep the cost down so we don’t have to make a change at this time,” Pickman said. “We don’t want to lose money and the staff is looking for ways to keep the costs down so we don’t lose money.”

Pickman said the city has been losing about \$25,000 a month this year, but that it is possible to cut enough to break even.

“We are lucky we had built up a reserve,” he said, “but we cannot continue on this forever.”

Pickman and City Public Works Director Ed Wolak told the commissioners they were working on a firm power contract with Sunflower Electric, and hoped to have this in place by April. Pickman said Sunflower had approved a stopgap contract for March at 32 cents per kilowatt hour.

The city is working on a solid contract for 4 megawatts of firm power would likely be in the 31 to 32 cents per kilowatt hour range. Wolak and Pickman said this would be an acceptable price and would mean the city would be able to avoid a major rate hike.

City Commissioner Rick Billinger asked if the city power plant was running during the cold days. Wolak said they were only running what was required to exercise the generators. He said the expense of generating power here would be more than twice the cost of the purchased power from Sunflower Electric.

Commissioner Jim Mull said after the regular meeting that the city should look ahead and develop a plan to handle emergencies in the future. He said they need to have a plan in place which would keep the city and its customers from facing some of the situations in other areas where the utility bills have more than doubled or tripled.

“We do not have any intention of asking for a rate increase at this time,” Pickman said, “but we will be carefully watching the situation over the next several months.”

During the regular meeting Danny Whalen, owner of the new Dairy Queen on Commerce Road, visited with the commission about changing the parking restrictions along the street. He said the area currently is posted for no parking, and he asked that the city change that to allow two-hour parking along the street from south of Howard Johnsons down to Motel Six.

Commissioners agreed to the change.

Pickman said to officially make the change would require an ordinance, but that a 90-day test period could be started with an order from the police chief.



Goodland High School students Darin Richardson and Tammy Weeter, Sherman County Conservation District meeting. Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Conservation topic of annual banquet

Farmers receive awards for windbreaks, terraces and other practices that save soil

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

Conservation posters decorated the walls Tuesday night at the Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall and people filled the tables for the 57th annual Sherman County Conservation District meeting.

At each year’s event, awards are given to Sherman County farmers who maintain the land and practice conservation and educators who teach conservation. This year, a service award was given to a past district board supervisor, LaVern Nelson.

Nelson received a Distinguished Service Award for over 35 years of service to the conservation efforts in Sherman County. He served as an advisor and later a supervisor for the Sherman County Conservation District. A retired farmer, he now lives in Durango, Colo., with his wife Lorannell. The couple’s two married daughters live there also.

After Nelson looked at his plaque, he said he agreed with the part about service, but didn’t know about the “distinguished” part.

He called several people from the audience up to where he stood as he told how they had played a role in his farming and conservation.

Awards were given out by Sandy



Award winners Bernice Tedford, LaVern Nelson and Max Tedford (from left) talked. The Tedfords won the Goodyear Award and Nelson won a Distinguished Service award.

Rodgers, conservation district manager, to the Educators of the Year, Marie Elias and Karen Colip, Goodland elementary school library technicians. Elias works at North School and Colip at Central.

Rodgers also presented the Hyperstudio stack, poster, limerick and essay contest awards to elementary students.

Larry McCants, president of First National Bank, gave out the Windbreak and Kansas Bankers Awards at the meeting. The Windbreak Award went to Rodney and Roxann Kling, who live on a farm southeast of Goodland. The Klings have two sons, Rory and Ryder. The Bankers Award was

given to Greg and Judi Nemechek, who farm southeast of Goodland. The Nemecheks have three children, Brandon, Bryant and BreAnna.

Before McCants made the presentations, he talked about the water situation in Sherman County. He said the government doesn’t want to regulate water, and suggested that farmers instead try to conserve for the future.

The Goodyear Award was presented to Max and Bernice Tedford, who farm northwest of Goodland, by Lonnie Whiteker, chairman of the district board.

The Tedfords have three grown children.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by two 4-H youths, Tammy Weeter and Darin Richardson. Weeter sang a few songs with backup from her mother, Dee.

Then Richardson and Weeter sang a song together, before he sang a few songs by himself.

The evening began with a supper prepared and served by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. They served chicken, scalloped potatoes, broccoli salad, rolls, Jell-o and cake.

An election and short business meeting also took place.

Lynn Ihrig was re-elected as a district board member for three years.

Center gets help from city

Commission gives \$5,000 for events

The Goodland Arts Center asked the city commission Tuesday for a \$5,000 grant to help run the center for this year.

Director Rebecca Downs and about eight representatives from the center’s board brought the request to a regular commission meeting. Mayor Chuck Lutters asked Downs if the art center had ever asked the county for money. Downs said she did not know if they had.

“Since we provide the building free and the utilities, I have a concern about giving that much to one place,” Lutters said. “This is half of what we have budgeted for all the organizations.”

Center backers explained the need for the city money.

“Our kids need more things to do especially in the summer,” said Tony Haas, “for those who may not be interested in athletics, and the center programs do this. I feel it is important to have these for the young people to keep them busy and out of trouble.”

“We network and partner with other groups to help provide these programs,” Downs said. “We are currently working with the elementary principals on the after school program.”

“The art center is one place we are proud to take visitors,” Joan Reid said. “It certainly helps us as much as the sunflower painting will.”

Commissioner Curtis Hurd said he thought the city support of the arts was important and that possibly the city should consider increasing the budget in the future.

When the vote was called on the motion to approve the \$5,000 grant, Mayor Lutters reluctantly said “Yes,” making it a unanimous 4-0 vote. Commissioner Tom Rohr was absent.

Upgrade slows 'Net connection

Electronic mail and connections to many Internet web sites were slowed and interrupted Tuesday for customers of **nwkansas.com** because of an upgrade being done in Topeka.

Evan Barnum, systems administrator for **nwkansas.com**, said the slowdown in the Internet connections was caused by an overload of the network at the Capital-Journal in Topeka and that the network people were working on an upgrade to solve that problem.

A related problem apparently caused customers to have difficulty getting their e-mail from the **nwkansas.com** server in Oberlin until about midnight Tuesday.

Barnum said the e-mail problems appear to have been corrected, and customers should be able to access their accounts today. He said the outage lasted for several hours, but service was restored late Tuesday.

Lawmakers asked to ban hand-held cell phones

TOPEKA (AP) — The speeding motorist didn’t pull over at the sound of Officer Darin Scott’s motorcycle siren. He had to chase her for 1,500 yards, pull alongside and motion for her to stop.

The incident occurred about a month ago in Topeka, and Scott remembers it because the driver was arguing with someone over a cellular telephone — and didn’t stop arguing just because she had been pulled over.

Scott, a 13-year veteran of the Topeka Police Department, came to the Statehouse on Tuesday for a House Transportation Committee hearing on a bill to ban use of hand-held cell phones by drivers. People would either have to pull over to talk, or get “hands-free” phones.

Lobbyists for several telecommunications companies said the bill isn’t needed, but supporters used Scott’s story as evidence that it is. There was not hard, statistical evidence that phones are causing accidents.

“People get in telephone conversations, and they forget about what’s going on,” Scott said after the hearing.

The bill would make it illegal for drivers to use hand-held cell phones. They would have two minutes after receiving a call to pull off the road. The law wouldn’t apply to emergency calls.

Illegal use of a cell phone would be a traffic infraction with a \$30 fine. Chairman Gary Hayzlett, R-Lakin, doesn’t plan to take a vote on the bill. He said the issue needs more study, especially because legislators have questions.