

weather report

86°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 7:53 p.m.

Tomorrow

- Sunrise, 5:33 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:54 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 69 degrees
- Humidity 24 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds north 12 mph
- Barometer 29.83 inches and steady
- Record High 94° (1936)
- Record Low 30° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

High	88°
Low	51°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 50-55, light wind. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms later, high 90-95, low 55, northeast wind 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday: chance of thunderstorms, high 80s, low upper 40s, to lower 50s.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Current wheat — \$2.90 bushel
 - New wheat — \$2.92 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.94
 - Corn — \$1.79 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.71
 - Loan deficiency payment — 28¢
 - Milo — \$2.83 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$3.89 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.92
 - Loan deficiency payment — 98¢
 - Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$6.65 cwt.
 - Oil new crop — \$5.90 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.94
 - Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$14 (new crop)
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, 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.

Wheat struggles under hot sun

WICHITA — Remaining stands of hard red winter wheat in Kansas revived slightly after last week's rains, but more summer-like temperatures forecast for this week threaten to set back what few gains the struggling crop has made.

Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service reported Monday that as much as 39 percent of remaining acres are in poor or very poor condition — just a bit of an improvement from the 41 percent in that shape a week ago.

For the rest of the crop, about 36 percent ranked in fair condition and 25 percent in good to excellent condition, the agency said. About 52 percent of the wheat in the state has made.

Corn planting was 89 percent complete, with about 87 percent up by now. Corn condition was rated as 30 percent fair, 62 percent good and 8 percent excellent.



City employees began laying sod this morning at the new Steever Water Park in Goodland. Manuel Hernandez cut sod even with the edge of the sidewalk as other crewmen inspected his work.
Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Crews push to get water park ready

Big opening day May 30 on target barring problems

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News
Opening day for Goodland's new Steever Water Park is getting closer and city employees, an asphalt paving company, and the company that built the pools are pushing to get the place ready.

City Manager Ron Pickman was at the park this morning to oversee and help where needed.

"Right now," Pickman said, "we're right on schedule for opening on May 30, barring any unforeseen problems."

Associated Pool Builders' employees were checking equipment as the pool was being filled. There was some water leaking around a couple of seals in the equipment room, but Leon Schultz of Associated said it should be fixed by this morning.

"This is normal," he said. "Nothing major, unless something big happens when we start the machines up."

City Commissioner Curtis Hurd was sweeping and picking up trash.

"In construction language," he said, "I'm the peon."

Jerry Nemechek, city building inspector, was helping also.

Pickman said the sod was delivered



Jerry Andrews with Lafarge, an asphalt paving company from Burlington, sprayed oil this morning on the first layer of asphalt on the access road to help bond it with a second layer.

this morning and city employees were working to get the ground around the pools ready to lay it.

"By this evening," he said, "we should have a large portion of the sod in place."

Pickman said Lafarge, an asphalt contractor from Burlington, would finish the access road around the park either today or tomorrow.

A ribbon cutting is scheduled from 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 30, Pickman said, and the park will be open for public viewing and tours by staff from 10 a.m. to noon that day.

As part of the festivities, four people will be picked to be the first to go down the slides and off the diving boards at 11 a.m., Pickman said.

The names will be drawn from two sign-up boxes at the Goodland city office. There will be a box for the slides and one for the boards. To be eligible, people need to be 48 inches tall to go off the slides and able to swim the width of the pool to go off the boards. Swimmers can register until Tuesday, May 29, when the names will be drawn shortly before noon and the winners will be notified.

"If we don't get a hold of the people," Pickman said, "or if they can't make it to the opening, then we'll draw someone else's name."

He said on opening day, the park will close at noon so the staff can get things ready for swimming, which will start at 1 p.m.

There will be drawings and games sponsored by the Goodland Dairy Queen throughout the afternoon.

Debbie Lawson of St. Francis has been hired as the pool manager, Pickman said, and about 12 to 14 lifeguards will be hired.

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County gets new insurance

Treasurer's office will close for funeral

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County commissioners approved a change in the county's short-term disability insurance and delayed appointments to the Smoky Gardens Board at today's regular meeting.

It was announced that the county treasurer's office will close at 1 p.m. Thursday to allow the employees to attend the funeral of Ken Bennets.

American Fidelity Assurance Co. was approved as the new carrier for the short term disability, and County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the lower cost should save the county about \$2,400 annually.

The commissioners also approved establishing a county "cafeteria" insurance benefits plan, where employees can choose the services they want, and authorized Mike Niernberger of American Fidelity to meet with each one to explain the program. In a previous meeting, the commissioners discussed establishing the benefit plan despite an apparent lack of interest from employees.

Niernberger said he expected such a response without the individual presentation, and said he expected to have several enroll if they understand the full impact of the program. He said the meetings would be done yearly, and that all employees would have to decide if they wanted to take the plan or not.

The commissioners had made two Smoky Gardens appointments at the last meeting, but there are still two vacancies. They decided to delay the appointments until the new state wildlife officer moves to the area, and since Kenneth Bennets was a member, his death in a car accident this week opens another vacancy.

William McKnight, county building manager, reported that he had the two air conditioning units checked and that the one for the third floor was in need of additional refrigerant.

Neil Normandin, owner of Goodland Sheet Metal, told the commissioners there appears to be a slow leak in the system for the third floor, and that he had to put about 23 pounds of refrigerant in it last week. He said the system had been charged with 33 pounds of liquid refrigerant two years ago. He suggested this fall the whole system be checked to find the leak.

The commissioners told Normandin to put the air conditioner on his list to check in the fall, and to find the leak.

Jerry Dean of Lockwood Co. of Atchison talked to the commissioners about the area and time he will need to do the microfilming of the county records.

He said he has two cameras, which will take about 8-10 feet each, and that he expects the project to take four to five weeks. He told the commissioners he expects to begin the first week of June.

The commissioners and Clerk Rumpel talked about where the cameras could be located, and suggested that part of the commissioner room be cleared out to make room for the cameras.

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School district names coaches, hires non-teaching staff

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

After talking behind closed doors for more than an hour, the Goodland School Board on Monday filled coaching positions, named head teachers and department heads, hired back non-certified staff and accepted two resignations.

It was the last regular meeting of the school year, and the board spent most of the four hours in closed session discussing personnel matters with the district's five principals.

The principals gave the board recommendations for supplemental contracts — coaches, head teachers and department heads — and non-certified staff, employees who do not teach).

After much talk, members said they agreed with the principals, approving all of the recommendations. Some of the coaching and employee positions remained open, as the district hasn't found replacements for employees who are leaving at the end of the year.

Before accepting the resignations, the board signed two resolutions saying the district will not renew annual contracts for James and Jaime Oss, first-year high school teachers.

Members decided at an earlier meeting to fire the couple, who moved here in 1999, but the resolutions made it official. Oss, an earth science teacher, and his wife, who teaches English, will finish the school year.

The board accepted resignations

from Marlene Applebee, a teacher's aide at North Elementary School, and Joan Darnauer, a sixth-grade teacher at North. Both will work until the last day of school on Friday, May 25.

The board started the meeting by presenting awards to outstanding students, teachers and administrators. Members also heard annual reports from members of each school's site council — parents and teachers who work to improve facilities and education in the district.

Superintendent Marvin Selby told the board that teachers and administrators were to meet at 7:30 a.m. this morning to talk about a 32.8 percent increase in the district's health insurance policy next year.

The district postponed school for an hour this morning to accommodate the meeting, which lasted until about 8:30 a.m.

Selby said Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the district's insurance provider, paid out much more last year for claims in the district than it took in. He said to recoup the cost, the company had to increase rates.

The superintendent said even without the high claims, the district would have seen a 10 percent increase to cover the increasing cost of health care. He said if the district stays with the plan, next year it will pay \$69 more per month for each of the 150 staff members covered, an increase of about \$150,000.

Earlier in the meeting, Selby said the district will receive less money from the state next year because of declining enrollment. He said the higher insurance rates will add to the problem, and staff and administrators will discuss alternative insurance plans today.

The board gave two high school juniors permission to graduate early next year to further their education elsewhere.

Jamie Enfield, who said she decided she wanted to go into business after shadowing students at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, said she plans to attend college in Fort Morgan, Colo., to earn an associate's degree in

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