

weather report

93°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:18 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:23 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:18 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 76 degrees
- Humidity 28 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds calm
- Barometer 30.08 inches and falling
- Record High 106° (1970)
- Record Low 43° (1985)

Last 24 Hours*

High 97°
Low 63°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 65, southwest wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 95, low 65, southeast wind 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: chance of thunderstorms, high 90-95. Sunday and Monday: dry, high mid 90s, low mid 60s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.63 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.49
 - Corn — \$1.83 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.61
 - Loan deficiency payment — 38¢
 - Milo — \$2.99 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$3.94 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.01
 - Loan deficiency payment — 91¢
 - Millet — \$5.25 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$7.50 cwt.
 - Oil new crop — \$6.25 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.00
 - 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.
'Odd couple' actor dies, 76

LOS ANGELES — Jack Lemmon, the two-time Oscar winner whose acting talents ranged from adroit comedies "The Apartment" and "Some Like It Hot" to the dramatic intensity of "Days of Wine and Roses" and "Tuesdays with Morrie," has died. He was 76. Lemmon died Wednesday night from complications related to cancer, said his spokesman Warren Cowan. His wife Felicia, his two children and a stepdaughter were at his bedside at USC/Norris Cancer Center, Cowan said. The Harvard-educated actor began in films with two stylish comedies and a musical with Betty Grable. Throughout his career, and especially in films with Walter Matthau, Lemmon was often cast as the well-meaning fellow, a trifle square, who is taken advantage of. Lemmon's style was based on an Everyman beset by disasters.



Red hot evening



William McKnight (above), a fireman, squirted water on burned grass Wednesday about a mile west of Ruleton, while Chris Bauman, another volunteer, drove the truck. Later, city firemen (top photo) put out a wood pile fire in eastern Goodland. Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Evening fires burn wood pile, grass

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Two fires kept rural and city fire fighters busy on Wednesday.

A Canadian harvest crew put out a grass fire Wednesday afternoon that the cutters said could have burned a lot more area than it did.

The Raes family from Saskatchewan, Canada, was cutting wheat for Errington Farms about a mile west of Ruleton about 4 p.m. when the father, Morrie, and son, Sheldon, who were working on one of their combines in the field directly south of the railroad right-of-way, noticed a four-foot-wide patch of grass that was burning.

Sheldon said they used water and

chemical extinguishers to put the fire out. They have a tank of water on their service truck that they used to fill the extinguishers. The mother, Colleen, and daughter, Fiona, stopped to help.

The fire was along Road 9 between old U.S. 24 and Road 64.2. Sheriff's Deputy Roger Studer said he didn't know for sure how the fire started.

No wheat was burned, only about a half acre patch of grass between a fence and the railroad tracks.

Sheldon said he and his father have fought fires before and Morrie is on a volunteer fireman where they live.

"The outcome was all right," Morrie said. "No damage done and nobody hurt."

Farmers, Jacob and Tim Wilkening,

were working summer fallow in a field owned by Errington Farms north of the tracks. They saw the fire and Tim called 911 from his tractor.

Rural fire trucks were dispatched, but the fire was pretty much out by the time they arrived. Volunteer Fireman Chris Bauman, drove a rig over the burned area while William McKnight, another volunteer fireman, squirted water on the patch to make sure the fire was out.

Morrie said if he and his family hadn't got to it right away, he thinks it would have spread into the wheat before the fire department got there.

In 25 years of harvesting, he added, this is the first time he has put out a fire like this.

About 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Kevin Zimmerman and Kendall Cooper, owners of K&K Tree Service, were using a chainsaw to cut wood behind Zimmerman's home at 1300 E. Business U.S. 24, when the wood pile caught fire.

Dean Jensen, city fire chief, said he wasn't sure what started the fire, which burned only a portion of the large wood pile and a small section of grass to the north. Flames shot into the air, but city firemen, with help from the rural fire department, had the blaze under control quickly.

Using water, foam and a front loader, fire fighters spread out the pile, wetting down hot spots. Zimmerman said the blaze was out by 6:15 p.m.

County to hold fee level

Officials may create new tipping prices

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Based on a work session Tuesday evening, the Sherman County commissioners are expected to leave the solid waste fees at the current level when they meet Friday, but will establish a tipping fee at the county transfer station for next year.

The commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. Friday in the jury room on the second floor of the Sherman County courthouse because of the microfilming being done in the commissioner's room.

At the work session, held at Sugar Hills Country Club, Commissioners Chuck Frankenfeld, Mitch Tiede and Kevin Rasure went over the budget needs for the county landfill with County Clerk Janet Rumpel and Curt Way, supervisor of the county road and bridge department.

Way told the commissioners he expects to receive the formal approval of the soil liner at the new landfill from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in the next few weeks. Once the liner and sump are installed, the landfill could be open by September or October.

Looking at equipment and other needs at the landfill, the county expects to spend about \$520,000. This includes \$30,000 for fencing, \$35,000 for electrical service, \$50,000 for a building, \$80,000 for a used track loader, \$140,000 for a used scraper, \$45,000 for a semi tractor, \$10,000 for monitoring well pumps, \$80,000 for a compactor and \$50,000 for additional employees.

These expenses do not include the remaining costs on the excavation of the landfill which is being done by Grasser Construction of Stratton, Colo. The basic cell has been completed, and the next step is the installation of the soil liner after the approval is received from the state.

To offset the costs, Rumpel said the county has \$323,000 in bond money to help purchase the needed equipment and there is about \$475,000 in the solid waste fund to cover the cost of excavating the cell and the other costs not covered by the bonds.

Commissioners talked about handling the household hazardous waste program, and asked Way to find out from the state what might be required.

Way said he had an application for a permit to handle the household hazardous waste, and that he would try to get help getting it filled out and find out how long it would take for approval.

The commissioners discussed hiring

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Bank here takes over in Oberlin

By Kimberly Brandt

The Oberlin Herald

First National Bank of Goodland took over the Commercial Federal Bank branch in Oberlin on Friday.

In May, First National announced the change and since then officials have been getting ready for the switch.

First National Bank has 105 years of experience in Goodland and has expanded in the last 15 years to St. Francis, Sharon Springs, Quinter, Colby and Kirk, Colo.

It is an employee-owned bank with the majority of its stock held by its officers and staff.

Larry McCants, president of the Goodland-based bank, said for the last three weeks staff at the bank in Oberlin has been being trained. Employees in Goodland have worked closely with them, getting them ready for the switch. The bank here has a new computer sys-

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Pen pals DeeAnn Ihrig (right), Goodland, and Indrawati Widyarta of Indonesia during Widyarta's trip to Sherman County this month. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Indonesian pen pal enjoys rural peace

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County is a whole new world to Indrawati Widyarta, a 54-year-old Indonesian woman who is accustomed to living amid poverty, violence and filth.

"It's very peaceful here," said Widyarta, a native of Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. "It's not like that in Jakarta. People here are close to each other, friendly, not indifferent."

Widyarta — called "Indra" by friends — made the long trip to Sherman County earlier this month to visit her pen pal, DeeAnn Ihrig, with whom she has been corresponding with by e-mail since last April.

Widyarta, a vocational school English teacher in the large city, said she met Ihrig, a substitute teacher in Goodland, on an Internet pen pal web site. Ihrig sent the first e-mail letter, she said, and she responded quickly, eager to make a foreign friend.

Though the pen pals live thousands of miles apart, in places where culture

and politics are in sharp contrast, Widyarta said they have built a strong friendship.

"I... We feel we are very close to each other," she said. "We share everything."

Ihrig said they write about their customs, their family, their jobs and their lives in general, exchanging gifts that give insight into American or Indonesian culture.

Ihrig said she sent Widyarta a Father's Day card, explaining later that Americans honor their fathers each year on the third Sunday in June. She said Widyarta mailed her a scarf that had been decorated using a method of dyeing designs on cloth called batik.

Taking the scarf with her on teaching assignments, Ihrig said she explains to students how removable wax was used to form designs on the scarf. She said the tangible item piques students' interest.

"When I have the opportunity to

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