

**weather report**

**93°**

at noon



**Today**

• Sunset, 8:02 p.m.

**Tomorrow**

• Sunrise, 5:46 a.m.  
• Sunset, 8:01 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 75 degrees
- Humidity 36 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds southwest 17-25 mph
- Barometer 29.92 inches and steady
- Record High 106° (1935)
- Record Low 43° (1971)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High 96°  
Low 65°  
Precipitation none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 40 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 65, winds south 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 50 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 95, low 65, south wind 10-20 mph.

**Extended Forecast**

Wednesday: chance of thunderstorms, high 85. Thursday: chance of thunderstorms, high 80, low 65. Friday: chance of thunderstorms, high 80s, low 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 — \$2.53
- Corn — \$2.03 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.93
- Loan deficiency payment — 6¢
- Milo — \$3.26 hundredweight
- Soybeans — \$4.69 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.52
- Loan deficiency payment — 40¢
- Millet — \$5.00 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$8.40 cwt.
- Oil new crop — \$7.20 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.32
- Confection current — no bid
- Pinto beans — \$16 (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.

**Fair explosion kills four men**

MEDINA, Ohio — Investigators today focused on the possible failure of a safety device as the reason an antique steam-powered tractor exploded at a fairground and killed four men and injured 50 people.

The blast, which hurled hot oil and shrapnel up to 100 yards, came on the eve of the opening of the 156th Medina County Fair, an annual event that drew 120,000 people last year. It is one of Ohio's oldest and largest county fairs.

The fair opened as planned today but admission started two hours later than scheduled so organizers could finish setting up.

Grace Fulton waited in line for the gates to open so she could watch her eight grandchildren show their animals.

"This is a farming community and they know the safety that has to be in place," said Fulton, 64.

## Fair primping



Brook Redlin, a 4-H member in Sherman County, smiled as he raked gravel in the livestock barns at the fairgrounds Friday as part of the annual clean-up day. The Northwest Kansas District Free Fair will start next Monday. Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

## 4-Hers, parents prepare for next week

By Sharon Corcoran  
*The Goodland Daily News*  
More than 40 4-Hers and their parents met fair board members Friday morning to clean up the grounds and get ready for the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair next week.

The clean-up crew swept out the agriculture building, swept the pavement in the livestock barns and raked the gravel in the barns. They tore up the old project booths to make room to set up new ones and set up pens for the animals.

Steve Duell, president of the Sherman County Fair Board, said they hold the clean-up day once a year to get the dirt and the bugs out and get ready to bring the projects in. The fair will be Monday-Saturday, Aug. 6-11.

Children, teen-agers and adults all pitched in to shape up the fairgrounds. And while some youngsters said they "have to help out," others said they enjoy it.

Jessica Lake said she was helping out this year "just because," while Megan Sheldon said she helps with the clean-up every year.

"It's part of being in 4-H," she said. "It's something we have to do."

Rebecca Gattshall said she has helped with the clean-up since she was 5.



BreAnna Nemechek and Stephanie Sheldon (sitting) and Megan Sheldon took a well-deserved break during 4-H clean-up day Friday.

"I've helped out since I was this tall," she said, holding her hand just above her knees.

BreAnna Nemechek and Stephanie Sheldon were not enthusiastic about cleaning but said they enjoy their 4-H projects.

Sheldon said about the cleaning, "It's not that much fun."

She said she likes working with her goats and Nemechek said she likes to ride her horse, which will be in the horse show at the fair.

Both girls talked enthusiastically about the booth their 4-H club, the Country Clubbers, will set up at the fair.

"The theme of the booth is 'Examine the possibilities of 4-H,'" the girls said, "and will show a child looking through a magnifying glass."

Brook Redlin was hamming it up while raking gravel in the livestock barns but said he didn't really like cleaning; he just helps out sometimes. He was more eager to talk about his 4-H projects for the fair. He said he made a sprint car and a motorized dump truck out of K-Nex, building blocks that are similar to Legos. He also made a faux aquarium with glass fish in a jar of water.

Not all of the young people dislike cleaning. Jason Krayca was sweeping the livestock building with a smile on his face and said he likes to sweep.

Jake Kling used a shovel to help smooth the gravel in the barns. "I help out every year," he said, "and I like it."

## County to order tax sale, discuss fair budget

By Tom Betz  
*The Goodland Daily News*  
Sherman County hasn't had a tax sale since 1993, but County Attorney Bonnie Selby and Treasurer Shelby Miller have been working on the details to hold one this fall.

Commissioners will be asked to take the next step at 8 a.m. Tuesday morning at their final meeting for July. Selby and Miller will present a resolution setting out the terms and dates of the tax sale, and a listing of the over 100 pieces of property they are considering putting up for sale. The county can sell property on which taxes have not been paid for at least three years, providing it meets a complicated set of legal requirements.

Steve Duell, chairman of the county fair board, will talk to the commissioners about the budget for next year's fair, and changes being required by the city.

Representatives of the Goodland Development Corp., Schyler Goodwin and Mitch Hixson, will be asking the commissioners to consider waiving any landfill fees and allow people to bring things to the transfer station for a Junk Parade on Saturday, Sept. 22.

The two young men are hoping the junk will help clean up the city before the Flatlander Festival in September.

In other business, commissioners will:

- Review a letter from Med Enterprises' Dennis Bentzinger about fire extinguisher service. The letter says there are a couple of options which could save the county about 10 percent.
- Review the emergency medical training contract as proposed by the Goodland Regional Medical Center.
- Review draft copies of the agreements for between the city and county City-County Recreation and the prisoner care agreement.
- Consider leases for the fairgrounds for the Alumni Association and Relay for Life.
- Review the holiday schedule for 2002.
- Discuss whether to have a consultant review the county employee hand-

book.

Kay Barton of the district court will ask the commissioners to consider adding the microfilming of the court records to the current project.

The commissioners will meet in the commissioners' room on the first floor of the Sherman County Courthouse, Eighth and Broadway.

## Search begins for cause of apartment explosion

EMPORIA (AP)—An investigation into an explosion and fire that killed two people at an apartment building will probably take most of a week.

All five apartments in the building at the Eastgate Plaza complex were destroyed about 9 a.m. Sunday, blowing out two walls and quickly leading to what a neighbor called a "mushroom cloud of flame."

One adult and an infant were killed and seven other people, including a firefighter, were injured. No information was released about the adult and infant, whose bodies were recovered later in the day and were taken to Topeka for autopsies.

A woman and her baby lived in the apartment which exploded, neighbors said.

"I've never seen an explosion like this one," said Emporia Fire Chief Jack Taylor, whose department was joined by firefighters from nearby Olpe and Americus.

Taylor said injuries were mostly minor. The firefighter and five of the injured were released from Newman Memorial County Hospital after treatment while the seventh person, Stacy Depriest, 39, was in good condition Sunday night at a hospital in Wichita.

No cause was immediately apparent.

## Kansans mourn Finney

*First female governor died this weekend*

By John Hanna  
*Associated Press Writer*

TOPEKA — Across the state Sunday, people from all backgrounds mourned Joan Finney and remembered Kansas' first woman governor for her ability to connect with them.

Mrs. Finney, 76, died Saturday from complications from liver cancer diagnosed earlier this year.

She served one term as governor, in 1991-95, after 16 years as state treasurer, holding both offices as a Democrat. However, she began her career in 1953 as a Republican, working on U.S. Frank Carlson's staff and considered Carlson, who also served as governor, her mentor.

Mrs. Finney had friends in both parties, and even her opponents admired her ability to work crowds and remember faces, names and personal details about people, down to their pets' names.

"Within a minute, you felt like she'd known you forever," state Sen. Jim Barone, D-Frontenac, said Sunday. "She just had that magic about her. People liked her."

A rosary was scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Topeka's Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, to be said by members of the Sisters of Charity from Leavenworth. An ecumenical service will follow at 7:30 p.m.

Mass for the former governor is scheduled at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the church, with a burial set for 9 a.m. Thursday at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Topeka. Mrs. Finney was to be cremated.

Gov. Bill Graves, a Republican who succeeded Mrs. Finney in office, described her as "one of our finest public servants" and ordered all flags at state buildings flown at half-staff through her funeral.

"Gov. Joan Finney's passion for personally knowing and understanding Kansas people, and her desire to serve their needs, endeared her to this state," Graves said.

Before she was diagnosed with cancer, Mrs. Finney's most serious illness had been the heart problems that led to

See FINNEY, Page 3

## Crossing to close for repairs

By Rachel Miscall  
*The Goodland Daily News*

Kyle Railroad plans to repair the crossing on Cattletrail Avenue early Tuesday, closing down one lane of traffic for at least an hour at the only major entrance to downtown Goodland left open from the south.

City Manager Ron Pickman said Kyle will start work at 6:30 a.m. and plans to finish by 7:30. He said the railroad is going to smooth out the crossing to reduce damage increased traffic on Cattletrail is causing to the rails.

Contractors working for the Kansas Department of Transportation have closed Cherry Ave. from Business U.S. 24 to 18th Street and most of K-27 from the Cattletrail entrance to the Cheyenne County line for construction. The closings have increased traffic along Cattletrail and 17th Street, Pickman said.

He said one lane of traffic on Cattletrail will be closed at a time, and city workers will help with traffic control and repairs. He said Kyle had planned to make the repairs on Thursday, when hundreds of people will be coming to town for the five-year alumni reunion, but the city asked them to do the work before that.

The manager said the city volunteered to help to avoid major traffic problems. The city has taken a lot of heat from business owners and residents about the untimely road closings.

No cause was immediately apparent.