

weather report

41°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 4:47 p.m.
- Sunrise, 7:05 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:48 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 46 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds south 13 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.36 inches and rising
- Record High 64° (2000)
- Record Low -15° (1979)

Last 24 Hours*

High 65°
Low 27°
Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Tonight: cloudy, low upper teens, winds southeast 10-15 m.p.h. Wednesday: cloudy with 40 percent chance of snow in the afternoon increasing to 60 percent in the evening, high 35-40, low near 10, winds east 15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: mostly cloudy with 20 percent chance of snow in the morning, high mid 20s, low near 10. Friday: cloudy, low upper 30s. Saturday: mostly clear, high lower 40s, high upper teens.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.19 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.18
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.36 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.18
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.13 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.03 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.94
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$10.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.60 cwt.
NuSun — \$10.85 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$15
(Markets 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.

Pressure may avert a war

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said today he was “optimistic and hopeful” that persistent pressure on Saddam Hussein could lead to Iraq’s disarmament without a war.

Annan said “there is no doubt” U.S. pressure and the threat of force led to the return of U.N. weapons inspectors after four years. European and Arab nations are continuing to pressure Iraq to fill in the gaps in its 12,000-page weapons declaration, he said.

“I am optimistic and hopeful that if we handle the situation right and the pressure on the Iraqi leadership is maintained we may be able to disarm Iraq peacefully without need to resort to war,” he told a press conference.

Coach questions need for helmets

By Michelle L. Hawkins

The Goodland Daily News

Cowboy track coach Dennis Stone, at Monday’s meeting of the Goodland School Board, questioned whether safety helmets really help protect pole vaulters.

Last fall, when the school board decided to install a new pole vaulting pit at the track to meet new state safety standards, it also decided to require Goodland vaulters to wear helmets.

Stone asked the board to consider loosening its rule and allowing valuters to exempt themselves by signing a waiver.

He told the board has been researching the benefits of helmets in the event and has come to the conclusion they have no real value at the height the vaulters jump unless they land off of the pits.

Plus, the way the helmets sit on their head, he said, there is a possibility of injury just from using

the helmet.

Stone presented his research to the board and asked them to possibly allow a waiver, a statement that is signed by the student and parents which would give them the opportunity to wear the helmets if they are more comfortable doing so, but not to require it.

“To say that every athlete *should* wear one is — dangerous — for a lack of a better word,” he said.

He also added the best way to pro-

tect the vaulter is teaching proper technique and good supervision. Stone told the board having a fourth track coach again would be valuable for the safety of the athletes.

Kathy Russell asked Stone if he could get information from the state about how many school districts now require helmets for pole vaulters.

The board agreed to review the information and make a decision later.

Pushing for the final inches



Blayne Bahe held tight to a competitor from Wichita's Kaupan-Mount Caramel for a pin at the Southwest Classic in Liberal on Friday and Saturday. Bahe finished the tournament in second

place in the 119-pound weight class. For complete results, see today's Sports, Page 8.

Photo by Liz West/The Goodland Daily News

Former sports editor pleads guilty in court

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Doug Stephens, former sports editor of *The Goodland Daily News*, has returned to Goodland and his family.

Stephens plead guilty to misuse of a company credit card in municipal court on Monday, Jan. 8.

Stephens, who disappeared on Oct. 21, plead not guilty to a second charge of stealing the credit card. That charge was set for trial at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

In pleading guilty, Stephens said he had used the card for personal purchases on Oct. 20, the day before he disappeared totaling, \$331.

Municipal Judge Mac McGinley found Stephens guilty on the misuse charge and fined him \$100 plus

court costs of \$36 and ordered him to pay restitution for the charges.

Stephens returned to Goodland about Christmas and was served with the city summons at the end of December.

About the time he returned, the Casa Grande, Ariz., police called *The Daily News* office and the Goodland Police Department to say that they had found Stephens’ wallet and checkbook.

At the time Stephens disappeared, *The Daily News* was investigating questions about a story in “The Graying Plains” special section published in September.

In the section, Stephens wrote a story about the effects of the changing population on the school districts of northwest Kansas, and was

supposed to have interviewed the superintendents.

Questions rose when at least two of the superintendents quoted in the article said they did not remember ever talking to Stephens. Superintendent Carl Werner of St. Francis said he did not feel the comments reflected his opinion. The other, Kelly Glodt of Oberlin, said they were basically accurate, but he could not recall ever talking to Stephens. Company phone records showed no calls to either office by Stephens.

After checking call records and talking to the superintendents, Editor Tom Betz said he had concluded that much of the article was a compilation of the interviews that Stephens did complete, but that

some opinions had been attributed to superintendents without his ever talking to those persons.

Asked about the story, Stephens said he could not remember what had happened, but thought he had not “made up” any of the material. He thought it was possible the material attributed to Werner had actually come from another person.

“We are disturbed about how this happened,” Betz said, “and apologize for misquoting those who had not been interviewed.

“In our business, this is really worse than the misuse of the company credit card. When we were finally able to ask Stephens about the story he was unable to give us a satisfactory answer. It is the kind of action that would be grounds for firing.”

School roundup

At its meeting Monday, the Goodland School Board:

- Held a closed session to discuss personnel issues. After the 40-minute session, the board accepted two resignations, hired an assistant basketball coach for the seventh grade girls, and offering a contract to the superintendent for the 2003-2004 school year. Story to come.
- Listened to the pros and cons of requiring the use of pole vaulters using safety helmets. Story above.
- Heard the monthly reports from principals. Story to come.
- Agreed to apply for an Energy Conservation grant. Story to come.
- Granted permission to sell an unused printer. Story to come.
- Granted permission to accept bids on the roof of the high school.
- Accepted the Professional Development Council report. Story to come.
- Agreed to form a team for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters’ upcoming bowling fund raiser. Story to come.

Filing deadline Tuesday

By Michelle L. Hawkins

The Goodland Daily News

Anybody interested in filing for a seat on the Goodland City Commission or the Goodland School Board has until Tuesday to get their name on the ballot.

The filing deadline is noon on Tuesday, said City Manager Ron Pickman.

Anyone filing for a position on the school board needs to go to County Clerk Janet Rumpel’s office at the Sherman County courthouse to get an application. Those interested in filing for a position on the City Commission need to see City Clerk Mary Volk at the City Administration Building.

The four school board members serving in positions up for election are Eric Gray, Ben Duell, Jane Philbrick and Kathy Russell. The school board is made up of seven members and a chairman is chosen from the group. The filing fee for school board positions is \$5.

For the City Commission, the three positions up for election are filled by Curtis Hurd, Tom Rohr and Rick Billinger. There are five members on the city commission. The filing fee is \$10.

If necessary, a primary election will be held Feb. 25. This will happen if more than twice the number of people file as there are positions open.

The general election for these positions will be Tuesday, April 1.

Trailer begins pumping contaminants from old service station

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Daily News

State officials have begun pumping contaminants out of the ground at a former service station site at 13th and Main, hoping to keep benzene out of the city’s water supply.

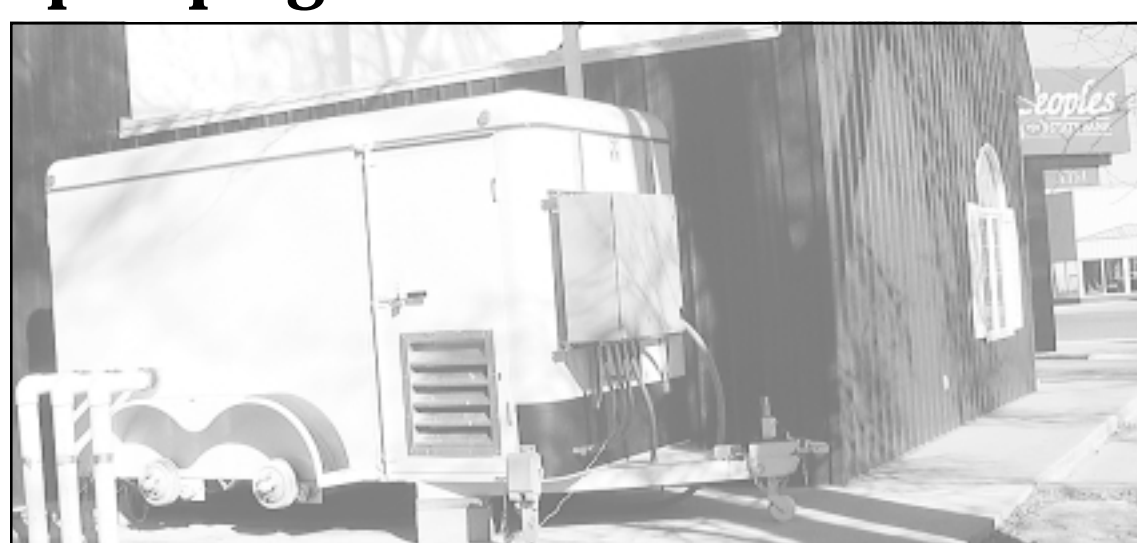
Scott O’Neal, project manager for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, said the site isn’t big, but it got priority because it’s close to the city’s well at Chambers Park.

The groundwater flow appears to be east-northeast, though, he said, away from the well.

O’Neal conducted a public hearing on the project at the Goodland Public Library, but only one person showed up to hear about the work.

A trailer containing a soil vapor extraction system is parked at the old station, formerly occupied by a print shop and now home to Peoples State Bank.

Last fall, three vapor extraction



This trailer with the pumps to handle underground contamination is in place behind Peoples State Bank and is humming away.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

wells were drilled to tap three separate subsurface zones.

O’Neal said air from the wells will be pumped into equipment that

separates out any water and dissipates the benzene into the atmosphere. He said there won’t be enough benzene released to cause an

air pollution problem.

Money for the project comes from the Kansas Petroleum Storage Tank Release Trust Fund, which is fueled

by a one-cent-per-gallon tax on fuel sold in Kansas. O’Neal said a former owner if the property, Don Roulier, had joined the fund.

In January 1997, a 1,000-gallon underground storage tank which contained waste oil was removed from the site. A 3,000-gallon gasoline tank also was removed. O’Neal said the leak apparently came from the oil tank.

The project will take two to five years to complete, he said. There may be some noise from the pumps which pull vapors out of the ground, he said, but the department will try to keep it to a minimum.

Anyone with questions about the work can contact O’Neal at (785) 296-1597, or soneal@kdhe.state.ks.us; Greg Hattan, chief of the remedial unit, Storage Tank Section, (785) 296-5931, ghattan@kdhe.state.ks.us or Tom Winn, chief of the Storage Tank Section, (785) 296-1684, twinn@kdhe.state.ks.us.