

weather report

48°

at noon



Today

•Sunset, 7:33 p.m.

Tomorrow

•Sunrise, 5:55 a.m.

•Sunset, 7:34 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 50 degrees
- Humidity 89 percent
- Sky overcast with light rain
- Winds north 20-25 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.69 inches and rising

- Record High 88° (1981)
- Record Low 22° (2002)

Last 24 Hours*

High 65°
Low 43°
Precipitation .34

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: partly sunny, high mid 60s, low lower 40s, winds southeast 5-10 m.p.h. Saturday: mostly sunny with 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high lower 70s, low lower 40s.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy with slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, high mid 60s. Monday: partly cloudy with slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, high upper 60s, low mid 40s. Tuesday: partly cloudy, high mid 70s, low mid 40s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.13 bushel
New Crop — \$2.75 bushel
Corn — \$2.43 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.28
Milo — \$2.20 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.59 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.44
Millet — \$6 hundredweight
New crop — \$5.75
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.20 cwt.
Oil new crop — \$10.15 cwt.
NuSun — \$9.80 cwt.
NuSun new crop — \$10.85
Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.
New crop — \$17/\$10 cwt.
Pinto beans — withdrawn
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigo Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Mother opens new daycare

Maggie Schaffer, mother of two, held her son William while talking about her new licensed daycare center she has opened in her home. She has openings for six children ages 11 and under. See Page 3.

County seeks private trash hauler

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The county takeover of trash collection moved forward Tuesday as the Sherman County commissioners agreed to advertise for proposals to subcontract the trash pickup.

At a special meeting Tuesday, the commissioners completed drafting a request for proposal they will send to anyone interested in collecting the trash.

Chairman Kevin Rasure said interested contractors should call him or Curt Way, county public works manager. The package is expected to be ready today, and the deadline for returning them is Tuesday, May 13.

Rasure said the commissioners will review all the proposals before making a decision.

“We know this is not going to be easy,” he said, “because each proposal will have differences in approach and specifics. We will have to review each on their own basis and make sure they are covering the basics included in the proposal.”

Those interested in submitting proposals were invited to attend the meeting to discuss the details. Kevin Butts and Chuck Redlin were present. Rasure said he had been in con-

tact with several others, including Justin Comer of Haysville, who met recently with the commissioners.

Rasure said the contractors brought up a point about the city’s equipment, and he said there may be some tax implications that need to be worked out.

“If we lease or sell the equipment to the individual or firm, there may be a sales tax or property tax that will have to be paid,” he said. “We are looking at ways to answer this question.”

“It may have an impact on the costs, but we are stressing to the people interested in doing the collection that our main mission is to keep the rates at the present level and to improve service.”

The major points of the proposal are that the subcontractor must provide solid waste service to all residents of the city and those outside the city who are now being served, and that there should be a proposal for commercial customers that have special needs.

The trash must be hauled to county transfer station, and all loads must meet the sorting requirements of the state and county. The sub-contractor is to include a plan with charges

and rates for special pickups, and the yard waste collection will be done in a similar manner as it is now.

The sub-contractor also is to provide plans for maintenance of public sites for handling small amounts of metal and construction and demolition debris.

The bidder is to provide a performance bond, and do the billing for special pickups and commercial accounts. They will be required to maintain a telephone service during the business day to allow people to call about service or ask questions.

The target day for the start-up is July, but Rasure said that could be changed.

He said the contract with the city should be ready for their approval at the next meeting on Wednesday.

Rasure said the county’s solid waste committee met on Monday to review the proposal and the contract. He said the members were satisfied with the details, and supported the process the commissioners are following.

Way can be reached at 899-4865 or Rasure at 899-7149.

Rasure said the commissioners also approved a plan for holding a Prayer Day ceremony at the courthouse on Thursday.

Girl Scouts welcome newest Brownies

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Nearly 100 people were on hand for food, fun and Girl Scout recognition at the Girl Scout banquet Tuesday at the United Methodist Church fellowship hall.

The evening was a group effort for scouts and leaders.

Lori Amthor, a Scout leader, said the banquet is held once a year, usually during Girl Scout Week. There was no time then, she said, so the group held it on Earth Day this year.

The Scouts had bridging ceremonies for those moving up a level, she said, and recognition for those earning badges.

The levels are Daisies, kindergarten; Brownies, first to third grades; Juniors, fourth to sixth grades; Cadettes, seventh to ninth grades; and Seniors, high school.

There are many badges the girls can earn, Amthor said, including the sports badge, cooking badge and photography badge.

All the leaders pitch in to plan the banquet, she said, and the Scouts have key roles. The Junior troop helped cook the meat and potatoes, she said, to earn their cooking badges. The Cadettes decorated the stage, and the Brownies did the table decorations.

There are 58 Scouts in Goodland, Amthor said.



Leader Janet Arnold (below right) gave Daisy Scout Danielle Lovato her Brownie pin, as Shania Sapp and Taylor Thomas waited for theirs at the Goodland Girl Scouts awards banquet on Tuesday. Holly Wilkening, Elizabeth Wellmann, Tiara Gagliardo and Breanna Garrett (above) shared secrets as they waited for the Daisies to become Brownies. Mary Williams and Katlyn and Kirsten Topliff, twins, (below) enjoyed the meal.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News



City agrees to trial period for new stop signs on Cherry

By Steve Haynes

The Goodland Star-News

Residents around 10th and Cherry worried about cars zipping north from the high school came back to the Goodland City Commission on Monday, and went home with a victory this time, stop signs for the intersection.

Two weeks earlier, the commission had turned the request down, saying state engineers advised against using stop signs to control speed. They suggested having the police pay more attention to speed on Cherry.

This time, the residents repeated

their plea, saying that they hadn’t seen many police cars, but plenty of speeders. And the commission decided to put up the signs for a month-long trial.

Jason Artzer, 907 Cherry, who had presented a petition to the commission at the last meeting, spoke for a group of about 11 neighbors at the meeting. He asked the city to reconsider their request.

“Has the speeding slowed down at all?” asked Mayor Rick Billinger.

“They don’t even slow down for the intersection,” said Bobby Jo Lee, 1007 Cherry. “It’s just traffic all the time, going up and down the street.”

Commissioner Dean Blume asked if the drivers were students, and residents said many of them were.

City Manager Ron Pickman pointed out that the state engineers had told the city not to use stop signs to control speed, but told the commissioners they could do what they wanted.

“How do we facilitate a solution to a problem where our children’s health is being endangered?” asked Commissioner John Garcia.

Pickman replied, “You have to remember what a street is for. It’s not a playground. The state will say it is

people’s responsibility to keep kids out of the street.

“Enforcement is the activity you can use to control it.”

People asked if the city could lower the speed limit, but Pickman said the same drivers probably would ignore the new signs.

“You have to remember that 30 usually means 40 to an honest driver,” he said.

Blume said the problem was all over town and Pickman noted that he’d had calls from other neighborhoods saying they’d want signs, too.

One neighbor asked if the police could put two or three cars on the

street and give a bunch of tickets. Pickman, a former police chief, said that wasn’t as easy as it sounds. Often, he said, there is only one patrolman on duty at a time.

Blume suggested putting the signs up against north-south traffic (east-west traffic is slowed by two dips) for a month’s trial.

Public Works Director Ed Wolak said it would take three days to put the signs up because they would have to wait for clearance on buried utilities.

No vote was taken, but all the commissioners seemed to agree on placing the stop signs for the trial period.

Rain showers continue to pump moisture into area

The past two days have brought rain showers across a wide area of northwest Kansas, putting the area well ahead of the dry conditions seen over the past three years.

Mick McGuire of the National Weather Service office in Goodland said Thursday that the area had picked up from .21 of an inch to an

inch over the past day, and that was a chance for more rain on Saturday night and again on Monday.

McGuire said there was a large band of rain on a line from Atwood to just north of Russell Springs, and they were moving slowly. The best storms were from Atwood to the Colby area.

The highest rain report was an inch two miles southwest of Atwood, and Sharon Springs was the low at .21, McGuire said.

Goodland received .29 overnight, and McGuire estimated another .18 during the day for a total of .47 for two days.

Hill City reported .32, McCook,

.54 and Burlington .34. He said Colby received .41 overnight and it was continuing to rain. He estimated that Colby could receive up to an additional half inch.

With the additional rain Goodland, has received 1.64 for the month of April, and McGuire said this is .56 ahead of normal. He said

this usually is the wettest time of the year, with an average of .06 of an inch per day that continues into May.

Looking at the year, McGuire said the total is 3.69 inches, about .6 of an inch above normal.

He said it is well ahead of last year, when the total at this time was 1.1 inches.