

## weather report

**72°**

at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 8:16 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 67 degrees
- Humidity 70 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds southeast 5 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.06 inches and falling

- Record High 105° (1936)
- Record Low 40° (1946)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 76°

Low 57°

Precipitation .04

### N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: Becoming partly sunny with 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, windy, high mid 80s, low near 60 wind south 20-40 m.p.h. Saturday: mostly sunny, high lower 90s, low upper 50s.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday: clear with high in lower 90s. Monday: chance of thunderstorms during the night, high lower 90s, low lower 60s. Tuesday: mostly clear with chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon and evening, high mid 80s, low upper 50s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$2.74 bushel

Loan deficiency pmt. — 3¢

Corn — \$2.44 bushel

New crop — \$2.25 bushel

Milo — \$2.08 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.81 bushel

Millet — \$6 hundredweight

New crop — \$5

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.45 cwt.

New crop — \$9.65 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 36¢

NuSun — \$9.80 cwt.

New crop — \$10 cwt.

Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.

New crop — \$17/\$10 cwt.

Pinto beans — Withdrawn

(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco 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



## Bull snakes invade city

Two Bull snakes were found in the city on Wednesday. A six foot bull snake was reported on 10th and Walnut in a flower bed. Then about 4 p.m. another three foot long bull snake was reported in the breezeway of Goodland High School. See story and Photo on Page 3.

# Stearman provides aerial extravaganza



## Great weather for Stearman Fly-In

The weekend weather was great for the 21st annual Stearman Fly-In in St. Francis (top right). Large crowds enjoyed the 10 Stearman biplanes, three hot air balloons, helicopters, skydivers and more than 75 other planes. The 16 skydivers from Colorado Springs made 85 jumps over the two days and 11 were tandem jumps and eight were night skydives. Some of the crowd took rides in a Stearman or one of the two helicopters (above) that came from Highland Helicopter from the Front Range Airport near Denver. Todd and Tabby Harder of Cairo, Neb., (right) enjoyed the show. Todd's Stearman was purchased by his mother Darlene, in 1976, as a birthday present for his father, Dick. His father sold the plane in 1984 when he was no longer able to fly. He died in 2000. Todd searched for the one his father had flown, and bought it back in 2001. This was their first trip to St. Francis.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News



# Landowner urges county to control prairie dogs

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A Sherman County farmer told the county commissioners Tuesday he felt it was their duty to write to the people who have prairie dogs and if they did not take steps to control their dogs the county should step in and do the job.

Dale Stephens, who farms north of Goodland, said he felt it was time the county took steps to control the prairie dogs which he said are really bad around his land.

"I have my dogs under control," Stephens said. "We are always working at controlling them, but they are getting worse."

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the commissioners have planned to hold a special meeting on the prairie dog issue at 8 a.m. on Thursday, July 24, and were encouraging everyone to attend to discuss the alternatives.

Stephens said the meeting was 10 years and a month too late for him as he is trying to sell his land.

He suggested that the county attorney send the landowners in the

area a letter telling them to control their prairie dogs which is a procedure established in a resolution to eradicate the prairie dog passed in 1999.

Stephens said he has spent about \$2,000 so far this year on poison bait to treat the prairie dogs on his land, but that the surrounding area was overrun and that an appraiser told him this would reduce the value of his land by \$100 per acre.

"I've got good neighbors," Stephens said, but this is costing me."

He said he was sorry the game warden Mike Hopper was not at the meeting.

"I had two men from Pennsylvania come and ask if they could hunt prairie dogs on my land," Stephens said. "I showed them the pasture and said they could hunt. They ended up getting charged \$125 each by the game warden because they did not have a license to hunt prairie dogs. They were told by someone at Wal-Mart that you didn't have to have a license to hunt prairie dogs in Sherman County."

"I think it is a good idea to promote the hunting of prairie dogs, but these two men will never come back here."

Stephens, wife, Iva Lee said she had gone back through their farm books and that since 1988 they have spent \$44,915 on hired labor to kill prairie dogs, and that this does not include the chemicals that were used.

"They are running this time of year," she said, "and they can go as far as 15 miles."

"There is some property for sale with lots of dogs on it, and it will not be worth much."

Dale Stephens said in his opinion the idea of getting rid of the county resolution was not an option.

Tiede said the problem was in the hands of the landowners and that if the county has to go in and poison the dogs it would be a cost to the county and they did not feel they would get repaid for the cost.

Stephens said he had been talking to county commissioners about the prairie dog problem for years, and that nothing has been done.

"You were elected to take care of the county," Stephens said. "I think you should put the poison in an aerial machine and spray the whole area at once."

Tiede and Commissioner Kevin Rasure said they did not feel it was the county's problem, but rather that it was the landowners responsibility.

"I pay my bills and I expect you guys to take care of it," Stephens said.

"Other commissioners have passed the buck," his wife said, "They are always waiting for something."

"Daryl West is doing a good job, but he is not going back often enough," Stephens said. "I think if you get those letters out you are going to get some action. You might not like what you hear, and it might not get you re-elected but this is one of the hard decisions you have to face."

"I don't think the public meeting will help because people get upset and only hard feelings come out of public meetings."

"Those people who won't handle the dogs on their land are the problem," Tiede said.

"You need to do more than threaten," Stephens said. "In hard times no one pays attention to a threat, but if you take action it will make a difference."

"It is still the landowners problem," Rasure said.

"It has gotten much worse in the past 10 years," Stephens said. "I have told everyone who has been elected that we had prairie dog problems."

The commissioners said they understood what he was saying and that they hoped everyone came to the public meeting in July. After Stephens left the meeting the commissioners asked West, head of the county noxious weed department and who handles the prairie dog problems, if he had a list of landowners who have dogs on their land. It was suggested that each landowner receive a letter from the county about the upcoming public meeting and requesting their attendance.

# Grant writing program under review after one year

By Shannon Davidson

The Goodland Star-News

The City of Goodland, Sherman County and the Goodland School District entered into an agreement last year to each fund \$12,000 for a community grant writing program, and Penny Nemechek enthusiastically took the reigns.

The program will complete the first year at the end of June, and is currently under review for renewal by the county and school board. The city approved renewal at their meeting on Monday.

"Entering into the first year of the program I think we were all very optimistic and a little naive on how easy it was going to be," Penny said. "We underestimated the amount of time it takes and starting this program from the ground up we didn't have anything to compare with."



Nemechek

monthly and receives bi-weekly reports from Penny.

The first 11 months went by before any of the grant submissions were funded. This made Penny feel under the gun to get positive results before the inaugural year came to a close. The success of the brick intersection project put the nervous anxiety to ease.

In the first year Penny submitted grant applications for nine projects.

The biggest project being the Transportation Enhancement grant through the Kansas Department of Transportation to replace the brick intersections at 11th and 12th and Main. That project has been awarded for \$288,645, and the city was notified in late May.

The transportation grant award excludes the cost of storm sewer replacement at 12th and Main. The project is considered to be historic and continues the Main improvements from previous funding for the three intersections of 6th, 7th and 8th and Main.

The intersection project is a reimbursement basis, rather than an upfront cash award. The City of Goodland is responsible for all preliminary engineering expenses and a 30 percent match of \$123,705.

Penny feels the strength in having

the three organizations into the grant writing project is "Having someone from outside their staffs doesn't use up the resources from any of the entities, allowing them to focus on their goals and objectives and allows me to provide them with the grant writing abilities."

The last year has seen many difficult times financially in the arena of foundation, state and federal grant money. The competition from other non-profits and grant writers has increased dramatically with everyone trying to receive funding with the little money that is available from all sources.

With the first year coming to a close Penny is optimistic, "We have a better idea of what we need to do to fine tune the program in order to submit more applications and better prospect grant opportunities."

There are two project applications waiting for approval. One is through the Federal Emergency Management Association and is for equipment for the city fire department. Penny said there is an 18 month review period and it could be until September of next year for approval notification. The second is for Sherman County Community Services that has applied for tax credit from Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing.

Penny has seen other counties and cities express interest in what she and the entities are doing to make the program work to see what they can do to follow in those footsteps. Iola is looking at the community grant writing program that has started here and would like to implement a similar program in their area.