

weather report

83° at noon

Today

• Sunset, 7:18 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:17 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:16 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 72 degrees

• Humidity 28 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds southeast 6 m.p.h.

• Barometer 30.18 inches and rising

• Record High 105° (1939)

• Record Low 38° (1974)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 81°

Low 58°

Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low mid 50s, winds south 5-10 m.p.h.

Wednesday: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, high lower 80s, low lower 50s, winds north 5-10 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: partly cloudy, high upper 80s. Friday: partly cloudy, high 80s, low 50s. Saturday thru Monday: mostly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms, breezy, high 80s, low 50s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Football season begins Friday

Quarterback Jared Doke ran from his black-jerseyed teammates to have a clear path to pitch the ball to another yellow-jerseyed Cowboy at Thursday's soap scrim-

mage. The first game of the season will be at 6:30 p.m. Friday when the Cowboys pay Hoxie at home. See story on Page 8. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.20 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.25

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.31 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.13

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

New crop — \$2.27 bushel

Milo — \$2.01 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.54 bushel

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9 cwt.

NuSun — \$9.25 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.24

Confection — \$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Pinto beans — Withdrawn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

Cross country teams ready

Chelsea Ontiveroz ran in the Soap Scrimmage demonstration Thursday for the Cowgirls Cross Country team. See story on Page 8.

# County ready to drain Smoky Gardens

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

The outlet valve at Smoky Gardens lake will be opened within 10 days to drain the water and kill off an infestation of carp. In the meantime, you're welcome to help yourself to any of the fish left in the lake.

Board secretary Kenny Sanderson said the lake will be drained because there are too many carp in the remaining water. He said the state will help restock the water once the carp have been killed off and the level gets back to where it will sustain life.

Sanderson said the lake, depleted by two years of drought, would freeze solid this winter, killing the fish, and this is a better way to clean them out. He said the Smoky Gardens board hopes to get a Community Lake Assistance Program grant to do some digging and clean up once the lake is drained.

This will be the second time the lake has been empty. Sanderson said it was drained in 1976 to clean out the carp and improve the lake.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said Administrator Jay Jolly had asked if Goodland Regional Medical Center could join the grant writer program. Rasure said he felt it was a good idea, and that it would split the cost of the writer four ways if the city and school district agree. He said he had asked Penny Nemecheck, the grant writer, and she said she could do it.

Commissioners Mitch Tiede and Chuck Thomas agreed it would be a good idea if the city and school district go along.

Rasure said it appears the question about the fence at the county household hazardous waste facility on Cherry has been agreed to, and Tiede said he would go out with Kendall Cooper to see about where it would be to allow enough room for vehicles coming to the county part to turn around.

Kevin Arnold plans to open a radiator repair shop in the back half of the building. Cooper has agreed to build a second gate on the south side for access, and to fence the front off to maintain security for the county facility.

## Commissioners finish budget review

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

Sherman County commissioners agreed Friday that they had completed their review of department budgets and County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she was sending a copy of the final draft to the county auditor.

The draft includes an increase of nearly 10 mills, or about 20 percent, in the rural property tax rate, but Rumpel said taxpayers might see little, if any, increase in their tax bill.

"Once he has had a chance to check the figures, we will publish the budget," she said, "and then it will be 10 days before we hold the hearing. It will be later this month, but it will be in September."

The final figures presented Fri-

day included a property tax increase of 7.162 mills for the county, and 2.651 for the rural fire district for a total of 9.813. Property holders in Goodland will not see the fire district hike because they pay for fire protection through the city budget.

The total county mill levy will be 58.665 plus the 5.164 for the fire district, making it 63.829 in rural areas.

Whether property owners see increases in their taxes depends on several factors, Rumpel said.

Commissioners have reduced the solid waste fee by 10 percent, but the county's valuation is down by \$1 million and the school district will drop its levy by about 3 mills.

County Assessor Terry Ballard

said the value of agriculture land has dropped about 5 percent because of the lack of crops over the past year. Ag land assessments are based partly on production, using an average of several years. And there hasn't been much production the last couple of years.

He told the commissioners earlier in the year that the owner of the Westside Apartments had appealed his valuation and the county had to drop the valuation by over \$900,000. The state Board of Equalization had ruled that his valuation of \$1,334,000 should not have included tax credits of nearly \$1 million.

With these factors, plus the drop in the solid waste fee, Rumpel said, many property owners may not see an increase.

accident on County Road 5 when the accident was north of Edson on County Road 25.

"I was told it was a problem of static on a cell phone, and some inexperience by the dispatcher," Tiede said. "I understand the dispatcher will have some refresher training."

The commissioners decided not to meet today, but will meet at 8 a.m. next Tuesday in the commissioners room on the first floor of the courthouse.

# Slice of Life money buys new tub for hospital patients

**By Sharon Corcoran**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

Patients at Goodland Regional Medical Center can now bathe in style in the hospital's new \$15,600 bathing system, purchased with money raised at the Slice of Life auction and golf tournament.

Patient Care Director Debbie Hickman told the hospital's board Monday that the first patient to use the tub enjoyed it so much they could hardly talk her into getting out.

For some patients, Hickman said, baths will be safer than showers. But that is not the only benefit. The reservoir can be filled while a staff member goes to get the patient, she said, and a temperature gauge shows whether the water is comfortable.

When the patient gets in, Hickman said, the tub can then be filled in 70 seconds from the reservoir. With this feature and an ultraviolet light to kill bacteria and the whirlpool, she said, it's not a tub; it's a bathing system.

It is the same model as the tub the Good Samaritan Center has had for five years, Hickman said, but this one is an upgrade.

Thanks to money raised by the Slice for Life golf tournament, Goodland Regional Medical Center patients will have a safe alternative to a shower with a new tub. Doug Jones (right) of Apollo demonstrated the tub last week for Eloise Fuentes and Martha Alfaro.

"It has been a morale-booster for the staff," she said. "They haven't been able to give baths."

The reservoir makes the bathing system efficient, Hickman said, allowing up to four baths per hour.

The Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation gave the hospital \$20,000 from the Slice of Life for the bathing system and two more large-size wheelchairs, to replace damaged carpet with tile and for signs to direct patients to the new central registration area. Director of Human Services Dale Schields, who is executive director of the foundation, said the money raised at this year's event was earmarked for the tub.

"It was absurd not to have one," he said.

In other business, the board:

- Welcomed a new member, Darin Neufeld, a Goodland engineer.
- Approved a training site agreement with Southeast Community College of Beatrice, Neb. Nurses in the college's web-based radiology program who live in this area will train at Goodland Regional Medical Center. The hospital will not have to pay the students, Schields said, and there is no expense to the hospital whatsoever. Administrator Jay Jolly said the college provides liability insurance for the students.
- Approved July's financial report. Story to come.
- Set the next meeting for 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22.