

weather report

76°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:56 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:54 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 64 degrees
- Humidity 19 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds light and variable
- Barometer 29.95 inches and rising

- Record High 85° (1952)
- Record Low 20° (1975)

Last 24 Hours*

High 90°
Low 45°
Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: partly cloudy, high lower 60s, low around 30, winds north 20-45 m.p.h. Saturday: partly cloudy, high mid 50s, low upper 20s, winds north 10-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow showers after midnight, high lower 50s, low lower 30s. Monday: mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain showers in the morning, high upper 50s, low mid 30s. Tuesday: partly cloudy and windy, high upper 50s, low mid 30s (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.27 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.20
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.26 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.01
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.04 bushel
Soybeans — \$7.15 bushel
Posted county price — \$10.04
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$10.10 cwt.
NuSun — \$10.65 cwt.
Confection — \$16/\$9 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Pinto beans — withdrawn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



Hunt guide inside today

Inside today's *Goodland Star-News* is this year's Fall Hunting Guide, a complete guide to hunting in north-west Kansas. Included are personal stories on dove and turkey hunting, bigger walk-in-hunting maps, recipes and much more. See Sections F and H.

Downtown costs are 'voluntary'

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

City officials cleared up some misconceptions about the Downtown Revitalization Project on Monday evening at the City Commission meeting.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he was hearing that some of the business owners in the target area did not want to be in the project because they were under the impression that each business had to pay an equal share of the private sector's total contribution.

Penny Nemechek, the community grant writer, who is working on the project, explained that no business is required to make a contribution to the program. Nemechek described how the grant for revitalization works:

The Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing will match up to \$200,000 spent on approved projects that improves the target area as a whole. To qualify for the maximum amount, the city and the private sector each must contribute \$200,000 in improvements and repairs.

The target area is the section of Main Avenue from 10th Street to 13th Street, including the businesses facing the street on both

City rules out loud 'jake brakes'

Use of loud, stuttering "jake brakes" on big trucks could be expensive, since they are now prohibited within Goodland city limits unless the truck has a special muffler system.

The city commission passed an ordinance Monday prohibiting the use of "compression release engine braking systems," commonly referred to as "jake brakes," unless they are equipped with a muffler.

When introduced Monday, the ordinance prohibited any use of jake brakes in the city. A similar ordinance was introduced in 2000 but died in committee.

Commissioner Chuck Lutters spoke against the measure, saying that although the noise is a nuisance, there was no need

for an ordinance. Commissioners said that the brakes were in common use in the trucking industry. Banning them in the city could cause excessive wear on the vehicle's braking systems, which could create an unnecessary irritant for businesses that use trucks in their daily operations.

Many trucks are equipped with a muffler system to help keep the noise down. The commissioners then agreed that if a vehicle was equipped with the muffler system, compression brakes could be used.

The initial motion was withdrawn, the ordinance amended and passed 4-0. A driver convicted of violating this ordinance can receive a fine of up to \$100 or a jail term for not more than 30 days, or both.

sides. The city plans to use money from the grant to repair the curbs and sidewalks, turn the benches around and relocate power lines underground.

The city will meet that goal through its

brick intersection replacement program, which includes plans to rebuild the intersections of Main with 11th and 12th Street. The challenge now is to get the private sector to reach that amount in acceptable projects. Each

project submitted for matching funds must meet criteria established by the state.

Whether it is a combination of submissions or a submission by a single business, Nemechek said, as long as the \$200,000 total is reached, Goodland would qualify for the maximum amount of matching funds from the grant.

The big problem is to get businesses involved and to have them time any improvement or repair projects so they will be counted by the state. Projects must be done after the letter awarding the grant is in hand.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved two bills by Evans, Bierly, Hutchinson and Associates for estimates on the Renner Field property acquisition and improvement projects.

- Approved appropriation ordinances totaling \$7,169,743.

- Approved a proposal to amend the grant writer program to include the Goodland Regional Medical Center as a principal participant, along with the city, county and school district. Each will pay a one-fourth share of the costs.

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Firm to check building

Contractor to look into old asbestos

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

The Sherman County Commission approved a proposal for a Wichita firm, Asbestos Removal and Maintenance, to inspect the old Southwest Bell building and prepare an estimate for removing asbestos.

The commission is considering transforming the building from storage to a "income-producing" entity as part of downtown renewal. The first step in that process was soliciting bids for someone to inspect the building and come up with an estimate of the cost for removing the asbestos.

Most of the asbestos in the building seems to consist of pipe insulation, but one of the reasons for inspection is to determine where and how much of it is in the building.

The commission approved the bid, stipulating that the cost for the inspection and estimate together would not exceed \$1,500.

Chairman Kevin Rasure said if the county can afford to remove the asbestos, another project needed for the building is installation of an elevator to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In other business, the commission:

- Signed a new contract with the Goodland Public Library that provides county money to help with operating expenses in return for allowing citizens outside the city limits access to the collection.
- Agreed to reimburse the Goodland Regional Medical Center up to \$4,000, from money raised through the medical tax, for Bruce Gleason's

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Turn back the clock

The evenings will get a little shorter Sunday as Daylight Saving Time ends and clocks across the country fall back an hour.

Clocks will be set back to standard time at 2 a.m. Sunday morning.

Most people set their clocks Saturday night before turning in instead of waking up Sunday morning to turn the clocks back. Just don't forget.



Checking on the hospital



Congressman Jerry Moran stopped at the Goodland Regional Medical Center on Thursday to take a tour and talk about rural health issues and a bill on Medicare reimbursements. When he arrived, he met with Jim Precht (center), the hospital's new financial director, and Sherman County commissioner Kevin Rasure. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Students get hands on their work

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland seventh graders have a new aid to help them with their school work, a helper that will literally fit in the palm of your hand.

Oct. 1, seventh graders at Grant Junior High were each issued a "hand-held," a compact electronic learning aid that generally serves as a mini-word processor. Among the things it can help students do is take notes, keep track of assignments, and keep up with their school work if they have to miss class.

Seventh grade math teacher Tanya Gray is one of the teachers most involved with the project. She said the students will keep their hand-held as long as they are in the Goodland School District and get to take them home if they graduate from Goodland High School. A student could have his or her hand-held taken away for misuse.

The hand-helds issued this year are Palm Zire models, she said. Last year's seventh graders were issued Palm M105s. Gray said one of the major problems with the new model is that it has a two-megabyte capacity compared to the eight-megabytes in the older ones. This so far has prevented getting a dictionary downloaded into the new hand-

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Shayla Matthews (right), an eighth grader at Grant Junior High School, "beamed" an assignment from her hand-held to her teacher's Wednesday afternoon as her friend Lacy Ayers looked on.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News