

weather
report

62°

noon
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 7:28 p.m.
- Sunrise, 6:01 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:29 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 50 degrees
- Humidity 31 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds north at 19 mph
- Barometer 29.80 inches and rising

- Record High today 89° (1962)
- Record Low today 20° (1953)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	68°
Low Thursday	47°
Precipitation	—
This month	.65
Year to date	3.86
Above normal	1.04 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. High near 73, low around 49.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some severe. High near 75, low around 42. Sunday: Partly cloudy, high near 66, low around 41. Monday: Partly cloudy, high near 68, low around 43. Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers. High near 67, low around 42.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.56 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.59
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$3.46 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.34
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$3.21 bushel
Soybeans — \$6.20 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.23
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$7 hundredweight
Sunflowers
NuSun crop — \$16.15
Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
(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



Cowgirls
sweep Hays

Sophomore Sammie Raymer, catcher, prepared to throw a ball back to the pitcher in Mondays game with Hays High. The Cowgirls won the double-header, 5-4 and 4-3. See story, photo on Page 12.

Old K-Inn motel to come down

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

It'll cost taxpayers about \$40,000 to tear down the old K-Inn motel on Business U.S. 24, but within a few weeks the motel will be a memory.

City commissioners approved the low bid Monday from Goody's, owned by Mike Yarger, for \$39,651 to demolish the motel and haul off the debris. The other bid came from Miller Construction for \$60,000.

The motel has been closed for about four years. Building Inspector Steve Criswell said the city first filed a case in August 2004 alleging the buildings were a nuisance, asking the court to order the property cleaned up or torn down.

The filing described it as "unsightly appearance of structure, unsightly stored items and miscellaneous debris, including furniture and appliances."

Criswell said the bid from Goody's would fit within the city's budget, and Yarger has said he would complete the demolition by June 1.

"We might have enough money left to handle another house demolition if needed," he added.

Criswell said there would be a 10-day delay while asbestos is removed from one room. Daniels asked where the debris would be taken, and if the city plans to dig a hole and bury it.

Criswell said the contract says all the debris has to be hauled out of the city, and that as far as he knows, there is no permit to allow for digging a pit to bury the debris.

"I wanted to make sure there was nothing left sitting around," Criswell said. "It has to be taken out of the city, and I expect it will go to the transfer station."

City Commissioner Dave Daniels asked if the bill for demolition can be sent to the owner.

"Yes," Criswell said, "and he has 30 days to pay it. If it is not paid, the city can sue him after a year and try



The old K-Inn motel on Business U.S. 24 is marked for demolition, and Monday the city commission approved a contract with

Goody's, owned by Mike Yarger, to remove the buildings in the next month.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

to collect on the property.

"The city could get the property, but we may be in second or third place behind the county, so we might not get any money.

"The city could go through the court system to see if Jeff Harsh (the landowner) has any money."

The long hearing process came to an end in January when District Judge Jack Burr dismissed an appeal by Harsh to prevent the demolition.

Harsh had been before Judge Burr eight times on the case — including the hearing in October — and kept telling the court that he was getting the property cleaned up and was applying for a grant to convert it to a shelter for battered women.

Hill said Judge Burr told Harsh he was done listening to the excuses and gave him 30 days to appeal the ruling.

In it's last days, the K-Inn adver-

tised rooms for about \$20 a night. City officials said it has been falling apart since it was closed over four years ago.

Harsh told Judge Burr at a hearing on Sept. 11 that he was writing a grant application but had not submitted it. He said the Chalktalk Corp., which he owns, planned to give the land to American Trail Foundation.

The city had asked Judge Burr to

hold Harsh in contempt of court based on the fact that had failed to comply with previous orders to clean the property up.

Criswell said there were hearings on the motel in January, May, July and September.

The inspector said he did not know what the fight has cost the city in legal fees, but that with eight hearings and all the paperwork, it has been pretty expensive.

Youth, adults ask city to OK skate park

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

Teenagers hoping for a skate park in Steever Park outnumbered adults at the Goodland City Commission meeting Monday, and the left with promises they probably could build the park near the city power plant.

The group of 15 teenagers accompanied members of the Youth Engagement Committee from the Shine on Sherman County community development group.

Kim Bohme of Miller's Home Furnishings, a committee member, introduced Brittany and Lukius Medrano, who gave a short presentation asking the city to support creating a stake park.

"We have wanted this for a long

time," Brittany Medrano said, "and we have been kicked out of places where we want to skate."

She said the skaters would like to have an above-ground bowl, possibly a half pipe, ramps and rails to skate and do tricks on.

"We have some mini-ramps that we have built," she said, "and we go out and use them."

Bohme said the kids and the adults have been gathering information.

"They educate the adults about a skate park," Bohme said, "and the adults educate the kids about the costs of a skate park."

City Manager Wayne Hill, said he had met with several members of the youth committee and Darin Neu-

feld, an engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, to talk about where a skate park might be built and what might go into one.

"This was a big topic at the kickoff of the Shine on Sherman County program," Hill said. "I like the idea of a skating park, and think it would go well in the area of the power plant and Steever Park."

Bohme said the skate park is the first project for the youth committee, and having the kids involved was the main goal.

"They go places and get kicked out," she said. "It is a vicious circle. We want to get approval from you that you are in favor of this."

Mayor Rick Billinger said the commission had talked several

years ago about doing a skate park where the tennis courts are at Gulick Park.

City Commissioner Dave Daniels said that was when the city found out that the county owns the tennis courts. The idea was to use the base of the old tennis courts as a way to start a skating park.

Connie Livengood, co-chair of the youth committee and a high school teacher, said the committee had talked about Steever because it was near the hike-and-bike trail and the water park. She said some of the plans call for an area about 200 feet by 200 feet.

"We like the Steever Park because we can see what is going on for security purposes," Hill said. "We can

see the pool area with our security cameras, and this would be an area we could cover."

"The big problem is liability," Billinger said. "Concrete is costly, but so is insurance."

"I know lots of cities are building skating parks," Daniels said, asking if the committee had any estimates on costs.

"It can go from \$30,000 to \$100,000," Bohme said. "We think we can do it in phases. We would like to know about a site. We can then begin to look at this and find out if there are any grants or ways to raise money."

"I don't think there is any oppo-

See SKATING, Page 9

Citywide cleanup Saturday

Goodland's fourth annual citywide cleanup will begin Saturday morning at 9 a.m..

Ken Clouse, co-chair of the Chamber of Commerce beautification committee, said everything is in place for the cleanup, but he's worried there won't be enough people show up.

"We need enough volunteers to make this work," Clouse said.

He said they need volunteers with pickups and trailers, along with loaders willing to pitch in to pick up the trash piles.

Volunteers will gather at the Northwest Kansas Technical College Student Union at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday to set up teams and split up the town, Clouse said.

Christie Rasure, committee co-chair, said the cleanup will run from 9 a.m. to noon. The teams will bring the junk to

See CLEANUP, Page 9

Hat exhibit spans 100 years

If head gear is your thing, then the High Plains Museum has a new exhibit that will tickle your fancy, featuring ladies hats that span a hundred years.

"I don't know if the idea came from Mother's Day or Easter bonnets," said Linda Holton, director of the museum.

In the exhibit is one that you might have seen on a woman riding in a wagon. There are several examples of headgear from the Roaring '20s. One is a black pill box with feathers and another is a close-fitting beige beaded skull cap.

From the 1950s and '60s there are feathered and flowered hats, some with matching purses.

Holton said that over the years, the museum had received the hats from donors. Most of the hats do not have labels in them but one lists the Roll Millinery Shop, Goodland.

Some of the hats, she said, belonged to Ella Gulick, wife of Dr. A.C. Gulick, a prominent Goodland physician in the early 20th century; Marjorie Cogswell, a musician and music teacher; and Betty Parker, Sherman County historian.



Glenda Parks, employee at High Plains Museum, put a hat on hat tree in a display of hats at the museum. The hat was from the 1920's.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News