

weather report

94°



noon
Thursday
Today

Sunset, 8:17 p.m.
Saturday
Sunrise, 5:21 a.m.
Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 94 degrees
- Humidity 26 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds south at 20 mph
- Barometer 30.04 inches and falling

• Record High today 101° (1950)

• Record Low today 41° (1926)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	95°
Low Thursday	62°
Precipitation	—
This month	.98
Year to date	7.44
Below normal	1.8 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Slight chance of thunderstorms after noon. Partly cloudy, high near 92, low around 63.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny, high near 95, low around 64. Sunday: Sunny and hot, high near 97, low around 65. Monday: Mostly sunny, high near 95, low around 65. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high near 90, low around 62. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 90. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. *Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$5.29 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$5.33
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Corn — \$3.98 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.73
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Milo — \$7 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$7.42 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.32
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - NuSun crop — \$17.85
 - 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



Goodland wins two

Cy Paxton, an infielder for the Goodland traveling 12-and-under baseball team, tried for a play at second, but the Hoxie runner was safe. The A team defeated Hoxie 12-5 and the B team won 13-3. See photo on Page 8a.

Milling ends on old U.S. 24

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

Milling rough pavement off of old U.S. 24 west of town was causing more problems than it solves, the project engineer told Sherman County commissioners Tuesday, and the work has been stopped.

Jerol DeBoer, an owner of Penco Engineering of Plainville, told the commissioners he had APAC Paving of Hays stop milling on the west section of the road. It would be better not to mill any more, DeBoer said.

"Where we are milling it is worse than not milling," he said. "Apparently where the county did the heat scarify about eight years ago, the pavement is popping off the layer, and makes it pretty rough."

"I think we should not mill any more." Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he had driven on part of the road and could see where it was pretty rough in places. He asked DeBoer how much of the west section was left.

DeBoer said about four miles had not been milled. He said another reason to stop the work was the milling crew was too far ahead of the paving crew.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked if there would be any problems with what has already been milled off.

DeBoer said he thought the new layer of asphalt would do fine. He said it appeared that the base underneath was still OK, and that the best plan was not to tear up any more than they had so far.

"The best pavement is what is on top," DeBoer said.

Curt Way, county public works manager, said the west section of old U.S. 24 must have a different oil mixture. He said the county found that out when the state used old U.S. 24 for a detour from I-70 about 30 years ago.

DeBoer said by saving the milling money, the county would have more to put into asphalt, and they may be able to increase the

depth of the top layer.

Tiede asked how the work on the east side was going.

DeBoer said the paving crew was about three miles from the county line, and expected to have that done by Wednesday so they can begin on the west.

Rasure asked about holes that have shown up on the east section.

DeBoer said APAC had already dug out and fixed several holes, and would be fixing the rest. He said there was one area east of Edson where the asphalt has slipped that has to be fixed.

He said by waiting until after wheat harvest, he may be able to find other places that need to be fixed before doing the top layer. He said all of the road should be covered before harvest.

DeBoer said he had the state Department of Transportation inspector come out and do a verification test, and was pleased with the

results. He said his crew is testing every 1,000 tons of asphalt and APAC is testing it as well.

DeBoer said they are doing a series of tests, and the tensile strength test is one the state did. He said the state's minimum is 80 percent, and the test showed 92 percent.

"We are in good shape there," he said. "I will have the state come out and do another verification test for us after the top layer is put down."

He asked if the commissioners wanted the test results monthly or at the end of the project. Tiede said probably at the end of the project would be OK.

Rasure asked about the design work on County Road 16. DeBoer said he plans to work on that the rest of the week. He said Venture Corp. of Great Bend has cleared off a place for a paving plant and stockpile west of town on County Road 65 (Eighth Street) and is planning to begin work there the middle of August.

Houses to be fixed or removed

By Pat Schiefen

pjschiefen@nwkansas.com

The Goodland City Commission passed resolutions to clean up two more houses in disrepair at its meeting Monday night, giving the owners 90 days to repair them or tear them down.

The first house, at 1608 Montana, is owned by Michael C. McGlone of Stage Stop Ventures. City Building Inspector Steve Criswell said that McGlone had finally contacted him.

The second house, at 1519 Montana, is owned by Samara Bostwick. Criswell said that Bostwick has taken out a building permit to start remodeling.

Goodland lawyer Ron Vignery, representing the Governmental Alliance Action Group for Shine on Sherman County, said the group would like to send commissioners a letter asking each to name the 10 top problems or issues they see the city facing.

Vignery said his group had been meeting for several months and decided it was time to get direction from the city and county about the issues.

"I know there are all kinds of issues, monetary and political," he said. "We have no agenda; we are just volunteering to help, assist and do research. We are not here to demand anything."

Other members with Vignery were Bill Stoick, Trevor Linton, Brad Schields and

See CITY, Page 7a

Fire, rescue training



City Fire Chief Brian James (center at left) talked to volunteers after the first phase of a fire and rescue training exercise Monday using the old Cobblestone flower shop at 12th and Cherry, filled with smoke. Volunteers included (from left, back row) Larry Hachmeister, Dale Davis, Justin Stasser and Kyle Schulte; (center) Tim Dinkel and Thomas

Tompkins; (front row) Jeff Dinkel, Brandon Van Vleet and Neal Thornburg. The chief said they had to rescue a fellow volunteer from the basement through smoke, and he hopes to do more of this training in the future. James said he has 16 volunteers, but still is taking applications.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Development director taking time off

Search begins for new person

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

Director Tiffani McMinn told the Sherman County Economic Development Council Tuesday that she needs time off to be with her mother and plans to be off the job through fall.

Council members, saying they have a good thing going and don't want to lose their director, agreed to look for a replacement but said they'd take McMinn back if they don't find one right away.

The director said she plans to go to Magnolia, Texas, where her mother who is going in for surgery on July 18. She said she does not expect her mother to recover quickly, and she did not feel it would be fair to the council and the county to try to keep her job open when she could not be in the office.

Council Chairman Don Newell of S&T Communications said he understood what McMinn was saying, but did want her to know that if the council did not find someone to fill the job before October that she could come back.

Following a closed-door session on Tuesday, the council agreed unanimously to put McMinn's job on hold for 90 days to allow her to

Council asks Chamber to move

The Sherman County Economic Development Council voted Tuesday to cancel the office lease with the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and ask the Chamber to move out.

Chairman Don Newell said council members felt it would be better for the office if the focus was only on economic development.

The Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau has space in the front of the old Centennial Building, while the council rents the back. The Chamber has been renting an office in the back from the council, and had an office with the council before the two moved to the Centennial building about a year ago.

In the meeting Tuesday, council members talked about a series of incidents between Chamber Director Andi Nelson and the economic development staff, Director Tiffani McMinn and Office Manager Helen Dobbs.

Members said the development staff had to take time to help people who came in to talk to a Chamber person when there was no one else there. There have been conflicts over the use of a conference room and a copier, Newell said.

Members had questions about how supposedly confidential information got out to people outside the economic development office or council. McMinn said she was the only person who had the information before she heard it from someone outside.

Council member Steve West made a motion to send the Chamber a letter to move out. Council member Mike Cochran seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

"I know we have been trying to work with the Chamber," Newell said, "and I know this is not something we decided without looking at all sides of the issue."

"We feel it is in the best interest of our programs that the Chamber find a separate office location."

He said the council feels the Chamber is an important asset to the community, but members felt that with the programs and projects going on in the economic development office, it would be better to have the Chamber in a separate location.

Newell said the Chamber would have until July 31 to move, under its lease with the council, and he called Chamber President Brian Linin Thursday to inform him of the decision. Newell said he handed a letter to Linin on Thursday explaining the action.

"We don't want to beat the Chamber up," Newell said, "but as a council, we were united that we need to keep the office focus on economic development and the best thing for both groups is to have separate offices."

A phone call was made Thursday morning to Chamber President Brian Linin asking for comment, but he was unavailable.

keep working on several projects. At that time, McMinn and the council will review the situation, and if the job has been filled that will be it.

McMinn's last day in the office will be Friday, June 29.

The council agreed the search for a new director will begin immedi-

ately, and the position would be advertised in the next few weeks.

Helen Dobbs, office manager, will take over some of McMinn's

duties, including being on the Shine On Sherman County steering committee as liaison for the council.

Members said they would be sorry to lose McMinn, but said they understood that family comes first.

When McMinn finished her director's report, she said it seemed strange to say it was her last.

"I have enjoyed working with you," McMinn said.

"You have done a great job, and things are beginning to take off," Newell said. "We appreciate the work you have done to get this office going, and you have shown us what great things we can do."

Newell said McMinn would have a three-month contract at her current pay beginning in July and will work from Texas by phone and computer on the projects she has going, including a housing grant application for the city.

McMinn said she does not know what the future holds for her down in Texas, and that if the job is still open in October, she might come back.

"I like what I am doing and the people I have been able to work with in the community," she said. "I will be working on the projects we have gotten going to be sure they keep going. I know Helen will do a good job of keeping the office going, and I could not do this without her help."

"The council members are a great group to work with, and I believe they have the best interest of the community at heart."