

weather report

78°

noon
Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 8:18 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:23 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 80 degrees
- Humidity 35 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds light and variable
- Barometer 30.13 inches and rising

• Record High today 107° (1963)
• Record Low today 45° (1908)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 81°
Low Thursday 54°
Precipitation —
This month .98
Year to date 7.44
Below normal 2.56 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny, high near 86, low around 58.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny, high near 88, low around 60. Sunday: Mostly sunny, high near 95, low around 64. Monday: Sunny and hot, high near 97, low around 64. Tuesday: Sunny and hot, high near 99, low around 66. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 95.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Wheat harvest bringing great yields



Dennis Bentzinger drove his 1982 International Harvester 1460 combine cutting wheat in a field along County Road 65 west of Ada Taylor's home on Wednesday. Justin Bentzinger owns the fields on either side of Taylor's. Dennis Bentzinger said he is new to farming, and this is his retirement job. "I have wanted to do this since I was 15," he said. "I rent the fields from Justin and got

the seed from Alan Townsend. I guess anybody can grow wheat with rain." He said the field produced an average of 56 bushels of wheat, and he had two other fields he was cutting on Thursday. Reports around Sherman County vary from the low 40 bushels to near record levels of 100 or more.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

July 4 plans ready

Goodland's annual Fourth of July celebration will include a band from Hays, a hamburger feed, carnival rides, a watermelon feed, a skateboard demonstration and a grand fireworks display.

Brad Schields, president of the Sherman County Community Services, which operates the home-owned carnival, said they expect it to be a great family night of fun and entertainment.

Schields said the Blue Healers, a classic and old-time rock band from Hays, will play from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

The 4-H Ambassadors will have a hamburger feed for \$5. Goodland Rotary will be handing out free watermelon slices as long as it lasts.

The carnival rides will open at 6 p.m. and run until about 9:30 p.m., with a \$10 wristband for unlimited rides.

The Shine On Sherman County youth group will give a skateboard demonstration in the Ag Building to showcase plans for the skating park on Cherry in Steever Park the group is raising money for.

Schields said Joe Diaz will have another of his grand firework displays that should begin about 9:30 p.m. or as soon as it gets dark.

Parking around the Sherman County Fairgrounds will be a little

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local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$5.31 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.26
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$3.48 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.24
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$3.18 bushel
Soybeans — \$7.07 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.97
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$7 hundredweight
Sunflowers
NuSun crop — \$17.50
Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
(Markets by Scouler Co., 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



Slice of Life golf results

Dave Lindstrom of the Kansas City Chiefs looked out to see where his tee-shot on Hole No. 10 should land on Sunday at the Slice of Life tournament. See story, photos on Page 8a.

Council to ask city, county for budget increase

By Tom Betz

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The Sherman County Economic Development Council decided Tuesday to ask the city and county to increase its budget by \$25,000 each for next year, to continue projects started this year.

The council got \$50,000 each from the city and county the past five years, and had a healthy carryover for two years when there was no di-

rector to pay. That money was used to start several projects, including a work force center and business and home improvement grants.

Council Chairman Don Newell said at the meeting on Tuesday that the budget committee had looked carefully at the figures and felt it was important to ask for the increase.

He said it was clear that the \$100,000 was barely enough to pay a director, office manager and the

cost to operate the office. The additional money would be for marketing and continuing projects started this year with the carryover.

The proposed budget for next year of \$180,331 would be about \$1,000 less than the \$181,670 approved for this year. The major difference, said Development Director Tiffany McMinn, was carry over, which was \$102,501 for this year, but is expected to be down to

\$30,331 by next year.

Newell said the group is scheduled to make a budget presentation to the City Commission on Tuesday, July 10.

Council member Steve West of Western State Bank said the extra \$50,000 was a realistic request and made a motion to approve the budget as presented, subject to the approval of the city and county.

Newell said he has talked with

members of the city and county commissions individually about the proposed increase.

West asked what happens if the city or county turns down the increase?

Newell said there is a second revised budget with major cuts in marketing and the project development lines just in case.

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Hospital's audit full of good news

By Sharon Corcoran

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Goodland Regional Medical Center had a good year in 2006, with an \$802,000 increase in cash in current assets and a \$926,000 increase in net assets but it couldn't beat its exceptional year in 2005, when the increase was \$1,304,000.

Roger Johnson, a certified public accountant with Wendling, Noe, Nelson and Johnson, went over the results Monday when he gave the report to the county hospital board, meeting at the hospital.

Since 2005 was such a good year, Johnson said, he included numbers from 2004 to compare. The report includes numbers from the fund-raising Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation as a "component unit" to the hospital, he said, but the firm did not audit the foundation's financial statements.

The foundation provided a nice increase in the medical center's operating cash, Johnson said. Under assets, the audit report lists for the foundation \$133,447 in cash and invested cash on Dec. 31, 2006, and \$222,737 cash and invested cash at the end of 2005. Under capital assets, the foundation has \$84,105 in land.

The hospital's numbers for last year will change, Johnson said, as it is still waiting for the year's lump-sum payment from Medicare. As good as operating cash looked at the end of December, he said, there is more to come.

The hospital expects a \$520,000 adjustment in its favor for payments from Medicare, Johnson said. It may have to pay \$200,000 to Medicaid, but com-

bined that still would add \$310,000 to the balance.

The hospital may have to pay Medicaid, Johnson said, as the state-run welfare plan says it overpaid all Kansas critical access hospitals. The amount is being contested, he said, and even if the hospital has to pay it back, it has until September. The possible debt is being reported as a negative, though, he said.

The hospital had an increase in net assets of almost \$1 million during 2006 and during 2005 of \$1,304,000, Johnson said, and that is a good indication of financial health. The percentage of total assets financed with net assets, he said, commonly referred to as equity, was 75.9 percent as of Dec. 31, 2006; 70.2 percent in 2005 and 56.1 percent in 2004.

The biggest factor of the overall change in the hospital's net assets is its operating income, Johnson said, the difference between net patient service revenue and the expenses incurred to provide those services.

A lot of the increases in both gross patient-service revenue and expenses were due to the increased use of the pharmacy, he said; the increase of gross patient service revenue was nearly \$1.7 million, and the \$500,000 increase in expenses is reflected in supplies and others, where pharmacy is shown.

Total expenses increased from \$8 million to \$11 million, he said, mostly due to inflation.

The hospital accomplished a series of goals during 2005 and 2006, he said, and

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Display salutes cancer survivors



Jessica Kannady (left), a Relay for Life organizer, and Tina Goodwin, Carnegie Arts Center director, tied purple ribbons on the columns in front of the center Wednesday. The ribbons are on sale at Prairie Rose Floral for \$5 to benefit the Sherman County Relay for Life. An art display highlighting the event will open with a gallery reception from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday and will be displayed through Tuesday, July 31. See photo, story on pg. 6.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News