

**weather
report****83°**

noon Monday

**Today**

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:25 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 79 degrees

• Humidity 43 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds south at 12 mph

• Barometer 30.13 inches

and falling

• Record High today 107° (1969)

• Record Low today 45° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 83°

Low Monday 60°

Precipitation —

This month —

Year to date 7.44

Below normal 3.01 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, high near 96, low around 64.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny,

high near 88, low around 60.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, high near 89,

low around 57. Friday: Mostly

sunny, high near 81, low around

62. Saturday: Mostly sunny, high

near 93, low around 63. Sunday:

Partly cloudy and hot, high near

98.

(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 — \$5.37

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$3.34 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.13

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$3.04 bushel

Soybeans — \$7.53 bushel

Posted county price — \$7.42

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$7 hundredweight

Sunflowers

NuSun crop — \$17.50

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**Lancers lose
four at Colby**

Kirsten Topliff pitched for the Goodland Lancers 14-and-under girls fast-pitch softball team at the Colby Tournament on Saturday, June 23, against the Blaze of Ellis. The girls lost the game 8-7. See story, photo on Page 10.

Historic ranch barn gets a lift

By Sharon Corcoran

s/corcoran@nwks.com

Need a lift?

A 70-ton, 91-year-old barn at the historic Kuhrt Ranch north of Edson did, and Ball and Son Movers of Belleville was happy to oblige.

The barn is getting a new foundation to replace the crumbling concrete it has been sitting on. It had to be lifted off the old foundation so workers can tear out the concrete and build the new one under it.

A construction company owned by brothers from Hays and Damar rebuilt the three cupolas on the roof and the main support for the hay loft, and after the barn is on its new foundation, they will put in new doors.

Owners Brent and Diana Flanders will be painting and putting in new windows. They got a \$90,000 Heritage Trust Fund Grant from the state Historical Society to help with repairs, but they have to match it with 20 percent of their own, and even then it won't be enough to pay for all that is needed.

The Belleville company, whose slogan is "Houses on the Go," claims to have moved everything from, yes, houses to barns to churches to an SR-71 "Blackbird," a military spy plane.

Owner Leon Ball said the business started after his grandfather decided to move their entire farmstead — five buildings — in 1944. Neighbors gathered along the road to watch, he said, and they said, "You must be quite a house mover," some of them hinting they'd like his help moving a building or two.

At first, Ball said, his grandfather said "no" but then he got to thinking it would be a nice job. Then, he charged about \$50 apiece to move buildings. Now Leon and his brother Leonard are the third gen-



Leon Ball used a hydraulic lift system to raise the historic barn at the Kuhrt Ranch off its foundation Thursday while his brother Leonard did some work inside. Len Schamber went in to help

and Linus Schamber watched the gap between the barn and foundation grow.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

eration in the business, and Leon's son Lucas is helping, too.

The family owns three hydraulic lift systems they use to get their work off the ground and have experience in positioning steel beams under buildings to move them, and in moving historic buildings.

While the Kuhrt Ranch is seven

feet in the air, it will get a new foundation. The concrete will have 21 days to cure before the barn is lowered onto it, Leon Ball said. Schamber Construction, owned by brothers Len and Linus Schamber, is doing the renovation. The firm specializes in historic buildings, the brothers said.

The barn was built in 1916, Linus Schamber said, and there was no steel in the concrete. The foundation was crumbling away.

Miller Construction of Goodland will do all the concrete work, Schamber said. Mack Norvell of Goodland will cover the new foundation with stucco to match the old

one. They are buying supplies from the project from Rasure Lumber. The engineer is Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, and his firm is the project administrator.

The family got a \$90,000 Heritage

See BARN, Page 9

Central dispatch to add two phone lines

By Tom Betz

t/betz@nwks.com

Two recent power outages left the Sherman County dispatch unable to answer calls, and Friday the county commissioners agreed to add two incoming lines from another phone company to help solve the problem.

Crissy Conger, central dispatch director, talked to the commissioners on a conference call to ask for permission to add the lines. She said the center had been unable to answer calls, even 911 emergency calls, for more than one hour on June 12 and for about an hour on June 22.

Conger said S&T Communications of Brewster, the county's phone vendor, had outages twice over the month of June, and central dispatch was without any phones until the service was restored.

She said the best option was to add two lines from AT&T or switch everything over from S&T. Adding two lines from AT&T would be \$75 per line per month, she said, and she

would like to do that.

"In this case, redundancy is a good thing," Conger said.

She said these would not be 911 emergency lines, but administrative lines so dispatch could continue to operate in a power outage.

"I think that is good insurance," said Commissioner Mitch Tiede.

Conger said she would like to publish one of the new lines in the phone book so people have an alternative in case of an emergency. She said the county cell phone does not work well down in the basement of the City Administration Building, where dispatch is.

She said another problem is that AT&T cannot transfer 911 calls out of dispatch when the power is out because of the present trunk system.

The office has a direct trunk system, she said, and AT&T told her to make it work they would have to streamline it or have a tandem trunk system so all calls could be transferred to either the sheriff's office or to Colby.

"The last time we were down, we were unable to switch the 911 calls to Colby," Conger said.

The commissioners agreed she should get the administrative lines put in and get information on the trunk system.

Don Newell, S&T branch manager in Goodland, said he was uncertain exactly what caused the phone outages, and said he was working with Conger to determine what happened and what the best options are.

Newell said the S&T system does have a battery backup that usually kicks in, and said he is not sure why it did not work.

Conger brought the commissioners up to date on the request from the city to have central dispatch handle emergency calls to the city power plant from midnight to 7 a.m. At the June 5 meeting, Conger had said she did not want to handle these calls, but Commissioner Mitch Tiede suggested the city provide a cell phone number for the on-call person at the

power plant as a compromise. He asked Conger to give the arrangement a 30-day trial, and she said she could do that.

Friday Conger said she had talked to County Attorney Bonnie Selby about the power plant calls, and Selby had written up an agreement to give to the city.

"I guess the city attorney (Jeff Mason) did not like the agreement," Conger said. "Rod (Blake, power plant superintendent) had to put people back on duty.

"I do not know what the concerns were. I only talked to Rod. Bonnie was out of town the rest of the week."

Tiede asked Conger to keep the commissioners updated, and hoped that they could work something out with the city power plant. He said this was something he thought they had worked out a compromise on earlier.

In other business, the commissioners:

• Approved an easement for Ed Carleton for a sewer line west of the new building at the fairgrounds.

• Approved a new mileage reimbursement rates of 47 cents per mile based on information from the district court. The rate has been 43 cents per mile.

• Approved donating \$500 to the Flatlander Fall Festival.

• Reappointed Joyce Moore and Lynn Hoelting to the Goodland Regional Medical Center board for three-year terms and appointed Randy Coleman to take the place of Chuck Frankenfeld.

• Appointed Chance Schilling as a new member of the Sherman County Economic Development Council, representing People's State Bank. The seat had been vacant for some time.

• Reviewed the county travel policy, and decided to leave maximum motel reimbursement at \$100.

See COUNTY, Page 9

Family fun for Fourth

Volunteers worked over the weekend to get the fairgrounds ready for the annual Fourth of July bash, including a band, hamburger and watermelon feeds, carnival rides, skateboard demonstration and a grand fireworks display.

Brad Schields, president of the homeowned carnival, said the rides and fairgrounds are ready, and they expect it to be a great night of family fun and entertainment.

He said the Blue Healers, a classics and old-time rock band from Hays, will play from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in front of the grandstand.

The 4-H Ambassadors will have a hamburger feed for \$5. Goodland Rotary Club members will be handing out free slices of watermelon as long as they last.

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

The Shine On Sherman County youth group will present a skateboard demonstration in the Ag Building to showcase the drive to raise money for a skating park in Steever Park.

Schields said Joe Diaz promises another of his grand firework displays about

9:30 p.m. Diaz, a Goodland native who does major shows in Denver, always promises the biggest display between Hays and the Rockies.

Contributions continue to come in to help pay for the fireworks show, Schields said. The Freedom Fest Fireworks fund is getting close to \$7,000, but it would be great to match the \$10,000 they had last year to have a good cushion to start on next year's show.

Jars are out around town through the holiday to collect donations for the fireworks, at Kabredlo's, Presto, Howard Johnson's Harvester Restaurant, the Goodland Steakhouse Diner, the Butterfly Cafe, Rasure's Do-It Center, the Sherman Theatre, Cowboy Loop, Klip 'n Kurl, Hank's Cafe, Pizza Hut, Gambino's, Crazy R's, Goodland Grind and Gallery, Bubba's Meat Block and *The Goodland Star-News*.

Special funds with the Sherman County Community Foundation allow people to make donations to the fireworks or the entertainment.

Checks should be sent to the foundation at Box 888, Goodland, Kan. 67735, earmarked for the fireworks or entertainment, said Kin Huang, foundation director.

Sheriff provides tips for fireworks safety

Celebration of Independence Day brings out lots of fireworks, and Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts says people, especially children, need to be careful with things that go boom.

Butts said anyone buying fireworks needs to pay attention to some safety tips and procedures to prevent injury:

- Always read and follow label instructions.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated shooter."
- Never give fireworks to younger children and always supervise use of fireworks by older children.
- Wear eye protection when lighting fireworks.
- Never ignite fireworks indoors. Make sure your outdoor area is safe and free from fire hazards.
- Never point or throw fireworks at a person, building or animal.
- Have a source of water handy in case of fire.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never attempt to re-light malfunctioning fireworks.
- Never have your body in the way when lighting fireworks.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Bottle rockets and skyrockets mounted on a stick are illegal.
- It is illegal to shoot fireworks from or under a vehicle, on a public roadway, within 50 feet of a fireworks stand or where fireworks are stored, near a gas station or any place liquid gas — including propane — is stored.

The best way to enjoy fireworks, Butts said, is to watch the free fireworks show at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

City Offices, others closed on Wednesday

Many businesses and government offices will be closed on Wednesday for the Fourth of July holiday.

City of Goodland, Sherman County and State of Kansas offices will be closed, as will the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The county's landfill transfer station and the Goodland Public Library will be closed.

So will post offices in Goodland, Edson, Kanorado and Brewster. There will be no mail delivery on Wednesday.

Law offices and all banks will be closed.

Most restaurants and Wal-Mart will be open on Wednesday.

Good news if you want to cool off: Steever Water Park will be open.

The Goodland Star-News office will be closed on Wednesday. Deadline for the Friday paper is 5 p.m. today.