

weather report

94°

noon Monday



Today

- Sunset, 7:25 p.m.
- **Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 6:12 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 78 degrees
- Humidity 17 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds southwest 21 to 29 mph
- Barometer 29.91 inches and steady
- Record High today 100° (1964)
- Record Low today 40° (1964)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 94°
Low Monday 65°
Precipitation none
This month 3.63
Year to date 3.63
Normal -3.91 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of thunderstorms. Low around 60. Winds northwest 10-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. High in the upper 70s. Low in the upper 50s.

Thursday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent of thunderstorms. Highs around 80. Lows in the mid 50s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$6.11 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.31
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$3.29 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.14
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.99 bushel
Soybeans — \$7.58 bushel
Posted county price — \$7.31
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$7 hundredweight
Sunflowers
NuSun crop — \$17.90
Confection — Call
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



Windows appearing

Window frames have appeared on the Goodland Energy Resources power plant, indicating the progress being made, and the wall sheeting should begin to go up in the next few weeks. See photo on Page 8.

Street bond issue closer to sale

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

A plan to raise money to fix city street and drainage problems moved ahead with the selection of the financial advisor for the proposed \$2.4 million general-obligation bond issue to be sold in September.

Todd Loescher, vice president of D.A. Davidson of Wichita, met with the city commission last Monday to explain the procedure and have the commission approve an agreement naming his firm as financial advisor.

He asked the commission to approve the agreement and a resolution detailing the work to be done with the money.

Loescher said the time is running

Proposed city street improvements

The city's proposed street improvements include replacing some existing pavement with concrete and base work with new asphalt in other places.

Many of the streets will be milled and get an asphalt overlay, while others will be chip sealed with a fog seal to extend the life of the surface.

Streets the city plans to improve using the money from the special bond issue include:

Walnut from First Street to 16th; College Avenue

from First to Second, from Fifth to 12th and 14th to 16th; Grand from Third to 12th; Cherry Avenue from Second to Fourth and Eighth to 10th.

Seventh Street from Main to Kansas and from Sherman to Eustis; 13th Street from Cattle Trail to Kansas; Colorado from 13th to 17th; First Street from Main to Caldwell; and 14th Street from Arcade

See STREETS, Page 8

out on the protest period, and without a protest the whole bond issue can move ahead with the sale expected to take place Monday, Sept.

17. The 30-day protest period ends on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

The bond issue includes \$1.8 million for main trafficway improve-

ments, \$25,000 for drainage and \$570,000 for street work. Loescher said the protest period applies to the street improvement portion only,

and the city has the power under state law to do the traffic way and drainage improvements.

The city commission decided during a budget work session in July that a bond issue would be the best way to get some work done on the damage done to the streets by heavy winter snows.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked Loescher what the interest rate would be on the bonds.

Loescher said he expected it to be about 3.8 percent on bonds due the first few years and to build up to about 4.3 percent on the 10-year end. He said the blended average

See BONDS, Page 8

Tax sale planned this year

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

Sherman County commissioners asked the county attorney about the status of the delinquent property tax sale at their meeting on Tuesday, and she told them she plans to hold it before the end of the year.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby told the commissioners she was waiting for the abstracts to come from lawyer Jeff Mason. Mason happened to be in the courthouse lobby and Selby went out to ask him. She said he could have them to her office by the end of September.

Selby said that way Mason can bring the property records as current as possible after the county treasurer holds this year's sale of tax certificates on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

Selby said with the abstracts, the tax sale could be held before the end of the year. Selby said property being considered for this tax sale has delinquent taxes of three years or

See SALE, Page 8

Looks like a close call...



It is an optical illusion that the crop spray plane was buzzing the top of the ethanol plant under construction at the Goodland Energy Center last week. The plane was spraying a corn

field west of the plant. Doug Sederstrom, chief financial officer for Goodland Energy Resources, said the plant should be running before the end of the year.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Revised policy allows county to hire some relatives

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

County department heads will be able to consider hiring relatives of other county employees, but not their own family, under a revised policy the Sherman County commissioners agreed to on Tuesday.

Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts asked the commissioners to consider changing the policy, not to

allow him to hire any of his family, but to allow him to possibly hire a brother or other relative of one of his current officers.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said she felt the existing policy does seem to handicap the department.

"I am not asking to hire my family," Butts said. "I would like to be able to consider relatives of other employees, which is not possible

under the existing policy.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said there might be some problems in that situation even if the relatives were good friends.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he felt the person doing the interview would know after talking to the person if it is going to work.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he could see some problems and

thought the sheriff had to be willing to deal with those.

Butts said the last time the policy was updated was 1998.

Rasure asked about people from the same household.

"I don't have a problem," Butts said. "I have people going off at the same time today."

Thomas asked what had to be done to change the policy.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said to let everyone know what the change is and place it in the minutes.

Selby said the question is to define how to list the immediate family, and asked if it should include in-laws and grandchildren. She said grandparents in-law seems to be a bit far out on the family tree.

See POLICY, Page 8

Cowboys show off for fans



Junior Cowboys quarterback Travis Angleos (11) ran out of an arm tackle on a quarterback keep and headed toward the endzone, but was tackled a few yards short of the goal line during the Soap Scrimmage on Friday. The Cowboys open the football season at 6 p.m. on Friday against the Atwood Buffaloes at Cowboys Stadium. See story, photos on Page 10.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Flatlander committee asks for money

By Sharon Corcoran

slcorcoran@nwkansas.com

A Flatlander Fall Festival committee member asked the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau for financial support Thursday, but the group will have to wait until September for an answer.

Brent Wood, a festival committee member and owner of AIG Financial Advisors, approached the bureau at its scheduled meeting Thursday afternoon, but since there wasn't a quorum, no action could be taken. The bureau's board plans to discuss whether or not to give money to the festival and how much at its next meeting, scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 11.

The committee has spent money on posters to hang in businesses, brochures, printing and mailing flyers about the festival's golf tournament and other means to promote the festival, Wood said. The posters are being put up around the area, he said, and about 5,000 brochures have been mailed in the area.

About 400 flyers on the golf tournament have been mailed to golf clubs and people outside of Good-

land, Wood said, and that involves quite a cost. The festival is adding a \$25,000 hole-in-one prize this year, he said, and is promoting the event around the area.

The tournament will begin with registration at 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 28, at the Sugar Hills Golf Club. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third, two longest-drive contests, two closest-to-the-pin challenges and two longest-putt contests. Call 899-2785 and talk to Mel Dolezal to enter. The \$55 entry per player includes lunch.

Area radio stations will promote the festival, Wood said, including one as far away as McCook, Neb., and an interview for Goodland's CBS television station will be taped and aired in September.

It would be ideal to draw people from a 60-mile radius around Goodland, he said, and festival organizers are only limited by their resources. The Flatlander committee doesn't make money off the street fair, he said, but just brings in enough to cover costs. Organizers

See VISITORS, Page 8