

weather report



48°
noon
Monday

Today

Sunset, 4:40 p.m.
Wednesday
Sunrise, 6:21 a.m.
Sunset, 4:39 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 48 degrees
- Humidity 37 percent
- Sky clear and sunny
- Winds north 14-23 mph
- Barometer 30.36 inches and steady
- Record High today 84° (1980)
- Record Low today 10° (1959)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 78°
Low Sunday 36°
Precipitation none
This month none
Year to date 13.89
Below Normal 4.77 inches

The Topsis Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 52, a low around 27 and winds out of the east at 5-10 mph.
Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 69 and a low around 29.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny with a high near 66 and a low around 29.
Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 72 and a low around 34.
Saturday: Sunny with a high near 66 and a low around 34.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$7.37 bushel
Posted county price — \$7.38
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
Corn — \$3.37 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.40
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
Milo — \$3.21 bushel
Soybeans — \$8.50 bushel
Posted county price — \$8.86
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
Millet — \$7 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
Posted county price — \$17.82
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
(Markets by Scouler Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today



More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News

Skate park gets \$5,000 boost

By Ramona C. Sanders

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The new Goodland Skate Park is \$5,000 closer to being built after a donation by Garden City-based Finnup Foundation Trust presented to two members of the Shine On Sherman County youth committee Tuesday during the annual meeting of the Sherman County Economic Development Council.

Shine On Sherman County youth committee members Kim Bohme of Miller's Home Center and Goodland High School student Brittney Medrano were on hand to update the board on the status of a new skate park.

Bohme said the group has raised \$12,000 to \$14,000 in seven months through bake sales, car washes and farm cleanups. They gave board members copies of an architectural rendering of the proposed park.

Medrano said kids in the youth committee have visited several communities with skate parks, including Burlington, Hays, Ulysses and Denver. She said the skaters want to see a park of their own.

"We don't have a place to skate,"



Bohme



Medrano

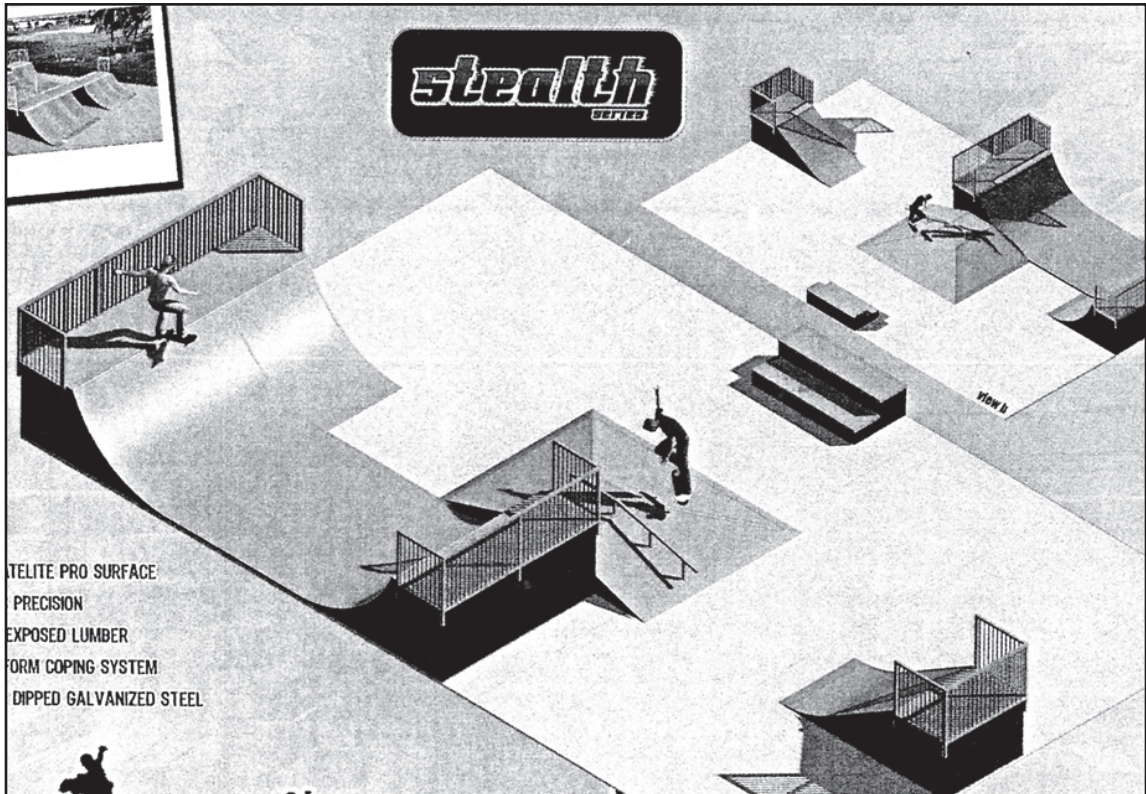
Brittney told the gathering. "We've been kicked out of everywhere — even Wal-Mart."

Bohme said the effort has been a great collaboration between the adults and the youth in the committee.

"They have taught us about skate parks ... and we have taught them about finance," she said.

The first phase of construction on the park will be a half-pipe set to begin in the spring. The skate area, at Steever Park on land donated by the city, is expected to cost \$47,000.

A fund-raising breakfast for the skate park will be from 5:30-10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Sugar Hills Golf Course. Tickets are \$5.



An artist's rendering shows a skate park planned for the area at Steever Park where the old swimming pool was. The existing concrete would be incorporated into the park. The estimated cost, with all the fixtures, is \$47,000. So far, the Shine On Sherman County Youth Committee has raised about \$14,000.

Sales tax raises more than \$1 million

By Tom Betz

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In the first year for the special one-cent sales tax for roads, Sherman County received just over \$1 million, which will go to pay off the bonds for the joint city-county road projects.

County Treasurer Iris Scheopner provided the figures for the first year, which began in July 2006. The first income was reported in August, bringing in \$90,349. Through December, the sales tax collection totaled \$435,983 for five months.

From January through July 2007, the collection was \$615,749 for a total of \$1,051,732, she said.

Scheopner reported interest for the first year totaled \$21,674. The first bond payment for \$427,699 was made at the end of June.

August's collection this year was \$111,971, which was nearly \$20,000 ahead of last year, Scheopner reported. September's collection was \$161,172, or \$61,272 ahead of last September. The total sales tax collection for the first three quarters this year is \$888,892.

The special one-cent sales tax was approved by county voters in March last year to pay off about \$12 million in bonds that were issued last September.

Both the city and county governing boards are hoping the monthly sales tax collection continues to grow and allows the bonds to be paid off early, in about seven years.

Scheopner said the county portion of a one-cent sales tax that is shared with Goodland and Kanorado is showing some small growth in collections this year. She said through August, the county has received \$335,587, which is \$10,396 ahead of the \$325,191 received in the first eight months last year. The county receives about 46 percent of the one-cent sales

tax, with Goodland receiving a similar amount and Kanorado getting about 4 percent.

Work on the city-county road projects have been moving ahead, with most of the city projects either done or nearing completion.

City project included intersections on Eighth at Caldwell and Armory Road, repaving part of North Caldwell and major reconstruction on North Caldwell from Toelkes to the airport.

The rebuilding of 17th Street from Main to Cherry included putting in a new storm drain and about 11 inches of concrete.

The final piece of the city plan, which is under construction, is concrete for Eighth Street from Cattle Trail to D'Lao Drive.

County projects include a mill and overlay of old U.S. 24 across the county, completed this summer; major rebuilding of Eighth Street (County Road 65) from K-27 west to County Road 14, which is projected to begin in May; paving of the one-mile stretch of Road 16 between old U.S. 24 and Road 65 that runs past the golf course; and rebuilding the nearly one mile of Road 14 that runs along side the Northern Sun sunflower plant and the Goodland Energy Center.

The bids have been let on the Road 65 project, which is to begin construction in May. The Sherman County commissioners are expected to review the plans for Road 16, and bids are expected to be sent out in December, with a January opening in time to begin construction in the early spring.

The Road 14 project received a \$800,000 economic development grant from the state, and the plans for the road have been drafted and a field check done. The county is asking the state to move the project up on the priority list, but has not heard anything to date. The project is scheduled to be let for bid in 2009.

Commissioners question out-of-town purchases

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County commissioners reviewed the bills for the second half of October during their Wednesday meeting and questioned a purchase of extension cords from an out-of-town firm.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure raised the question about a \$360 bill for extension cords purchased from California Contract Supplies Inc.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas looked at the bill and said he did not know but they could call road and bridge supervisor Steve Goodman and ask.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede agreed, saying he could not understand the purchase.

Thomas called Goodman and put him on the speakerphone and asked him about the extension cords.

Goodman said those were special extra heavy duty cold weather cords ordered for the landfill. He said he got them for the landfill because in the cold weather, regular cords get stiff and will break.

The bill from California Contract Supplies of Van Nuys, Calif., listed three 25-foot cords for \$199 and three 50-foot cords for \$160. The total for the extension cords was \$359.

Goodman said these cords come with

built-in lights to show the cord has power.

Rasure asked Goodman if he did not think anybody in town could order the special cords.

Goodman said he had not seen anything like it here, and had asked at Shores Brothers and Orscheln's and they did not know about them.

Tiede said it appeared Goodman was ordering other things from the same company.

Goodman said he was ordering special gloves for the landfill people, which were supposed to be puncture proof.

The special gloves cost \$143 from the same Van Nuys, Calif., firm, he said.

The commissioners suggested that Goodman should check around the next time he has to order something like those cords.

"If they are available locally, I will get them from here," Goodman said.

A check with Mary Ann Sneath of the county clerk's office shows the road and bridge department has been purchasing equipment from the California firm for several years.

With the question about the cords answered, the commissioners approved the bill totaling \$1,146,195. Thomas said the large total included payments on the city and county road projects.

Museum primed to add hot air balloon exhibit

By Ramona C. Sanders

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The High Plains Museum is primed to add another piece of aviation history to its exhibits: one of the first hot air balloons in Kansas and one of only about 10 of its type in the country.

That is, as soon as a place to display it is ready.

There simply isn't enough room in the 4,500-square-foot museum at 1717 Cherry Ave. to house the huge balloon and five-foot-tall gondola (the basket which carried passengers), said museum director Linda Holton.

Holton said the historic donation from Gloria Woodmancy of Sharon Springs will be put in storage, the same fate as about two-thirds of the museum's donations.

Historical items, including period clothing, antique furniture, archived photos and even an old-fashioned hand-powered dentist drill, are waiting on shelves to be seen by the more than 3,000 annual visitors the museum receives, she said.

"We're 47 years old, and 47 years full of donated artifacts," said Holton of the museum, built in 1960.

But Holton, who has been the director for 16 years, hopes to change

that. It's just a matter of when — and how much, she said.

High Plains Museum is owned by the city of Goodland and primarily financed by city funds. Holton said its annual operating costs is \$70,000-\$75,000, but the museum receives only "a few thousands" in revenue.

The museum was given a two-acre parcel next to the Holiday Inn Express last year. The land was donated by the hotel's owners, the Irvin family, Holton said.

The next step is to secure money for a new building. Holton hopes to build a 20,000-square-foot facility that would cost between \$3 million and \$3.5 million.

Holton said following a final report from the surveyors, Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, the museum will receive a legal description so that it can proceed with fund raising.

Not only is money needed to build the new museum, but the larger size and expanded displays will cost more to maintain and operate. Holton said the museum has a total of 7,350 objects and 6,285 photographs available for display.



High Plains Museum director Linda Holton stood in one of several storerooms at the museum last month. Items in boxes are waiting for room to be displayed.

Photo by Ramona C. Sanders/The Goodland Star-News

Girls place in contest

Berkley White, 12, put her foot into a football during the punt, pass and kick competition on Sept. 29 at Cowboys Stadium. She qualified to go to the regional competition held in Littleton, Colo. on Oct. 14. See photo, story on Page 10.