

weather report

71°
noon
Monday



Today

- Sunset, 8:13 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:14 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 63 degrees
- Humidity 25 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds northwest 14 mph
- Barometer 30.02 inches and steady
- Record High today 102° (1952)
- Record Low today 41° (1997)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 75°
- Low Wednesday 47°
- Precipitation .05
- This month 0.69
- Year to date 3.94
- Below normal 3.98 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 91, winds out of the south at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 59. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 83, winds north 10-15 mph and a low around 50.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high near 80 and a low around 51. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 81 and a low around 59. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 86 and a low around 58.

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

Splashing good time



Swimmers of all ages enjoyed the pool at Steever Water Park on Tuesday with the warmer weather. Kids were jumping off the diving boards and riding down the slides. The heated water park is open daily, and Friday is \$1 day with admission for everyone at \$1.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Efforts started to save Penney's

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkans.com

A Goodland banker started a letter-writing campaign aimed at keeping the J.C. Penney store here open, while city and county officials tried to figure out what they can do to save the downtown business.

Officials at Penney's announced last week that the store, with three full time employees, would close in September.

Steve West, vice-chairman of the Sherman County Economic Development Council and president of Western State Bank, said Friday

he had talked to Lorri Madden, the store's manager in McCook, Neb., on Thursday.

He said he talked to City Commissioner John Garcia about developing a plan involving the city and county and the county-sponsored development council. West said it is a long shot, but he thinks the town deserves an effort to save the store.

Clyde Lambert, who managed the Penney's store here in the 1980s, said Friday he thinks contacting the top three executives in the company is the best way to reach the firm.

He suggested sending a delega-

tion from the city and county to Plano, Texas, to make a case to keep the store open.

Madden, in an interview by phone from McCook on Friday, said it had been a tough week for her. She said she had only been told about the closing on Monday, the day before employees got the news.

"There are only certain things I have control on, and I have very little information than what you had," she said. "These are tough decisions."

Madden said despite the feeling of the employees that the store had

been making a profit, it has not been meeting the company's goals for several years. She said company officials did not see any way that it could be turned around.

She said part of the Penney's overall goal is to have stores that are profitable, and that the corporate research people are saying that customers are driving to central malls. She said this does effect some of the smaller stores, but if the Goodland store had been making money, it would not be closed.

With the Goodland store closed, the closest would be either McCook

or Hays, Madden said, or customers can order on the Internet.

"We are dominate in the Internet," she said, "and we have to be a good corporate operation to make a profit for our shareholders."

Madden said when the announcement was made, employees were told they could relocate to another store, but none of them asked her about that at the time.

"I told them I could find them a place in any Penney's store," she said. "It would mean they would

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local markets



Noon

- Wheat — \$7.83 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.73
- Corn — \$6.17 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.08
- Milo — \$5.75 bushel
- Soybeans — \$13.22 bushel
- Posted county price — \$13.69
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
- Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)

(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

East exit museum site land given back to owners

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkans.com

Plans to build a new High Plains Museum out by the east I-70 exit ran into cost problems, and last Monday the city returned the land to the Sandy Trust.

More than six years ago, the trust, repre-

senting the Sandy family, agreed to donate about 15 acres northeast of the exit. Plans hit a snag the museum found out it would cost more than \$350,000 to extend power and sewer lines to the property east of Business U.S. 24.

The original agreement was for four years,

but the trust granted an extension for another two.

Without plans to build on the land, City Manager Wayne Hill presented the commission with a quit claim deed prepared by City Attorney Jeff Mason to return the land to the trust.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked if there was a time limit on the donation. Mason said the time had run out in January.

Commissioner Josh Dechant said it would be best to give the land back, and made a motion

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M*A*S*H Bash lineup ready for Slice of Life

By Sharon Corcoran

slcorcoran@nwkans.com

Organizers say they have a great lineup of celebrity guests and are encouraging veterans to attend a tribute at the Friday night "M*A*S*H Bash" during the Slice of Life benefit auction and golf tournament later this month.

Tina Goodwin, director of marketing and volunteer services for the Goodland Regional Medical Center, said 12 celebrities have confirmed they are coming, and a couple more may decide at the last minute. Footballs signed by NFL Hall of Famer Len Dawson, Dallas Cowboys Owner Jerry Jones and Broncos quarterback Jay Cutler have arrived for the auction, she said, and the celebrities will bring a lot of stuff with them.

Tom Bell, president of the Kansas Hospital Association, will present the association's Community Connections Award to the hospital at the gala, Goodwin said.

The hospital was chosen as the Northwest District winner, said Administrator Jay Jolly, adding that the award recognizes things hospitals do for their communities. It recognizes the hospital's effort in bringing a Veterans Administration out reach clinic to the area, he said.

The 19th annual benefit auction and golf tournament takes on a military theme and a different schedule this year, still raising money for the Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation to benefit the hospital.

The V.I.P. Reception and M*A*S*H Bash, with silent and live auctions and live entertainment, will be Friday, June 20, and the golf tournament Saturday, June 21. The silent auction will continue throughout the tournament, and winners will be announced at the awards reception Saturday.

In the past, there was a reception on Friday night, the auction and entertainment on Saturday night and the golf tournament on Sunday.

Sunday will be a travel day for out-of-town guests and celebrities, said Dale Schields, foundation director and human resource director at the hospital; some have other things going on.

Hopefully, having the event on two days instead of three will reduce expenses by eliminating one evening social and some celebrity lodging and golf expenses.

The V.I.P. Reception will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Friday in the M*A*S*H tent at Sugar Hills Golf Club. At 6:30 p.m., the doors open for the M*A*S*H Bash. The Blue Heeler band from Hutchinson will perform.

A shotgun start to the golf tournament will be at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, and the silent auction will continue during play. The awards reception will be at 4 p.m., and the golf club will provide evening entertainment.

The Friday night social will carry out the M*A*S*H theme, Schields said, with tents and jeeps and fatigues. Sugar Hills will provide the food and beverages, he said, and organizers are working with the National Guard on the theme.

"We are proud to honor our military service men and women during the 2008 Slice of Life weekend," he said.

Admission is \$40 for those not participating in the golf tournament, Goodwin said. Some items will be sold in a live auction and others in a silent auction.

Entries fees for the tournament are \$130 per person or \$390 per team. Three-person teams

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Safety bike rodeo goal



Jessi Duell, daughter of Dan and Karen Duell of Goodland, maneuvered her bicycle around cones at a Bicycle Rodeo held Tuesday at the Sherman County Fairgrounds. Goodland Police Officers Mike Fenner and Bill Fulcher and Sherman County Sheriff's Deputy Jason Showalter helped, and city records clerk Deb Wasse Miller issued bicycle licenses. Other sponsors were Goodland Area Crime Stoppers, Goodland Wal-Mart and the Sunflower Extension District.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

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Burlington wins tourney

Preston Dautel pitched for the Goodland American Legion team at the Levi Hayden Memorial Tournament and won the \$500 Hayden Memorial Scholarship. Burlington won with a 4-0 record. See photos, story on Page 10.