

weather report

84°
noon
Monday



Today

- Sunset, 8:18 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 5:22 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:18 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 73 degrees
- Humidity 32 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds east 8 mph
- Barometer 30.03 inches and falling
- Record High today 107° (1971)
- Record Low today 42° (1940)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Sunday 98°
- Low Sunday 62°
- Precipitation none
- This month 0.76
- Year to date 4.01
- Below normal 5.45 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 90, winds calm becoming southeast 10-15 mph and a low around 61. Wednesday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 94, winds south 5 to 15 mph and a low around 62.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 92 and a low around 63.

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

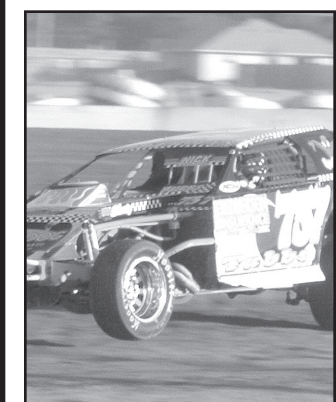
local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$8.39 bushel
- Posted county price — \$8.41
- Corn — \$6.71 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.76
- Milo — \$6.29 bushel
- Soybeans — \$13.68 bushel
- Posted county price — \$14.34
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$29.40 cwt.
- Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Good night for racing

Nick Tubbs (737) of Colby rounded turn one on three wheels with his left front wheel off the ground and not turning. Tubbs out ran Brady Coen (3) of Wiley, Colo., to win the modified main on Saturday, June 14. See photo, story on Page 12

M*A*S*H spirit at Slice of Life

By Sharon Corcoran

slcorcoran@nwkansas.com
Retired athletes, representatives from the film industry, the president of the Kansas Hospital Association, Col. Sherman T. Potter and Sgt. Maxwell Klinger all in one place?

Sure, when it's Goodland Regional Medical Center's M*A*S*H Bash for the annual Slice of Life fund raiser.

The party was hopping under a big white tent at the Sugar Hills Golf Club Friday, as athletes, celebrities, hospital officials, veterans and Goodland society gathered to raise money for the hospital.

Lanterns, a thatched hut and Army cots helped set the M*A*S*H theme, along with those who fell in wholeheartedly with their military attire.

The Blue Heeler band provided music, the Veterans of Foreign Wars the color guard and the Sugar Hills Golf Club food and drinks, while many played the M*A*S*H theme to the hilt. Dale Schields, hospital director of human resources, as Col. Potter, wa master of ceremonies, and Brett Jarmin, a waiter from the golf club, played the resourceful Sgt. Klinger.

When the colors were presented, Scott McPhail, who works in animation marketing and production services at Dreamworks, sang "America the Beautiful."

Several guests wore camouflage or Army fatigues, and Ying Huang, retired head of the hospital's laboratory, his original Army uniform from when he served at a field hospital in Berlin from 1960 to '62.

Guests could bid on Broncos tickets, art, vacations, military memorabilia and sports and entertainment items in silent and live auctions.

Tom Bell, president of the Kansas Hospital Association, presented the association's Community Connections Award and a check for \$1,000 to the hospital. The hospital will work with the VFW, Schields said, to use the money to help veterans.

The hospital was chosen as the Northwest District winner, said Administrator Jay Jolly, adding that the award recognizes the hospital's effort in bringing a Veterans Affairs



outreach clinic to the area. The auction went well, said Tina Goodwin, director of marketing and volunteer services, similar to what it has been in past years, and the golf registration was about the same. Goodwin said figures on what was raised would be available after they have all the expenses tabulated later this week.

Results of the golf tournament and prizes were not available Monday.

Results of the golf tournament and prizes were not available Monday.

Results of the golf tournament and prizes were not available Monday.

Results of the golf tournament and prizes were not available Monday.



Guests signed in at the GRMC 4077 tent (above) at the M*A*S*H Bash Friday night. Tom Bell (right), president of the Kansas Hospital Association, presented a large \$1,000 check to Administrator Jay Jolly and Human Resources Director Dale Schields at the bash. See more photos on pg. 10.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

Economic development doubles offer

By Pat Schiefen

pjschiefen@nwkansas.com

An incentive package to keep the J.C. Penney in Goodland open could include \$25,000 from economic development funds, a 50 percent discount on city utilities for two years, worth around \$10,000 a year, and lowered rent from landlord Pete Whalen.

At a meeting of city, county and economic development officials at 7:15 a.m. Friday morning, City Commissioner John Garcia

said there is interest in giving Penney's \$25,000 for a second year.

Garcia said Whalen has offered to cut the rent in half.

Garcia said he checked with the county, the development council would have the money available. The first \$25,000 is already in the budget, Garcia said.

"The whole community has shown interest in doing this," said Economic Development Chairman Chuck Wilkens said,

City Manager Wayne Hill, who is writing the proposal, said he wanted to ask Penney's to commit to keeping the store open five years. The store has three full time employees.

"If they agree, we will get it in legal form," he said.

"It's OK to ask for five year," said Economic Development board member Mike Cochran of Cochran Farm Supply

Other economic development members present were Danny Archer from Finley

Motors, Don Newell from S & T Communications, Jerry Fairbanks from First National Bank and Steve West from Western State Bank.

City Commissioner Dave Daniels attended, along with three county commissioners, Kevin Rasure, Mitch Tiede and Chuck Thomas.

Garcia said other options — like a different building — are being explored, but those are out of the hands of the public officials represented at the meeting.

County commissioners not sure four-day work week would help

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

High gas prices and a slowing economy make the idea of a four-day work week look like a good idea, but Sherman County officials, unsure it would save the county money, decided Tuesday to investigate the issue before making a decision.

In recent weeks, commissioners said, Gove County has decided to switch to a four-day week, and other counties are looking at the plan to see if it would save money without causing taxpayers undue problems.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the change would mean extended hours for the four days, and probably mean the offices would be closed one day a week, probably Friday.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he did not think the four-day plan would work for every office, noting that the district court is different.

Linda Bowen of the district court said the court follows the state calendar and rules, not the county's.

Rasure said he worried about the treasurer's office and people who are trying to do business with the county.

asked what would the offices do if the commissioners made a change. County Clerk Janet Rumpel said for her office, they could work it out.

"What are you going to gain?" Thomas asked.

William McKnight, building maintenance supervisor, asked if anyone had talked to the counties like Gove who have made the change.

Rumpel said Gove is just starting their four-day schedule. She said one difference is that the district court does not use the courthouse in Gove.

Tiede said it might be good to ask the city how their being open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. has gone, as they have been on that schedule for more than three and one-half years.

He said the county Health Department staff is working on a four-day schedule, but covering the office for five days.

"That seems to be working fine for them," he said. "We are not going to save the county any money, because the lights are going to be on. I don't see going to a four-day week."

County Treasurer Iris Scheopner said in her office it would probably mean she would have to have a part time person go full time or hire another full time to keep the office open.

Rasure said the schedule might work in the appraiser's office, and Karla Meissinger who works in the office agreed it might because they have less public traffic.

He said in the register of deeds' office, Billie Hoyt is a one-person show.

"I have the lowest amount of traffic," Hoyt said. "I could do the four-day thing if people knew when we were going to be open."

Rumpel said the state has done some of this, as they already are closed on Monday's for handling driver's licenses.

Tiede said he thought they should hold off for now and see how it goes in the other counties.

Thomas said it would not work for the district court and county attorney's office.

"I agree we should give it more thought," Rasure said.

Hoyt said the idea should be discussed in each county office before it is brought back to the commissioners.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said she did not think a four-day week would work for her office.

"I am sure the employees would like the idea," she said, "but think the way things go on Friday's, I doubt we could close."

Utility customers could win VIP tickets

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

Goodland utility customers will have three chances to win two VIP tickets to the Pro Bull Rider event on Wednesday, Aug. 6, the city commissioners decided on Monday.

City Clerk Mary Volk said Wednesday the staff plans to start collecting entries for the tickets on July 1, and that the three winners would be drawn on Wednesday, July 16, after the Tuesday payment deadline.

"Those paying their bills at the city office will be able to enter the drawing when they pay their bill," Volk said. "Those paying by bank draft or by mail will have to come to the city building to enter the drawing. The bill has to be paid in full to enter the drawing."

For being a sponsor of the Chute-Out on the Plains event, the city got six VIP tickets, which include a barbecue and are worth \$20 each. Organizer Randy Whitmore asked commissioners what they wanted to do with the tickets, and the commissioners asked for

some time to think about it.

Commissioner Josh Dechant said he had thought about donating the tickets to an organization such as Big Brothers-Big Sisters. Commissioner Dave Daniels suggested having some sort of drawing for city customers.

Mayor Rick Billinger agreed it was a good idea to give the tickets away.

"What are you thinking about," Dechant asked Daniels.

"I was thinking we could use the city utility accounts," he replied.

Volk said she would want to know that the winners are going to use the tickets Dechant said he thought it would be easy enough to handle.

"I think we can do it," Volk said. "They will have to come inside to pay the bill and put their names in the drawing."

In other business, the commissioners:

• Asked what has been done on a proposal for dealing with