


weather
report

92°
noon
Thursday



Today

Sunset, 7:44 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 5:59 a.m.
Sunset, 7:43 p.m.

Middy Conditions

• Soil temperature 77 degrees
• Humidity 28 percent
• Sky mostly sunny
• Winds west 13 mph
• Barometer 29.91 inches
and steady

• Record High today 103° (1936)
• Record Low today 41° (1920)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 97°
Low Wednesday 63°
Precipitation none
This month 2.22
Year to date 17.15
Above normal 2.22 inches

The Topside Forecast


Today: Mostly sunny with a
high near 90, winds breezy out of
the north at 5 to 30 mph and a low
around 61. Saturday: Partly cloudy
with a 20 percent chance of show-
ers and thunderstorms, a high near
86, winds out of the south at 5 to 10
mph and a low around 61.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a
30 percent chance of showers
and thunderstorms, a high near
79 and a low around 61. Monday:
Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent
chance of showers and thunder-
storms, a high near 82 and a low
around 62.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 11 a.m.


local
markets




Noon

Wheat — \$5.92 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.66
Corn — \$3.52 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.55
Milo — \$3.23 bushel
Soybeans — \$9.52 bushel
Posted county price — \$9.88
Millet — \$5 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$15.95 cwt.
Confection — \$28/\$15 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)
(Markets by Scoular 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



Crowd sees
record pull

Ross Townsend of Good-
land holds his hands away
from the controls as the trac-
tor is connected to the sled
at Friday's tractor pull. He
was fifth in the small block
competition. See story, pho-
tos on Page 10, 11.



County gets earful, adjusts cuts

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

People from several “special interest” groups were at Sherman County commissioner meetings on Monday and Tuesday to ask that cuts in their programs for next year’s budget be reconsidered.

On Monday representatives from the Goodland Arts Center, the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging and Goodland Senior Center were at the meeting to ask the commissioners to reconsider the cuts that had been previously announced in letters the organizations had received.

Tuesday the commissioners met all day working on the budget and heard from the Sherman County Economic Development Council and the Sherman County Historical Society about their programs.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said hearing from the people was eye opening and better than just everybody sending in letters asking for taxpayer money. She said making the cuts

is something she sees as necessary, but was willing to learn more about what each program does in the county for the citizens.

The commissioners will continue their budget discussions as part of their meeting on Monday morning. The meeting will begin at 7:30 a.m.

Members of the Economic Development Council including Walt Linthacum, chairman, Jerry Fairbanks, vice chairman and Shelley Thompson, treasurer were at the meeting Tuesday morning to discuss what the next step is since the property tax levy was defeated in the primary election.

Linthacum said the council executive committee had met and was proposing to go back to Plan A, and handed out a proposed budget for next year that would include the \$50,000 from the city and \$50,000 from the county.

Strnad said she had some issues she felt needed to be cleared up and wanted to start with the building at 17th and Broadway Ave. She asked who is responsible for what.

She said the county owns the building, but the income and expenses were going through the council’s budget.

“We tried to give it back,” Fairbanks said, “but the expenses were coming out of our budget. We were very confused about what our responsibility is.”

“That would make three of us,” Strnad said. “It is a muddled mess and we need to make it as clear cut as possible.”

“If you own the building you should get the rent and pay the expenses,” Fairbanks said.

Strnad said that makes sense and marked through the budget lines of building expense and rental income.

“We will have the tenants contact the county or William McKnight about problems,” she said. “We own the building, and you will not have that problem.”

“That is what we thought was going to happen,” Fairbanks said.

The commissioners and council members discussed a number of issues during the meet-

ing, but the commissioners have not made a decision on the economic development budget, and will be talking about it again on Monday.

The commissioners decided Tuesday to fund the senior nutrition program through the Area Agency on Aging out of the health care sales tax for \$8,000 for Kanorado and \$3,500 for Goodland.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said she would help the Carnegie Arts Center with the afternoon program at \$2,500 out of her budget.

The commissioners agreed to give the historical society \$9,400.

Goodland Senior Center would get a 25 percent cut down to about \$29,000 and the Kanorado Senior Center would be cut down to about \$2,500 to be designated for the senior van.

More decisions about county budgets are expected to be made on Monday.

Owner promises building clean up

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

The business owner of two buildings on Main Ave., told the city commissioners he was working to clean the buildings up, and hoped to have the fronts improved by the first of September.

Jeff Soper, owner of Jeff’s Junk Tiques, 1110 Main Ave., told the commissioners Fire Chief Brian James had suggested he come down and talk to the city about his buildings.

He said he had a rental contract on one building and the renter brought in a lot of boxes to the point it was hard to even walk through the front of the building.

He said he had piled some of the stuff on the sidewalk as there was no other way to clean it out. He said the chief had found it was Soper’s responsibility to clean up the mess and James has given him an extension and he has the boxes down to about one-third of what was there.

He said nothing will be piled on the street again, and said he is working to get the cracked window fixed. He said he has a \$500 deductible, and having a problem getting it replaced to code. He said it will take another \$500 for the glass.

On his other building at 1008 Main, Soper said he would get the scary guy out of the window, and hope to have it cleaned up by September. He said he would put the other stuff behind the wall in the back.

City Commissioner John Garcia asked Soper if the September deadline was self imposed, and if that includes fixing the window.

“I am not sure,” Soper said. “I

Brownback brings tour to Goodland

Sen. Sam Brownback waved to a crowd of more than 30 people waiting for him at the shelter at Steever Park Thursday morning. Brownback with his wife, Mary, met with citizens as he listened to their concerns and ideas. Brownback is the Republican nominee for governor and the Road Map of Kansas tour is stopping in 32 towns in a campaign swing around the state.

Photos by Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

See CITY, Page 5

Development council may change director plans

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Sherman County commissioners talked about the plans for the economic development council if the program is funded for next year.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked what the council plans are for next year. Does the council plan to hire a director.

Jerry Fairbanks, council vice-chairman, said it depends on what the commissioners do with the budget. He said with the mill levy not being approved the council has to come to the commissioners on a year to year basis.

“We need a director,” he said. “Our focus may change in that we would like to find someone who is local who can be trained. We feel we can do that. We are not going to have the money to bring someone to town. In our executive committee meeting we talked about that, but we may change and try to find someone locally who can do a good job.”

Walt Linthacum, council chairman, said one of the candidates the council had interviewed was going to be hired by Liberal for \$80,000.

“That gives you an idea of what these guys are costing,” he said. “That is not in our budget.”

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad asked what the council was going to do since Helen Dobbs had submitted her resignation as the office manager.

Fairbanks said he got her resignation on Monday, and was not sure what they are going to do. He said there was some indication Dobbs was willing to stay for the rest of the year if an agreement can be worked out. He said the council wants to keep the office open.

Commissioner Max Linin asked if the city had budgeted money for economic development.

“Yes, they put the money in the budget and it has been approved,” Fairbanks said.

Linin asked what the director’s salary might be.

“It has to be something we can afford and keep the office open,” Fairbanks said. “It depends on if we have two with the Chamber and economic development sharing the office and staff. That would save money, but it has not happened. The Chamber so far has not been organized enough to get that done.”

Shelley Thompson, council treasurer, said with the normal office expenses what is left over is what you have to work with. She said the carryover has dropped dramatically in the past couple of years.

Strnad said the commissioners and council should talk about the elephant in the room and invited Ken Klemm, who led the vote against the property tax levy to come up and join the conversation.

“I guess I hesitate to speak for other people,” Klemm said, “but the feeling and thoughts that I have heard is that one thing is the funding has not been enough to get things done. There is just a little money left to get

things done, and the other issue is how the money is spent. Most people don’t like the the projects to paint houses and clean up businesses.

“I support economic development if it helps businesses. If you get some return for the benefit.”

He said combining office staff might make sense and give the program more money to work with. He said the funding issue was like heading to Denver with a quarter tank of gas. That is not enough and does not make sense. The feeling is the money is not being spent in a wise manner.

Strnad asked Klemm about his idea of seeing an economic development program that has an overall plan, a list of items and projects to be done and a time frame for goals.

Klemm said he did not feel the economic development program was doing the simple things to make sure the businesses here get what they need. One suggestion he had was to find a way to take advantage

of the eyeballs who come to the Walmart corner. He said we need to market things at that corner. He said something could be done that doesn’t cost much.

He said people do not feel anything is really happening but running an office.

“We have to get people’s eyeballs,” he said. “We need to come up with a half dozen ideas that let people see something is being done.”

Strnad asked Klemm if he felt the council needed to develop a written plan.

“I run a business and when I go to the bank I have to have a plan that will sell them,” he said, “and if it doesn’t work I had better have a good reason. Asking for a good plan is common sense if they don’t have a viable plan they don’t get funded.”

Thomas asked Klemm if he would be interested in being on the council.

Klemm said he would consider that.