The Goodland Star-News WEEKEND Friday, Oct. 8, 2010

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weather

report

noon

Monday

Goodland, Kansas 67735



Crews traverse town for clean up

Today Sunset, 6:18 p.m. Saturday • Sunrise, 6:51 a.m. • Sunset, 6:16 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 63 degrees
- Humidity 47 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds southeast 13 mph Barometer 30.28 inches
- and falling
- Record High today 91° (1910) Record Low today 20° (2000)

Last 24 Hours*

The Topside Forecast	
Above normal	1.24 inches
Year to date	18.91
This month	none
Precipitation	none
Low Wednesday	46°
High Wednesday	80°

Today: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, a high near 85, winds out of the south at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 44. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 72, winds out of the west at 10-15 mph and a low around 43.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 72 and a low around 43. Monday: Mostly sunny with the high near 77 and a low around 43. Tuesday: Mostly sunny and breezy, a high near 61 and a low around 35.

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





A city crew (above) rolled up a carpet along with other debris on East 12th Tuesday afternoon as part of the citywide clean up. The crew members were (left to right) Joni Showalter, LeAnn Taylor, Mike McLaughlin, Phil Erickson, Junior Vasquez and Kendall Gittinger. Dan Knitig was operating the loader. The crew picked up all kinds of trash including old sewer pipes, cabinets and other metal and electronic items, Photos by Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News



By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com City crews are nearing the end of their week of traversing town picking up piles of trash and hundreds of tires as part of their citywide clean up campaign.

Doug Gerber, city manager, told the commissioners on Monday he had been out with the city crews that morning and "people were putting things out behind us as fast as we were hauling it away."

City Commissioner Rick Billinger said he had seen piles on the curbs and in the alley and wondered if the city was picking them up in both places.

'Where we see a pile we stop and pick it up," Gerber said. "We have two crews with one working east to west and one north to south."

Tuesday afternoon a pickup was driving up and down alleys looking specifically for tires. Sharmis Blake said she was filling up the pickup and then taking them to the transfer station. At that point she said it appeared the city crews had picked up more than 300 tires by Tuesday afternoon.

"I have to tell people I am only getting the tires and another crew will be along for the pile of trash," Blake said. "I have seen some tires still on rims, and leave them where they are and drive on by because we can only take tires off the rims."

Gerber said Thursday morning he thought the city crews had picked up more than 2,000 tires as they have gone around the city this week. He said Commissioner John Garcia joined the city crews Thursday morning helping in the clean up.

A bit later on Tuesday a group of city employees came down 12th Street heading east with a couple of pickups, a loader, two dump trucks and a bobtail truck. The loader was used to pick up limbs and branches and put into one of the dump trucks. Other debris was rolled into the loader and put in the second dump

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Wheat — \$5.60 bushel Posted county price — \$5.54 Corn — \$4.32 bushel Posted county price -- \$4.30 Milo — \$4.17 bushel Soybeans — \$9.46 bushel Posted county price — \$9.65 Millet — \$5 hundredweight Sunflowers Oil current crop — \$18.20 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.)



Mavericks

host tourney

Jenice Hartman of the

Northwest Tech Mavericks

lined up a putt at the Mav-

ericks Invitational held on

Sunday and Monday at

Sugar Hills Golf Course.

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12.

Plans to improve Van Gogh landscape unveiled

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com Plans to plant trees around the Van Gogh painting as the first of a series of steps to improve the area were unveiled at the city commission meeting on Monday.

The plan would be to transplant about 25 pine trees to the area this fall and add larger Oak trees in the spring would be the first step in improving the area Commissioner Annette Fairbanks, who has been working on the project with the Resource Development Committee, said during a slide presentation she made to the commission.

She said the Resource Development committee was working with the Beautification Committee, and were gathering ideas and making plans for the project.

She said a meeting was held at the end of September to bring the interested groups together to see what can be done.

flower USA Association, the group that put the original project together and raised the money about nine years ago. Included was the Sherman County Convention and Visitors board, the city represented by Doug Gerber, city manager, representatives from the Goodland Rotary who have done the benches and brick walk and area under the painting and Dana Belshe from the Sunflower Extension District.

She said everyone agreed the Van Gogh is an anchor for beautification. The 24x32painting by Cameron Cross was erected in 2001, and has been a conversation piece since it went up.

"It has become one of the city's claims to fame," she said. "The city has received national media attention."

Fairbanks said a recent article in Parade mentioned the painting as one of the top

Included in the meeting was the Sun- unique places to visit. She said the landscaping with trees and later with flowers and possibly shrubs would be a way to improve the area around the painting without blocking the direct view.

> She said the idea was to develop a plan for the Van Gogh and the first step was to find out who owned the property. The city owns the property, and she said 25 or more trees have been donated and inspected by the expert from Hays.

> The next step is to get the trees planted, and she did not know how long that would take as they have to be moved from out by Sugar Hills. One part of the tree planting is a question of how to get water to the trees. She said the beautification people have been doing well keeping the planters on Main Ave. watered with volunteers and said a similar program might be done with the Van Gogh trees.

"I think the long term care will probably fall to the city," she said, "but we can continue to work with volunteers to help."

She said the first version of the landscape drawn up had too many trees, and has been revised with less trees.

She said the budget for the first portion is about \$4,200 and will be trying to get as much donated as possible.

She said they have 25 to 30 trees donated. The tree spade rental will be about \$1,000 to move the pine trees this fall. Buying decidious trees next spring will cost about \$2,250, and shrubs and flowers another \$500. Stakes and ropes to hole the trees in place for at least two years is expected to cost \$200, and ground preparation and fertilizer another \$250.

She said step two is to develop an information center or possibly a kiosk with an elec-

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City approves development agreement

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com Monday the city commission approved an agreement with Sherman County spelling out the terms of operation and funding for the program.

City Manager Doug Gerber said the agreement would have to be approved by the county commissioners, but felt it was a workable document that laid out the basic terms. It includes a statement that the county will continue to fund the program at least through the end of 2015.

The joint agreement was drafted by City Attorney Jeff Mason and County Attorney Bonnie Selby.

Gerber told the city commissioners he was thinking of a smaller advisory board made up of a city commissioner, county commissioner, representative from Northwest Tech, a representative (yearly rotating) from the banking community, a legal representative and the city manager as an ex-officio member.

He said his idea is the advisory board would meet on a monthly

Purchase approved for new, used pickup

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

City commissioners agreed Monday to purchase a new pickup for the water department and gave the city staff approval to purchase a used pickup for the power plant.

City Manager Doug Gerber said after the last meeting where the commissioners had asked the staff to go back and look at used pickups he said they had gotten bids on several types of vehicles. One of the previous discussions was about whether the city needed extended cabs or standard cab pickups.

Gerber said the staff got two used pickup bids, and really liked the one from Finley Motor - a used 4-wheel drive 2006 Silverado regular cab with 35,372 miles. He said the staff had test driven the vehicle and were going to recommend it to be pur-

tablish priorities.

Economic Development Coordinator and expects the salary range

said he got the salary figures from area of concentration is helping about 10 cities and felt that was an appropriate salary range.

The person would answer to Ger-

from Brenner for \$23,581, and recommend getting the extended cab "I have found there are situations where it is nice to

have an extended cab," he said. "I got that experience this morning when we started the clean up and we had three people and all our equipment in a standard

chased, but on Monday afternoon got a call from

not reasonable at \$21,000, as the city could buy a new

He said the used one from Dan Brenner Ford was

Gerber said he would recommend the new ones

Finley Motors that it had been sold.

Mayor Josh Dechant asked if Gerber was recommending one new pickup and one extended.

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He thinks the second goal would

agenda," Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said, "but they do comingle with economic development.

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be recruiting new businesses and services. "We know the local businesses

are our key to growth," he said, "We want to be open for new businesses, but don't want to do a lot of 'smoke stack' chasing."

Another area he mentioned was helping the Chamber. He said he has talked to the existing Chamber people and they are agreeable as a temporary way to help them move forward.

"I do not want to have the Chamber not go forward," Commissioner Dave Daniels said, "but I do not want to have it incorporated into the economic development operation."

Gerber said he felt was hard for the Chamber to bring a person in with the current situation.

"The Chamber has their own

cab pickup."

one for \$500 more.

basis to share information and es- to be from \$43,000 to \$59,000. He ber directly and he feels the main

Gerber said he is looking for an

existing businesses grow and stay in business.