

**weather report**

**84°**

noon  
Monday

**Today**

• Sunset, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday**

• Sunrise, 6:08 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:29 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

• Soil temperature 79 degrees

• Humidity 49 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds south 10 mph

• Barometer 30.04 inches

and steady

• Record High today 107° (1943)

• Record Low today 38° (1964)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High Sunday 93°

Low Sunday 63°

Precipitation none

This month 3.12

Year to date 15.81

Above Normal .59 inches

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 9 a.m., a high near 96, winds out of north at 5 mph and a low around 62. Wednesday: Sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 93, winds out of the north at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 64.

**Extended Forecast**

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high near 89 and a low around 63. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 89 and a low around 61. Saturday: Partly sunny with a high near 85 and a low around 60. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## Mattress fire damages home



Goodland volunteer firemen (above) prepared to enter the house at 221 Center Ave., on Friday morning where they worked through the heavy smoke to find a mattress in the back bedroom and put the fire out. To help vent the home firemen broke out the windows (below left) in the back of the house as a ladder is brought to get a couple of firemen up on the roof to cut a hole (below right) to vent the heat and make sure there was no fire in the attic.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Goodland firemen responded to a call of smoking pouring out of a house at 221 Center Ave. Friday morning and found the home full of smoke from a mattress fire caused by a child playing with a lighter Chief Brian James said.

Chief James said the home was rented by Michelle Reynolds and she had three young boys. He said one of the boys had been playing with a lighter and set the mattress on fire in the back bedroom.

"This is always a dangerous situation when kids are playing with things that can cause a fire, and parents need to be aware of anytime their children are playing with fire," he said.

He said the house was filled with smoke when a team of fire fighters entered the front door with a fire hose, and found the mattress in the back bedroom. James said the smoke was dense and it took the firemen some time to locate the main cause and put it out.

"The fire was actually starving for oxygen," James said, "and it was lucky the firemen were able to get to the mattress before we had a flash over or possibly even a back draft."

"Everything went smoothly, and the firemen did a great job."

The firemen sawed a hole in the roof to release the heat and make sure there was no fire in the attic.

James said the house has major smoke damage and is unlivable at this time.

He said the firemen responded to a kitchen fire in the 800 block of Cattle-trail Saturday morning, and it was quickly contained. Another call Saturday evening was for a possibly electrical fire and the firemen found a ceiling fan with an apparently overheated motor.



**local markets**

**Noon**

Wheat — \$7.53 bushel

Posted county price — \$7.61

Corn — \$7.21 bushel

Posted county price — \$7.23

Milo — \$6.83 bushel

Soybeans — \$12.80 bushel

Posted county price — \$13

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$31.45 cwt.

Confection — \$00/\$0 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$28

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

**inside today**

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



**Proud fisherman**

Laurie Carmichael and husband Mark of Goodland traveled to Jordan, Mont., to fish. Laurie caught this 40 inch Northern Pike weighing approximately 20 pounds. See photo on Page 10.

## Fire chief asks to add two volunteers

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Volunteer firemen slots for the city department will increase to 20 with the approval on Monday of the city commissioners.

Fire Chief Brian James asked the commissioners for the increase in the allowable number of volunteers up to 20, and increase of two spots.

James said two years ago before City Manager Doug Gerber came the city department was allowed to have 16, and he had asked to move it up to 18 including himself.

He said he has more people who want to join the department and some of the new ones could respond during the day.

James said he has checked with a few nearby departments to find out what their numbers are and found Burlington allows 30, Colby 25, and Grainfield 26.

Gerber said the number of volunteer firemen is set in the code and says it will not be less than 12 or more than 17 fire fighters. He said the limitation has not hampered the department, but he has been talking since he got to town about increasing and not have an artificial cap.

He said he checked with a number of other departments and found the average to be 26.

Gerber said he has had at least four people in the past weeks show in-

## City hears Flatlander update

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

The 25th annual Flatlander Fall Festival will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 23 to 25, and things are going well for planning the city commissioners were told on Monday evening.

Brent Wood, chairman of the Flatlander Festival committee said he was there to touch base with the city and update the commissioners. He said everything is going normal and as planned.

There has been a change in time for the street fair on Saturday moving the start up to 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. Wood said the people felt this was better timing because a number of other events begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday including the motorcycle games and the truck and tractor pull. The car races get going at 4:30 p.m. he said.

"It is the same hours, but felt it was better to start

earlier in the morning," he said.

Wood said the National Guard is planning to bring in Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s NASCAR car and have it on display on the Kansasland lot on Main. He said the National Guard is planning to bring in some top brass (high ranking officers) for the show.

He said this is the 25th anniversary of the car show on Main, and On the Bricks Car Club is planning some special things.

Wood said he is trying to organize a horseshoe tournament for Sunday afternoon to be part of the Picnic in the Park.

To encourage more craft vendors, Wood said they are lowering the booth price from \$45 to \$25 on Saturday. He said he hopes to include as many people as possible. He said the food vendors can

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terest in joining the department. He said the department has two slots, and it would make the department stronger to be able to add more.

He said there is a cost for bunker gear, radios, training and runs, but he feels the benefit is positive.

Commissioner Bill Finley asked how that increase would impact the budget the commissioners set.

Gerber said James has some money for bunker gear to outfit

the new people, and feels the city can find money for the training and fire runs.

Mayor John Garcia asked if Gerber has any idea of what the actual cost is going to be. He asked if it would be as high as \$9,000.

"I think that is high," Gerber said. "The bunker gear is probably going to come out of this year's budget and he said the training and runs would be about \$150 a month for both

added volunteers."

"If everybody could make every training and every call that would be more of a problem," James said. "With a volunteer department you are not guaranteed to have all of the people for each event."

"I view the cost as minimal compared to the fire protection we have," Garcia said.

Garcia asked about getting volunteers to a fire call at night.

James said he would have more for a night call. He said they had a call on Monday morning and seven showed up. He said they had a dumpster file last week and had four show up.

Garcia said it appeared James and Gerber had done some research.

Finley asked about the level of training when the department gets a new fire fighter.

James said the fireman has to know how to put on the gear and then go through the Fire Fighter I class. He said he hoped to have the new volunteers up to par for a structure fire in three to four months.

Commissioner Chris Zimmerman said - as a fire fighter - the new volunteers can go to fire calls and they can help with many tasks outside while they are training to pass the class.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said it doesn't sound like an exorbitant number of people and would agree to the increase.

Gerber said there is an ebb and flow to the department and said some may flow out and they need to have the new ones in place to flow in.

Garcia said it appeared the commissioners were in favor and told Gerber and James to take care of the details.

