

weather report



85°

10:30 a.m.
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 8:18 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 5:24 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:18 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 76 degrees
- Humidity 35 percent
- Sky clear and sunny
- Winds north 10 mph
- Barometer 30.05 inches and steady
- Record High today 107° (1963)
- Record Low today 45° (1908)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	110°
Low Wednesday	73°
Precipitation	none
This month	0.90
Year to date	5.32
Below normal	4.10 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny and hot with a high near 105 and a 20 percent chance of isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight, winds out of the north at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 69. Saturday: Mostly sunny and hot with a 20 percent chance of isolated showers and thunderstorms after noon, a high near 103, winds calm switching to the southeast at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 70.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny and hot with a high near 99 and a low around 73. Monday: Sunny and hot with a high near 100 and a low around 72. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets



10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$6.92 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.74
 - Corn — \$6.65 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.41
 - Milo — \$6.30 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$13.44 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$13.99
 - Millet — \$12 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$24.40 cwt.
 - Confection — no bid
 - 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, views from your Goodland Star-News



City bans fireworks sale, discharge

By Kevin Bottrell

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Responding to the extreme fire danger created by lack of rain, record high temperatures and high wind, the Goodland City Commission banned the sale and discharge of personal fireworks. The professional fireworks display on the Fourth of July is still set to go as planned.

City Manager Doug Gerber and Fire Chief Brian James called a special meeting Wednesday to discuss whether the city should allow fireworks. The Sherman County Commissioners decided last week to ban fireworks discharge outside Goodland city limits, but so far they have not banned sales in the county.

Sales and discharge are only allowed between June 27 and July 5 unless prohibited by local government. The city commission had voted at their last meeting to allow sales in the city for the first time in years, provided the vendors got permits, had insurance and had an inspection by James. Gerber said he had asked the two vendors who had obtained permits to hold off on sales until after the noon meeting, to see what decision the commissioners would make.

Shooting off fireworks has already been banned outside the city limits, but the county commissioners have decided to allow sales for now. Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said vendors were already selling before the commissioner meeting Thursday morning, so the commissioners decided not to prohibit them. If there is substantial rain before the Fourth of July, she said, the commissioners may revisit the ban on discharging fireworks.

At the city meeting, Gerber presented the city with several options, including leaving

things the way they are, banning discharge, but not sale, banning both or modifying the days and times that sales and discharge are allowed.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she would regret very deeply not doing enough to prevent a fire. She pointed to the fires in Colorado and Decatur County, and said that even though those fires hadn't been started by fireworks, things are so dry a fire could be started by anything.

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Smoke hampered visibility on many Decatur County roads (above) as firefighters battled four blazes around the county on Tuesday and Wednesday. The largest of the fires began when a car (below) that was overheating pulled over onto the grass by the side of the road on U.S. 36 on Tuesday.

Photos by Stephanie DeCamp/The Oberlin Herald



The effort of fighting a large fire in 110-degree heat took its toll. Rawlins County Firefighter Steve Chestmore collapsed and was taken to the Decatur County Hospital.

Photo by Stephanie DeCamp/The Oberlin Herald

Four fires ravage Decatur County

By Stephanie DeCamp

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Four separate fires ripped through Decatur County, destroying fields, barns and farm machinery from about 1 p.m. on Tuesday and on into Wednesday.

The fires, which devoured an estimated 7,000 acres of field, pasture and crops, sent six people to the Decatur County Hospital, with three being admitted.

Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said the patients were seen for smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion, and one was treated for burnt eyes from all of the smoke and ash.

Sherman County firefighters were not paged to the Decatur fires. Fire Chief Brian James said at one point he was told they might be put on standby, but no call for assistance came.

Sherman firefighters had to deal with a fire of their own on Saturday that destroyed a barn near County Roads Nine and 65. The fire burned through a line of trees into a nearby field. Firefighters have had to return

to the property throughout the week to put down hotspots.

The first and biggest of the Decatur County fires was started when Damian Kogel, 19, of Herndon, pulled his car off the road when it overheated on U.S. 36 about 1 p.m., Undersheriff Alan Marcum said. He had been heading westbound on his way home. Kogel then pulled into green grass about seven miles west of town, and the fire, driven by a stiff south wind, raced from under his car and jumped into a field of fresh wheat stubble to the north.

"There was nothing he could have done about it," Officer Marcum said. "He didn't do anything you or I wouldn't have done. I mean, that's what you're supposed to do when a car overheats: get off the road."

The undersheriff said that since no crime had been committed and no one had been injured, Kogel was allowed to go home.

Those who lost land, machinery and structures included Connie

See DECATUR, Page 5

School board closes books on fiscal year

By Pat Schiefen

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The Goodland School Board went about the business of closing the books for the 2011-12 school year at its meeting Monday. The board transferred what money it needed to zero out account balances.

The new year for the district and board start on July 1 and the reorganization meeting for the board will be at 7 p.m. on Monday at the administration building. They will elect a president and vice president for the board and board members decide who will serve on committees.

Superintendent Bill Biermann said Dependable Glass had received 85 to 95 percent of the windows and doors needed for the project at the Goodland High School. The project is expected to be finished before the start of school.

The student handbooks for each of the schools was put on hold until the Internet policy was finalized and if they were going to have a supply fee for elementary students. The district would supply pencils and

other supplies needed for grade school students with this fee. West Elementary Principal Verna Milnes said there were safety nets set up for those who couldn't afford the fees. The board did not want to okay a handbook before hiring a new principal for Goodland High School.

The board did approve the handbooks for the classified and substitute staff for the district.

Board member Mike Cochran reported that Northwest Tech has approved a tuition hike from \$99 to \$120 per hour. A good thing he said was for Goodland High School students taking classes the rate would remain at \$99.

The board paid \$40, 179 in bills.

They voted to hire Dana Inloes as the piano accompanist for the music department, Diana Bailey as the migrant director and Ruth Ontiveroz as a three-hour cook and substitute cook at Goodland High School.

Laura Biermann was hired as the assistant high school volleyball coach.

Continuing the project



Even as the new bricks are laid between 11th and 12th Streets, work began on the sidewalks between 12th and 13th Streets. Crews have been tearing out part of the concrete in order to lay new water pipes under the sidewalk.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News



Golfer win at tourney

The winning teams in the Slice of Life benefit tournament have been released as well as the winners of various competitions held at holes around the course.

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Sherman County Fairgrounds

Bring family and friends out for the **FREE Watermelon Feed and FREE Fireworks Show!**

- 6 p.m.- Goodland Kiwanis Club concession stand opens
- Home-owned Carnival rides open (\$10 wristbands)
- Watermelon feed by Goodland Rotary Club
- 7 p.m.-Live Entertainment: Chasynn Canaan Band
- 8:30 p.m.-Gates open to Grandstands
- 9:30 p.m. Fireworks Show

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Happy Fourth of July!

Be safe and enjoy the good times!

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have a rockin' **4th of July**

from all of us at **CASE III**

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