

weather report



80°

10:30 a.m.
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 7:50 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:36 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:51 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 6 degrees
- Humidity 17 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds southeast 12 mph
- Barometer 29.83 inches and steady
- Record High today 99° (1962)
- Record Low today 26° (1918)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	80°
Low Wednesday	39°
Precipitation	none
This month	0.06
Year to date	4.03
Below normal	0.19 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly sunny with a 50 percent chance of rain at night, a high near 65, winds breezy out of north at 15 to 30 mph and a low around 43. Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a 60 percent chance of rain, a high near 55, winds out of the east at 10 mph and a low around 43.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of rain, a high near 62 and a low around 45. Monday: Sunny with a high near 70 and a low around 48. Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 76 and a low around 52.

(National Weather Service)

Chamber working hard to revitalize

By Kevin Bottrell

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The revitalization of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce is going full speed ahead.

Chamber Director Michael Solomon said the new board has had its first meeting. There are about 50 member businesses from all over town. Solomon said he had seen a study that said 60 percent of people feel more comfortable doing business with companies that are part of a chamber, but even so, not everyone in town has signed on.

"Some people want to wait and see what the value is going to be," he said.

Solomon said he is planning to re-establish the end-of-year banquet that the old chamber put on each year, as well as business after hours events. He said he's been getting lots of advice from chambers of commerce in the area.

He said he also sees the chamber as a way to tie together downtown businesses and those along the highways.

Solomon is also the Sherman County Economic Development director, but he will be spending about 10 hours each week working on chamber business. The Goodland City Commission approved a contract with the chamber for his services at a meeting Monday. The commission agreed that Solomon

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Five emergency calls on busy Tuesday

Emergency medical technicians, firefighters and police responded to the scene of a motorcycle accident Tuesday near the intersection of Eighth Street and Montana. Officer Greg Krosky said Raymond McKaskle was heading westbound on Eighth Street on his motorcycle at 1:30 p.m. with a passenger, William Pearsall, when they crashed. McKaskle said the transmission seized up, causing the crash. The two men were taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center and later flown to Swedish Medical Center in Denver. Krosky said the two men were not wearing any safety gear, but the bike had a front screen that was high enough that they were not required to wear the gear. Nevertheless, Krosky said police always recommend bikers helmets and something to protect the arms. Kansas Highway Patrol Lt. Joe Greene assisted and the Goodland Road Department helped direct traffic. Emergency responders had a busy Tuesday, with three ambulance calls in the morning, the accident and an unattended death in the afternoon. Police Chief Cliff Couch said preliminary investigation into the death indicates it was from natural causes.

Photos by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News



local markets



10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$5.70 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.71
- Corn — \$5.71 bushel
- Posted county price — \$0
- Milo — \$5.46 bushel
- Soybeans — \$13.16 bushel
- Posted county price — \$0
- Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$26.60 cwt.
- Confection — no bid
- Pinto beans — \$28

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

City commission questioned on sewer formula

By Kevin Bottrell

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The Goodland City Commission heard from a citizen at their meeting Monday who was concerned over a high sewer bill.

Ed Ginn said he had bought a property on Arcade last year, and after he had done some work restoring the lawn and garden, the sewer rate became a lot higher. City Clerk Mary Volk said this is because the sewer rate for new customers is based on average water usage from December to February.

Ginn said he knew he used a lot of water, and had no problem with his water bill, but took exception to the sewer bill being tied to water use, since most of the water he used had been on his lawn and not sewer. He said it shows a problem in the formula. Only two people are living in the house now, but the sewer bill is higher than it was when four

people were living there before.

Volk said usually those months are usually the lowest for water use, but with the mild winter, more people were using water outside during those months than they normally would. The formula is similar to what many surrounding counties use.

In the past, she said, people have put in separate water meters for sprinklers, that way that water isn't factored into sewer bills, but that is a decision each homeowner has to make.

Commissioner Gary Farris asked about granting an exception. Commissioner Bill Finley said it is unfortunate, but if the commission made an exception in this case, everyone would want one. Gerber said the city office fields a lot of calls about sewer bills.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks asked Gerber to look into the formula and come back

to the next meeting with more information.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved a contract with Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates for project management and oversight on pavement improvements and rehabilitation of the parallel taxiway at Renner Field for about \$50,000.

Gerber said when the project was begun the Federal Aviation Administration was reimbursing 95 percent of the project costs, but since then Congress has decreased that to 90 percent.

- Adopted two resolutions to begin the condemning process on properties at 524 W. 16th Street and 601 Industrial Loop.

Anna Barnett came to address the commission on the property on 16th Street. She said she would be taking over the house from her mother and plans on starting renovations in the next two weeks, starting with the roof.

Garcia said the commission had no problem as long as she was making progress and made sure to get with Code Enforcement Officer Brian James to get it in writing.

Gerber said he had a fax from ADM, who owns the building, and he had talked to the company's lawyer, who had told him they planned to either tear the building down or finish it.

"I think they're serious about bringing this to a resolution," he said.

Garcia said the fax shows they'll be moving forward, and he didn't see any problem.

- Discussed a donation policy as a way to formalize the process for the city to give money to organizations. The item had been up for discussion several times, and Gerber had brought a draft for the commissioners to vote

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inside today



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Mustangs break records

The Grant Junior High track season came to a close at the Great West Activities Conference tournament, where the Mustangs broke numerous school and league records.

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School choirs hold concerts

Kicking off the Grant Junior High Spring Vocal Concert on Tuesday was Seventh Grade Girls Ensemble (above), who performed a song written in Swahili. At the Goodland High School Spring Vocal Concert on Monday among the choirs was the mixed chorale (left) which is made up of one male and the rest are female members.

Photos by Kevin Bottrell and Pat Schiefen The Goodland Star-News



Search on for vehicle

The Sherman County Sheriff's Office asking for help from the public in locating a 1995-2001 silver Ford Explorer that may have been used in an attempted theft.

The vehicle was last seen in north-

east Sherman County late Tuesday or Early Wednesday, occupied by three men attempting to steal gas from a farmstead. The sheriff's office said the vehicle may have sustained front end damage.

County to begin search for new EMS director

The Sherman County Commissioners are looking to hire a new emergency Medical Services director by Nov. 1 to help ease the transition as the county takes over the service from Goodland Regional Medical Center next year.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said people she has spoken to said it would be good to have a director in place several months before the county starts administering the service because there will be a lot of work to do in the meantime.

As for the new ambulance building, the county has hired architect Dan Hall of Manhattan to design the building. It would include a training room, two sleeping rooms, storage, an office for the director, a kitchen and bathrooms. The kitchen would be a safe room, built to withstand tornadoes or other disasters so that emergency responders can take shelter and be ready to roll out in a disaster. The building would be built

so that bays for the fire department can be added on in the future.

The commissioners said they haven't given final approval for the building yet, and there are some other options under consideration. Strnad said the hospital has offered to continue housing the service rent-free. Strnad said she would prefer the new building, because it would have sleeping rooms and space for training. As the county is trying to do the project from existing funds, so as not to raise taxes, she said county residents would probably understand the decision.

Commissioner Larry Enfield said there might also be the possibility of buildings in town that could be retrofitted into an ambulance building/fire station, and he would hate to close the door on that should an opportunity come up.

Hall will be at the commissioner meeting Tuesday to discuss the plans.

