

The Goodland Star-News

MIDWEEK

**Tuesday, July 6
2004**

75¢

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Twelve Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

72°

noon Tuesday



Today

•Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Wednesday

•Sunrise, 5:27 a.m.

•Sunset, 8:16 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 69 degrees
- Humidity 49 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds northwest 7 mph.
- Barometer 30.18 inches and rising

- Record High today 106° (1973)
- Record Low today 48° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

High Monday	86°
Low Monday	53°
Precipitation	.26
This month	1.23
Year to date	10.08

The Topside Forecast

Today: partly cloudy, high near 75, low around 55, winds north 6-11 mph. Wednesday: mostly sunny, high around 85, low near 61, winds southwest 7-29 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: mostly sunny, high near 90, low around 62, winds south southwest 8-13 mph. Friday through Sunday: partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, high 85-90, low around 60.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.22 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.18

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.52 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.40

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.11 bushel

Soybeans — \$8.52 bushel

Posted county price — \$8.95

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$11.00 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

NuSun — \$11.25 cwt.

Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$15

(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local
news and
views from
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Goodland
Star-News



Freedom Fest family fun

One young optimist did not give up hope for Fourth of July fireworks on Sunday, but found one of the easier ways to wait out the delay. The weekend was full of activities sponsored by the Goodland Chamber. See photos on Page 10.



Brilliant flashes lit the Goodland sky Monday night, first with lightning and thunder and later with a spectacular fireworks show for the Goodland Chamber's Freedom Fest show. The display had to be put off a day after a severe storm struck Sunday. On Monday, though, there was time for fireworks after a storm swept through.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News



Terry Baker with Baker Construction cut limbs off of a tree that was knocked over in the storm Monday night at Judy Siruta's home, 416 W. 8th St. The tree knocked out a window and damaged some shingles. Her front yard was littered with debris as other trees suffered wind damage.

Photo by Kathryn Gurfinkel/The Goodland-Star News

Storm-delayed show worth wait

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Thunderstorms Sunday and again Monday delayed the Goodland Chamber's Freedom Fest, but the storm Monday was short enough to allow the fireworks show to light up the sky after it passed.

Ohs and ahs from the crowd at the Sherman County fairgrounds said the show was worth waiting for, as the combined efforts of the Goodland unit of the Kansas National Guard and supplier Joe Diaz provided over half an hour of brilliant explosions to light the night.

The spectacular finished with a ground display of the American flag

and a barrage of colorful explosions.

If the show seemed a bit short at half an hour — it usually lasts about 45 minutes — there was a reason.

The crowd left the fairgrounds after the show was over it, but explosions continued at the fairgrounds until about 11 p.m.

A Goodland police officer was directed to investigate after someone called the dispatch to complain that people were setting fireworks off. The officer drove out to the fairgrounds and reported that indeed the explosions were coming from where the fireworks display had been.

Workers told him they were find-

ing unexploded fireworks on the field, and the only way to dispose of them was to fire them off.

The fireworks show began about 9:45 p.m., and the main part was over about 10:15 p.m., but the explosions lasted until about 11 p.m. as workers continued to find unexploded works.

Monday, the storm rolled in about 6:30 p.m. from the west, bringing rain and winds up to 66 mph that knocked down tree limbs across the city, tossed a trampoline out onto Caldwell Avenue and moved a shed onto the sidewalk.

The storm passed over within 45 minutes, dropping .26 of an inch of

rain. That brought the total for July to 1.23 inches, according to the National Weather Service.

Carnival rides were shut down, and about 400 people who had gathered for Freedom Fest went home. The fireworks show was rescheduled for Monday since winds on Sunday were in the 30 mph range.

The Chamber fed the Freedom Fest goers inside the agriculture building on Sunday, and had soda pop, pop corn and water for sale on Monday before the fireworks show started.

For July, the rainfall total includes .74 of an inch received on Thursday to open the month. The 1.23 for the

month is more than twice the normal of .55 for this date, and 1.21 ahead of last July. For the year, the 10.08 total is .81 behind normal (10.89), and .94 behind last year at this time (11.06).

July began the dry spell last year, with a total of just 1.12 for the month. The normal for July is 3.54 inches of moisture, the weather service says, and after the first five days, we are ahead of last year.

The forecast is for the rest of the week to be warmer with temperatures in the 80s and 90s.

There is a chance of thunderstorms from Friday night through Sunday.

School board reorganizes, elects Philbrick president

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Jane Philbrick was named president of the Goodland School Board by unanimous vote Monday night at a special meeting at the district office.

Ron Schilling was elected vice president, also by unanimous vote.

Philbrick, who served as vice president for the past year, was elected to the board in 1999 and re-elected in 2003. Schilling was first

elected to the board in 1995, lost his bid for re-election in 1999 then regained a seat in 2001.

The board has seven members, each serving a four-year term. Terms run from July 1 through June 30. Philbrick, Marty Melia, Fritz Doke and Danny Whalen were elected in 2003. Dick Short, the previous board president, Mike Campbell; and Schilling were elected in 2001 and will be up for re-election next April.

Short, who had been president since 1995, did not stand for another term in the post. He said he just felt it was time for someone else to be president and is looking forward to helping Philbrick as much as he can.

Most of the meeting was dedicated to making the appointments and selections needed to run the district for the 2004-2005 school year. Most of the decisions involved either keeping things the way they are or making official decisions already

made by the board for next year.

One of the changes for this year was the appointment of Melia as the board's primary representative to Northwest Kansas Technical College board, replacing Doke, who will be the alternate this year.

In other business, the board:

- Voted to table a decision to renew its contract with the Sherman County grant writing program until the next board meeting on July 26.
- The board decided to wait until af-

ter a grant writing committee meeting Thursday to see what changes, if any, are made.

• Heard from Superintendent Marvin Selby, who said Brian Bartels, who was offered a contract to be a high school biology teacher next year, had called to say he would accept the job.

The meeting adjourned around 6:25 p.m. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, July 26, in the district's office at 1312 Main Ave.

County hears requests for money

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Halfway through the year, organizations are bringing Sherman County commissioners their request for money in next year's county budget.

At Wednesday's commission meeting, the Sherman County Extension Council presented asked the board for an increase of \$2,754 to bring the county contribution to \$112,518.

Dan O'Brien, area extension director; April Hall, president of the county Extension Council; and Dana Belshe, county agent, presented the request. O'Brien said the Kansas State University Research and Extension has approved an increase of 3 percent for next year, or \$600.

He said they are asking the county to cover an increase in wages of \$1,000 and increases in health insurance.

O'Brien said total income is estimated at \$134,000 to allow the extension service to accept fees for educational services which are then spent on those programs. Without the income included in the budget, he said, they would not be able to handle the programs.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure

asked if Sherman County was going to be sharing any of its agents with surrounding counties.

O'Brien said the extension service was going to try to keep one agent per county as long as there is a courthouse. He said some of the job descriptions and titles have changed. Belshe is now the county director, and in charge of coordinating all the programs.

He said there was a three-county agreement between Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace to share an agronomist, who is coming in August. This position will be paid for by the state.

The commissioners said they would take the request under advisement, as they begin gathering the budget requests.

At a commission meeting today, the Sherman County Historical Society and the Thomas County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council are to present their budget requests.

Lloyd Holbrook of the Historical Society is expected to ask the commissioners to continue the .2 of a mill property tax the county has levied the last two years.

Last year, Executive Director Nina Carpenter request asked for half of the liquor and cigarette sales taxes received by Sherman County

from the state for the drug abuse effort. Over the past several years, she said, this has been about \$5,000 per year.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel told the commissioners last year this was one of the few programs the state indicated they would continue to send down to the counties.

Courtney Warden, director of the Goodland Chamber of Commerce, is on the agenda. City Manager Ron Pickman and In the Can owner Chuck Redlin want to talk about trash pickup fees.

In other business at Wednesday's meeting, commissioners:

- Approved the purchase of a Dell computer from S&T Communications at a cost of \$1,400 plus \$200 for a printer, for Terry Ballard of the county assessor's office.
- Decided that it is county policy that people requesting an emergency vehicle designation should have a clean driving record for five years. The commissioners defined "clean" as being there should not be anything beyond minor violations. The commissioners will review each request and approval will be at their discretion.
- Approved a resolution cutting

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Going up in flames



Over 30 people turned out Sunday to see the Sherman County Historical Society perform a ceremonial burning of the mortgage of the 1907 Ennis-Handy House. Bob Parker (left), son of Sherman County historians Marion and Betty Parker; Curtis Hurd (middle), a trustee of the historical society; and David J. Branda (right), vice-president of the group, watch the mortgage go up in flames. The society raised \$15,000, which was matched by a \$12,500 contribution from Bob and Billie Parker to pay off the mortgage. "We anticipate the pleasure of returning the house to even more of its original splendor," said Lloyd P. Holbrook, president of the group.

Photo by Kathryn Gurfinkel/The Goodland-Star News