

weather report

66°

noon Friday



Today

• Sunset, 6:11 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:57 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:10 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 49 degrees
- Humidity 38 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds southwest 12 mph
- Barometer 30.20 inches and steady

- Record High today 68° (1992)
- Record Low today 26° (1952)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 65°

Low Wednesday 38°

Precipitation —

This month 2.4

Year to date 15.25

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny, highs in the 70s, low 40s, northwest wind shifting to southwest after midnight.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny, high mid 70s, lows 40s, south winds 5 to 15 mph with gusts up to 30 mph. Sunday: Partly cloudy, highs in the 70s, low in the 40s. Monday: Partly cloudy, high mid 70s, low mid 40s. Tuesday: Partly Cloudy, high 70s, low 40s. Wednesday: Partly cloudy high upper 60s.

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

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.49 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.49

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$1.83 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.57

Loan deficiency pmt. — 37¢

Milo — \$1.54 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.14 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.85

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$6.25 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.5 cwt.

NuSun crop — \$10.5

Confection — call

Pinto beans — \$17 (new crop)

(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 your Goodland Star-News



Cowgirls take Weskan

Senior Morgan Titus, left) and junior Shandel Simon got ready to receive a serve from a Weskan player during the second game of the match against the Lady Coyotes Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See story, photos on Page 12.

School enrollment good news

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland school enrollment is down this year, but not as much as Superintendent Marvin Selby had expected, so the number the district can count for spending is up 8.3 students from what was in the budget for this year.

Selby said he didn't get to use his trusty pencil-and-paper method, instead he used a new computer system from the state. He said the system should make it easier to do the budget in the coming years.

Monday, he told school board

Students sharpen pencils for state tests

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

"Sharpen your pencils, keep your eyes to yourselves and try your hardest" is what students in the Goodland School District are being asked to do as state assessment testing begins again this year.

Central Elementary Principal Sharon Gregory, school improvement specialist for the district, told school board members testing has already begun.

The state tests have been changed and new tests

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members that the district was down just 7.7 students on the state count day Sept. 20.

"Which is way, way better than I

thought it would be," Selby added.

He said he anticipated the district would be down, but it turned out they weren't down as much as the

original guess. So, he said, it turns out they are getting more money.

Selby said he expected the district to count a total of 950 students us-

ing a three year average. With the actual numbers, he said, the district can count 958.3.

The breakdown includes a few more bilingual students than Selby expected, for one thing, and they get to spend more money on them.

He said vocational education was about where he anticipated, but at-risk was higher.

He said the number of students needing transportation was the only category he overestimated.

After the numbers are figured,

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By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Patients and doctors in the Goodland Regional Medical Center's ophthalmology department are benefiting from two new machines, one for cataract surgery and the other a laser that repairs holes in the retina at the back of the eye.

The hospital and the Northwest Area Medical Foundation split the cost of a \$55,000 phacoemulsification machine, which breaks up cataracts and sucks them out of the eye, and the hospital spent \$21,000 on a laser for eye surgery.

The first machine replaces one the hospital had for 10 years. It has updated technology, said Gigi Cruz, a registered nurse who was a pediatrician in the Philippines.

The machine uses ultrasound, she said, to break up the cataract and suck it out piece by piece, then replaces it with a new lens.

The machine can be personalized for how each doctor likes to do the surgery, Cruz said, and it's memory records the settings so that entering the doctor's name automatically sets the machine for the surgery.

It can be rolled around the hospital to wherever it is needed, she added.

The laser is used for treating glaucoma, said, Dr. David Pfoff; medications are used, but patients on three classes of medication have to consider surgery. The laser is non-invasive, he said; there is no incision on the eye.

The surgery opens outflow channels, he said, allowing more of the fluid inside the eye to flow go out. Pressure in the eye needs to be firm



Dr. David Pfoff, ophthalmologist, demonstrated on Diann Ross, ophthalmic assistant, how he would use the new laser to repair holes in a patient's retina. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

so rays of light can be focused, he said, and that firmness can be maintained by the eye's pressure regulation system.

If there's too much production or too little outflow of fluid, he said, damage can be done to the optic nerve and vision is reduced from the

outside in.

Glaucoma is called a "thief in the night," Pfoff said; people with it see 20/20 down the middle, while it

closes in little by little until the lights go out.

Eye exams should be done each year, he said, because up to half of those who have glaucoma do not know it. It starts happening mostly when people are in their 40s, he said, but sometimes earlier.

The laser can be hooked up for cosmetic procedures, such as removing spider veins, said Debbie Griffith, an ophthalmic technician at the hospital. Brenda McCants, director of patient relations at the hospital, said some of the general practitioners are interested in pursuing that use.

Disorders of the retina caused by diabetes can be treated with the laser, Griffith said, and retinal holes and tears can be fixed. Five minutes after the laser arrived, she said, the hospital had a patient who needed it. That patient would have had to go to Denver for that procedure otherwise.

Patients go to Denver, she said, and a technician flashes the laser a few times, and they say, "I went all the way to Denver for this?" Most of the patients who need the laser are elderly, Griffith said, so a family member has to drive them to Denver. And with the laser in Goodland, she added, they get the treatment sooner.

The laser can be moved from room to room, Griffith said; it arrived Aug. 17, and the ophthalmology department is glad to have it.

All three ophthalmologists who visit the hospital use the laser, said Diann Ross, an ophthalmic assistant. The other two doctors are Dr. Kent Bashford and Dr. Brian Joondeph, a retinal specialist.

New treasurer sworn into office

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County's new treasurer was sworn in Tuesday morning, and the commissioners set her salary.

Iris Scheopner was sworn in Tuesday at the opening of the commissioner meeting by County Clerk Janet Rumpel.

Scheopner won the election in November, but under state law that office doesn't change until the following October.

The commissioners set Scheopner pay at \$27,000 a year, plus a portion of the automobile registration income, about \$5,000 a year.

Outgoing treasurer Shelby Miller will be hired to help for the next month at \$15.06 per hour. She will help get the annual tax notices sent out.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved a bid for thermal

doors from Overhead Door for \$7,061 for the new baler building at the transfer station. Randy Topliff met with Commissioners Mitch Tiede and Chuck Thomas to review the door specifications and explain the differences in his bid. Commissioner Kevin Rasure, a hardware and lumber dealer, excused himself from the discussion because of a potential conflict of interest.

- Decided not to have the 1931 Telephone Building added to the National Register of Historic Places. The commissioners are considering remodeling the building, but are worried that having the building on the register might make that more difficult.

- Agreed to meet with representatives from the Kansas Department of Transportation at 11:15 a.m. on Wednesday at the Northern Sun Industries parking lot to view County Road 14 as part of a grant review.

The county has applied for a \$2

million grant to improve the section of the road from south of the railroad crossing to the intersection with County Road 65, or Eighth Street. The grant is being requested because of the increased truck traffic with the new energy center and the existing sunflower oil plant.

- Agreed to pay for flu shots for county employees provided there is enough. Rumpel said Health Director Dorendo Harrel told her there should be plenty of shots available, but that it would be later in the month before she offered them to employees.

- Received a letter of support from the City of Goodland for the county to pursue a countywide sales tax in the state Legislature. Rasure said the county will be working with Rep. Jim Morrison and Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer to get the bill drafted.

- Approved bills for the first half of the month for \$62,586, plus bills that come in through Friday after review by Commissioner Tiede.

Early winter storm brings snow, record rains

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Skies were cloudy all day Monday and into Tuesday as an early winter storm brought wet snow to Colorado and record rains to western Kansas.

The storm dropped up to 17 inches of snow along the Colorado mountains and at Strasburg, east of Denver on I-70. The snow closed the freeway from Denver to Limon and from Limon to Burlington by early Monday afternoon.

Monday evening, I-70 was closed from Goodland to the state line because the motel rooms were filling up in Burlington, and later I-70 was closed at Colby. The Interstate was reopened by 7 a.m.

on Tuesday, but there were reports of drifting snow between Flagler, Colo., and Limon.

Goodland received a record 1.72 inches of rain on Monday at Renner Field, breaking the previous record for that date of .86 inches received in 1931. The Goodland office of the National Weather Service reported the city of Goodland received 1.85 inches of rain. Tuesday, Goodland received an additional .42 of an inch to make the total for the storm 2.14 inches.

Other reports from the National Weather Service had Burlington receiving 2.89 inches, Stratton, Colo. 3.56 inches,

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Three bids received for digging new county landfill cell, liner

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County commissioners opened three bids for building a new landfill cell Tuesday, and the two low offers were within \$245 of each other in the \$124,000 range.

One of those bids come from a county commissioner, Mitch Tiede, who makes his living as a dirt contractor.

Commissioners Kevin Rasure and Chuck Thomas reviewed the three bids. Tiede excused himself because he was bidding on the

project. He was in fact the low bidder, but the other two haven't decided who'll get the job.

Grasser Construction of Stratton, Colo., bid \$124,154; Tiede Terracing of Goodland \$123,909 and Sporer Land Development from Oakley \$188,721.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said all three bids were hand delivered on Monday afternoon, and she sealed them in envelopes.

Rasure and Thomas opened the bids and examined the two lowest to be sure both had all the proper docu-

ments and insurance.

Curt Way, public works director, said he had not seen any of the bids before they were turned in.

Rasure said he wanted it clear there was no communication of details with the bids being that close.

Tiede was asked to come back to the meeting to discuss the timeline for digging the new cell and adding the clay liner.

Way said he expected the project to be done in two phases, with the main cell dug this winter, and the liner installed in the early spring.

Tiede said he wanted 40 working days to dig the cell this winter and then 35 to install the liner. He said he would be able to begin digging the cell by the end of October, and said he would install the liner if there was a warm stretch during the winter.

The commissioners called Jim McCormick of Grasser Construction on the phone to ask him about his proposed work schedule. McCormick had put in the bid that they would start on the first phase after Nov. 15 and expected to do the

liner in March. McCormick said they would take 35 days to dig the cell, and 35 days in the spring to install the liner.

Way said the problem with trying to get the liner installed in the winter is that once the liner in installed it cannot be allowed to freeze because it could crack and leak.

Tiede and McCormick both agreed. The two said the liner could be installed if there was a several week warm spell during the winter.

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