


weather report

85°



noon

Thursday

Today

Sunset, 8:15 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.

Sunset, 8:15 p.m.

Midday Conditions

Soil temperature 77 degrees

Humidity 30 percent

Sky partly cloudy

Winds light and variable

Barometer 29.78 inches and steady

Record High today 101° (1946)

Record Low today 40° (1981)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 100°

Low Thursday 67°

Precipitation —

This month .61

Year to date 7.71

Below normal .85 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: 40 percent chance thunderstorms and showers after noon. High of 81, low near 57.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. High near 85, low near 58. Sunday: Mostly sunny, high near 89, low near 62. Monday: Mostly sunny and breezy, high near 83, low near 63. Tuesday: Sunny, high near 93, low near 65. Wednesday: Partly cloudy and breezy, high near 92.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.23 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.16

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.03 bushel

Posted county price — \$2

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$1.80 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.01 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.14

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5.55 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$8.60 cwt.

NuSun crop — \$9.60

Confection — Call

Pinto beans — \$15.50 (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



Burlington wins tourney

Torrey Elder pitched for the first game the Goodland American Legion baseball team played against Norton on Saturday at the Levi Hayden Memorial Tournament. See story on Page 11.

School board raises eligibility

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School Board decided Monday to raise eligibility requirements for extracurricular activities, including sports, clubs and dances, for students at Grant Junior High and Goodland High School starting in the spring semester.

To be eligible for activities, students would have to be passing six classes instead of five. Grades would be checked each week and eligibility determined by the week. Anyone who is ineligible will miss a full week of activities.

LeAnn Friedrichs, chairman of the board's eligibility committee, presented the plan, noting that the panel had worked with proposals from teachers and the site councils. Everyone gave a little, she said, but

came away feeling good about the final plan.

Friedrichs said the first semester this year, in the fall, would run under the current requirements, which follow state activities association rules. Students have to be passing in five new classes each semester, she said. Eligibility is determined by semester.

The committee recommends that be raised to six classes starting in the spring, she said. Grades would be pulled each week after the first two.

If a student did not meet the requirement, he or she could participate in sports or activities Friday and Saturday, but would be ineligible starting on Monday. If the student brought up their grades, it would be the following Monday before they could participate.

A study hall would be required

during seminar period for any student failing in six classes. This would apply to all students, whether or not they were in activities or sports, said Friedrichs.

Harvey Swager, high school principal, said the study hall would be in the modular unit with two teachers who had volunteered to supervise.

Teacher had said pulling the grades every week would create more work and pressure to grade papers soon for students turning in work, said Jane Philbrick, school board president.

Everyone agreed that a teacher could say that they couldn't stop right away and grade make-up work, Friedrichs said.

She said that the eligibility rules need to be explained fully to the students as well as being in the handbook.

Principal Jim Mull said they were already pulling grades every week at the junior high. Swager said they were also pulling grades every week at the high school.

The board voted to adopt the tighter eligibility requirements for one year and review them after that.

Friedrichs said her committee included high school parent Kathy Bahe, high school parent and coach John Dautel, school board member Amy Sederstrom, student Brooke Whitmore, Swager, high school teacher Sharon Hall, junior high parent Laurie Klemm, student Austin Klemm, parent and business owner Gary McClung, parent Tonya Gray, student Mikey Doll, new Superintendent Shelly Angelos, now West Elementary principal, and Swager.

Laurie Klemm, a buffalo rancher

and junior high parent, spoke to the board about the eligibility issue during the public forum.

She said her family has a higher standard for participating in sports than the school and that has led to several discussions. There seems to be an attitude among students, she said, to do as little as possible, just what needs to be done to get by.

Klemm said she felt that making eligibility standards higher would encourage students to be more dedicated to perform in the classroom.

She said her son, Austin, agreed with everyone on the committee who wanted to raise the bar for performance.

Klemm said there were many good things about the schools in Goodland, especially the small class size, teachers know the kids, classes and activities are good.

Farmers tour 4-H wheat plots

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

The "amber waves of grain" are still a little green, but they can draw a crowd anyway. Over a dozen people drove out to Steve and Colleen Duell's farm Wednesday afternoon to see different wheat varieties in Adam Duell's 4-H plots and learn about their qualities.

Following the discussion by Jeanne Falk, multi-county crops and soils specialist, Dana Belshe, agricultural agent for Kansas State University Research and Extension and the Sunflower Extension District, and the Duells at the farm north of Ruleton, the crowd traveled to Fred and Jeanie Schields' farm 10 miles north of Goodland as part of the Kansas State Sherman County Wheat Plot Tour.



The tour provides a look at and analysis of wheat varieties that can help farmers determine which are most likely to give them the best crop and a look at how several wheat varieties are doing this year.

Aaron Duell said he planted 70 pounds of seed per acre of most of the varieties; they are irrigated. Kansas State University's crop planting recommendations are 40-60 pounds per acre in western Kansas with 20" or less of rainfall, 50-60 in central Kansas with 20-30" of rainfall, 60-75 in eastern Kansas with 30" or more of rainfall and 60-90 pounds per inch for irrigated.

Wheat streak mosaic virus has been a problem this year, Falk said, and the wheat shows signs of freeze damage. Wheat streak mosaic is passed in wheat curl mites, she said, which live in volunteer wheat, so it is important to keep that down.

The virus is like the flu, she said; when wheat is under stress from other factors, such as drought, it can't bounce back.

Falk analyzed six wheat hybrids in Duell's plots: Stanton, Jagalene, 2137, Jagger, Trego and Lakin. Stanton seems to be a pretty good

Jeanne Falk, multi-county crops and soils specialist, picked a head of Stanton wheat from Adam Duell's 4-H wheat plots to show how you could tell it has freeze damage during the Kansas State University-Sherman County Wheat Plot Tour on Wednesday. Bryan Hatcher, a farmer who also works at Goodland

variety, she said; it's susceptible to stripe rust, but that hasn't been a problem this year.

Jagalene, a hybrid derived from Jagger, has very good grazing potential, Falk said, and holds dormancy better in spring than regular Jagger. It is somewhat resistant to

Greenline, and Dana Belshe (hidden), agricultural agent for Kansas State University Research and Extension and the Sunflower Extension District, checked out the wheat.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Hybrid 2137 is susceptible to stripe rust and pretty susceptible to leaf rust, Falk said, but is pretty tolerant to wheat streak mosaic. Its top leaf shows striping, a mottled look, she said, a sign of a late infection. It has good straw strength, she said, but is not a good one for grazing.

Trego is a white wheat that is good in four northwest Kansas counties, Falk said; it is resistant to wheat streak mosaic but is susceptible to stripe rust and leaf rust.

Steve Duell said he likes Lakin because it averages 92-100 bushels per acre.

Insurance complicated for firemen

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

The Sherman County Commission meeting Wednesday morning turned into a complicated discussion over liability insurance coverage for three firemen who are also paramedics.

Because the hospital runs the county's ambulance service, apparently, the county itself has no insurance to cover firemen if they treat patients beyond the "first responder" level.

Eventually, everyone agreed to establish rules to allow the emergency crews to work together and to be insured. The county will be covered for liability until Aug. 1 while volunteers and the hospital knock out an agreement.

This not usually a question for rural fire departments, said Tom Job, administrator for Kansas County

Association Multi-line Pool. It is purely luck that the county has three firefighters who are also paramedics.

Justin Bentzinger, one of the paramedics on the rural fire department, said they wanted to get a head start treating people for dehydration and smoke inhalation at a fire.

In the audience were Jay Jolly, Goodland Regional Medical Center administrator; Bruce Gleason, director of emergency medical services for the hospital; Bentzinger; Sheriff Kevin Butts and some of his deputies; Darin Neufeld, a candidate for county commissioner; County Attorney Bonnie Selby; and rural fire department volunteers. On the telephone in a conference call were Job and Allen David, another paramedic on the rural fire department.

"We wanted everyone to be here

so all of us were on the same page," said commission Chairman Kevin Rasure.

Job told the commissioners that the county had no emergency medical services liability coverage since the hospital runs the ambulance service. He did not know that it was needed.

He wanted to know what the protocols were and who supervised the paramedics on the fire department. He said that first responder treatment did not include everything that a paramedic could do.

The things that first responders do is set up in state statutes, Job said.

Allen said the protocols for the paramedics were set up originally May 13, 2005, for the Tracy Lawrence concert during Freedom Fest. Dr. Kenneth Austin helped set up the protocols and the assistant fire chief supervises paramedics.

Rasure said the commissioners had never seen the protocols.

The county set up an ambulance service in 1969 and gives the hospital a one mill levy to run the service, Rasure said.

With having paramedics on the fire department, Jolly said, potential problems could come up when paramedics had off patients to ambulance crews with no protocols in place.

Ambulance crews may not be able to do all the medical procedures a paramedic does, depending on who is on call.

If a fire department paramedic would ride in the hospital and the ambulance would have a wreck, there would be liability problems for the hospital, Jolly said.

Gleason said the hospital has three ambulances, two in Goodland and one in Kanorado. The emer-

gency medical services at the hospital is supervised by Dr. Moe Shafei. The duties of the ambulance crews are determined by the State Board of Emergency Medical Services. The board handles the licensing for all EMTs and paramedics, but has no control over emergency services in fire departments.

Rasure set up a committee with Bentzinger, Allen and Gleason to come up with protocols and an agreement between the hospital and the fire department.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked Job if the paramedics in the fire department could be covered until that agreement is done. Job said that could be done if there was a date. Tiede asked if Aug. 1 would be okay. Job said yes.

The commissioners approved bills for \$103,332.