

weather report

82°

noon
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 8:10 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:37 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:09 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 88 degrees
- Humidity 54 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds northeast at 14 mph
- Barometer 30.08 inches and rising
- Record High today 109° (2005)
- Record Low today 50° (1897)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	101°
Low Thursday	62°
Precipitation	—
This month	.04
Year to date	7.44
Below normal	5.02 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high near 88, low around 66.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny, high near 93, low around 66. Sunday: Sunny, high near 94, low around 66. Monday: Sunny, high near 93, low around 66. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high near 96, low around 66. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 95.

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$5.41 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$5.46
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Corn — \$3.28 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Milo — \$2.93 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$7.61 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.17
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - NuSun crop — \$17.55
 - Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by the Scouler Co., Sigo 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



Sprint cars race Saturday

The Colorado 1200 Outlaws, which burned up the Sherman County Speedway at speeds up to 110 mph last year, will make their only appearance of 2007 on Saturday. See story, photo on Page 11.

Two arrested in four tractor thefts

By Sharon Corcoran

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Two St. Francis men have been arrested for stealing tractors in Sherman, Wallace and Cheyenne counties and selling them as junk in Denver, getting just pennies on the dollar.

One of the tractor rustlers has pleaded guilty, and charges are pending against the other.

Authorities say the men loaded the tractors on a flatbed truck at different times between November and March and hauled them to Western Metals Recycling, where they got \$1,000 for each. A gas station security camera caught them on tape hauling a tractor from Wallace County through Goodland.

Another tractor apparently was driven right out of the diesel department at the Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland.

John Stephens, 20, a former student in the diesel technology department, took a plea bargain and entered guilty pleas to theft charges in all three counties. He was sentenced Monday, June 4, in Sherman County; Tuesday, June 5, in Cheyenne County; and Thursday, June 7, in Wallace. Stephens is the son of Dan and Rita Stephens, farmers south of St. Francis.

In Sherman County, he will have to pay \$19,099 restitution to the victim, \$163 court costs and \$50 probation fees. In Wallace, he will have to pay restitution to the victims of \$6,500 for the tractor taken there plus court costs and attorney fees. In Cheyenne County, he will have to pay \$25,000 restitution.

That is with joint liability, said Cheyenne County Attorney Justin Barrett; he could be responsible for the total, but if they get some from other defendants, it will be split between them.



Teegan Callicrate (above right) of St. Francis talked to his attorney, Michael Day, on Tuesday before his preliminary hearing at the Sherman County Courthouse. Callicrate waived his right to the hearing, and an arraignment was scheduled for Monday, Sept. 10.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

In all three counties, Stephens was sentenced to 12 months of supervised probation with an underlying prison term of 10 months, meaning if he messes up just once during the year, he could be sent to jail for the entire 10-month sentence, but the three sentences run at the same time.

Stephens was expelled from the college, though not specifically for stealing the tractor. Once he was arrested, said College President Ken Clouse, he was not able to attend class. Students have a certain number of hours they can miss, he said, and once they exceed that, they are expelled.

The policy is patterned after a job, Clouse said, where you have a certain amount of sick leave and vacation, and if you miss more than that, you probably won't have a job. Each program is different, he said, but it's about 40 hours per semester.

Teegan Callicrate, 21, son of Vicki Callicrate and Mike Callicrate, owner of Callicrate Feed Yard in St. Francis, and Stephens were arrested on burglary and felony theft charges on April 9 in Sherman County. The complaint in Stephens' court file says they stole a 1976 John Deere 4630 tractor owned by Brent Cook of Edson sometime between Nov. 1 and March 19.

St. Francis man guilty in other cases

A St. Francis man, who confessed to stealing tractors in three western Kansas counties has pending guilty pleas to theft at the Cheyenne Bowl and burglary at the Frontier Equity Co-op in Bird City.

A case against him alleging he used someone else's debit card was dismissed, but he was ordered to pay restitution.

John L. Stephens, 20, St. Francis, pleaded guilty to breaking into Frontier Equity about Saturday, Feb. 3. Nothing was taken, but Stephens was sentenced Tuesday, May 8, to serve 24 months on probation and pay \$88 restitution for the door he broke.

He pleaded guilty to theft at the bowling alley of money, signs, quarters and tokens on Sunday, April 9, 2006. The neon beer signs and tokens were recovered by police and returned to the bowling alley.

He was sentenced Tuesday, May 8, to 24 months probation with an underlying 21-month prison term. If he messes up once during the two years, he could serve up to 21 months in prison

and have 12 months of post-release supervision. That sentence would run at the same time as sentences from the Frontier Equity break in and the tractor thefts.

The cases were taken into account with the tractor theft case, said Cheyenne County Attorney Justin Barrett, with the sentences being served at the same time.

Stephens was ordered to pay \$1,648 restitution to the bowling alley, \$1,334 for the cash and \$300 for the quarters taken from the token machine.

He was charged with using a debit card belonging to Troy Zwegard of St. Francis at about 30 different Bird City and St. Francis businesses in January, mostly for non-taxable diesel fuel. The charges were dismissed without prejudice (meaning they can be refiled) on Friday, March 30, and Stephens was ordered to pay \$822 restitution.

The guilty pleas are pending in the Cheyenne County District Court.

Paperwork has been filed with Judge Jack Burr and is waiting for his signature to be final.

In Cheyenne County, they were charged with taking a 1984 Allis Chalmers 8070 tractor valued at \$20,000; a 1963 Case 930 propane tractor, \$5,000; and a GMC truck, \$3,000; a total of \$28,000, all before.

See THEFTS, Page 10

City plans to issue bonds for street repair

By Tom Betz

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Winter storms took their toll on Goodland's streets, and during their budget discussions on Monday city commissioners talked about issuing bonds to start repairing some of the worst stretches.

A special meeting is scheduled for 7 a.m. on Wednesday to open bids on the new airport entry road, and City Manager Wayne Hill asked the commission to consider a resolution to issue general obligation bonds for street repairs.

Money for the new airport entrance is coming from the Federal Aviation Administration and Hill said the city would add some to repave the parking area in front of the terminal.

The new entrance will be a single two-lane street about 100 feet south of the existing twin drive.

During the budget workshops on Monday and Tuesday, July 9 and 10, commissioners reviewed a list of street projects recommended by Hill and Rich Simon, public

works director, and made some suggestions.

City Clerk Mary Volk told the commissioners the last general obligation bond issues from 2004 will be paid off in October, and the city could issue about \$2.3 million without raising the property tax. She said the bonds could be paid out over 10 to 15 years.

The commissioners talked about street damage over the winter, noting that the citizens are asking when some of these places are going to be repaired.

"I expect this winter to be as bad," said Mayor Rick Billinger. "This would be a start on what needs to be fixed."

Commissioner John Garcia said at the work session he was pleased to see the repair and replacement of curb and gutter along Main as one of the priorities.

Volk said the commission can pass a resolution to issue the bonds for street repair, then there is a 60-day waiting period for the public to register a protest. If there is a protest petition, the commission can take the bond issue to an election. If there is no protest, the

bonds could be issued in the fall.

Hill said the city could begin work on some of the projects before winter, and others would be done in the spring.

Garcia said it might be possible to partner with some of the businesses along Main to combine the curb and gutter work with new sidewalks.

Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates Engineering provided street project cost estimates.

Projects on the list include:

- 19th east from Cheery to the Goodland bus barn (\$525,000) for curb and gutter and 8-inch concrete.
- Street edge patching, 6-inch asphalt replacement near curb around town (\$280,000).
- Asphalt street sealing, 280,000 square yards (\$500,000).
- Valley gutter replacement for places that are holding water (\$84,000).
- Curb and gutter replacement of places that are holding water or severely broken (\$62,000).

Circle drive replacement with concrete or asphalt (\$58,000).

• Cattle Trail and 12th, replace intersection with 8-inch concrete (\$75,000).

• Replace all curb and gutter along both sides of Main from Eighth to 17th (\$220,000).

• Second Street from Kansas to Grand, 2-inch mill and overlay (\$35,000).

• Grand from Second to Maple, 6-inch mill and overlay with base compaction (\$190,000).

• Maple from Grand to center, 2-inch mill and overlay (\$70,000).

• Main from Business U.S. 24 north to 19th Street, remove and replace asphalt and base (\$220,000).

Volk had an estimate of the annual debt service payment for the commissioners to look at depending on the project size and whether the bonds are for 10 or 15 years.

An estimated annual payment on a \$2.4 million bond issue for 10 years would be \$297,961. For the same-size issue for 15 years, the annual estimated payment would be \$221,457.

Fire department to get new pumper truck

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners asked questions about the need and cost of a new fire truck Monday, then voted 4-0 to buy a Typhoon Pumper from E-One of Olathe for \$282,227.

Fire Chief Brian James explained the need for the new truck, saying it is one of the things that can help drop the city's Insurance Standards Operation rating. James said he had talked to the ISO people and insurance agents to see what the real difference is with a lower rating.

"From an ISO of 8 down to 2, it doesn't do much to your home insurance rates," James said. "I talked to a number of insurance agents and they all told me the real difference is in the commercial insurance.

"Commercial rates for contents and building insurance change a lot more depending on the ISO rating."

A chart James handed out showed that a \$150,000 frame building in a town with a class 7 to 8 ISO the rate would cost \$1,197 to insure. For a town with a class 5-6 ISO rate, the cost would be \$1,121, and for a class 3-4 ISO rating it would be \$1,088.



City commissioners agreed on Monday to buy a Typhoon pumper fire truck similar to this one from E-One of Olathe. The new truck will cost \$282,227 and should be delivered by the end of the year.

Photo from E-One

The rates for a masonry building are a few dollars lower in each class.

"What is our rating now?" Mayor Rick Billinger asked.

"It is a 5, and I want to go down to a 4," James said.

James said the truck is one of the things he learned that is needed to keep the ISO rating where it is and help drop it.

"I got a list of the ISO points," James said. "This is not blowing smoke, and this list is what we really have to deal with."

James said the city sent out five bids for the fire truck, but only got three back.

The high bid was from Pierce of York, Neb., for \$315,000. The one from E-One was \$282,227; and the

third was from Weis Fire and Safety of Salina for \$272,000. Pierce anticipated 300 days for delivery, while E-One will deliver in five months. Weis said delivery would be in 30 days.

James said the truck from Weis is a demonstrator, and that it did not meet the bid specifications. James said the other two did meet the speci-

fications and he recommended the E-One.

"What is missing on the demo?" Billinger asked.

James said the demo does not have all the equipment and that it did not have the layout in the specifications.

"Why bid these if you are not going to look at the options?" Billinger asked.

"I think we need to go with one that meets the specifications," said Commissioner Annette Fairbanks. "That is why you sent them out. There is a difference of \$10,227 I know, but we have two bids that meet the specifications."

James said he did not feel it would be fair to Weis or the other two bidders to allow them to fix their bid.

"I am surprised to learn there are demo fire trucks," Billinger said. James said Mark Steffan, a representative from E-One, was at the meeting, and he could explain some of the differences.

Steffan said the biggest difference between the demo truck and the E-

See CITY, Page 10