

The Goodland Star-News

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Forty-Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

WEEKEND
Friday, July 27
2007

\$1

weather report

89°



noon
Thursday
Today

Sunset, 8:05 p.m.
Saturday

Sunrise, 5:43 a.m.

Sunset, 8:04 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 87 degrees
- Humidity 32 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds variable
- Barometer 29.86 inches and rising
- Record High today 105° (1910)
- Record Low today 50° (2005)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 96°
Low Thursday 66°
Precipitation —
This month .04
Year to date 7.48
Below normal 5.75 inches

The Topsides Forecast

Today: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, high near 86, low around 62.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, partly cloudy, high near 87, low around 61. Sunday: Partly cloudy, high near 90, low around 62. Monday: Mostly sunny, high near 92, low around 63. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high near 93, low around 65.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Noon

Wheat — \$5.59 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.55
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$3.12 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.12
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.77 bushel
Soybeans — \$7.24 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.83
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$7 hundredweight
Sunflowers
NuSun crop — \$17.40
Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigo Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

Retired teacher to lead parade

By Pat Schiefer

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The grand marshal for the this year's Northwest Kansas District Free Fair parade has lived in Sherman County for more than 76 years, moving here with her parents when she was 3 to live south and east of Goodland.



Topliff

Though she is a long-time supporter and participant of the fair, retired teacher Arbutus (Dautel) Topliff said she hadn't expected the honor.

"I was surprised, when Chelsea Gausman (Sherman County 4-H Ambassadors) asked me," she said. "It's quite an honor and quite a shock."

Topliff says she is looking forward to the Catch-It Pig contest, since she has sponsored a pig every year since the event started.

"I like to go visit the kids and their pigs," she said. "It's fun to watch the steer show and the grandstand performances."

She said she helps the Lincoln Larks Family and Community Education group, of which she is a member, put up a fair booth each year. For the last couple of

years, she has helped at the desk at the ag building, answering the phone and helping kids during judging.

She said she went to the Edson School and graduated from high school there in 1945.

"It was fun," Topliff said. "We practiced sports during school, not afterwards."

She went to Fort Hays State University for two summers and received a teacher's certificate. She taught at District 64 school south and east of Goodland for two years and then at the Edson school for two. In the District 64, she said, she taught first through eighth grade and at Edson she taught second and third and third and fourth. Kindergarten was a half a day for one week in the spring, she recalled.

"There has been a lot of changes in the schools," she said. "I enjoyed teaching kids and working with kids."

Topliff helped put together the book of local history, "Ruleton and Its School."

"We sold 250 copies," she said.

The parade marshal said she and Ralph Topliff married in November 1949. They farmed six miles west of Goodland, growing wheat, corn, sunflowers and beans and raising cattle, and she still helps when they move the tractor from field to field.

She has two daughters, Cinda (Bryan) Hatcher of Goodland and Becky (Mike)

Hicks of Loveland, Colo. Cinda went to the Edson school for six years and Becky for four, their mother said. Both graduated from Goodland High School. Cinda works for Western State Bank and Becky works for Aligne Corp. out of Las Vegas.

"I was a project leader in 4-H when the girls were growing up," Topliff recalled.

Cinda has two children, Wesley (Katie Zimbelman) Hatcher, who lives in Parker, Colo., and Mandi (Tim) Parrish, who lives in Olathe. Both Wes' wife and Mandi's husband are from the area. Wes and Katie are expecting a child in February, she said, and Mandi and Tim are expecting in August.

Becky's children are Charlie Hicks and Amber Hicks.

For hobbies, Topliff said, she makes quilts, crochets and does embroidery. She said she had made quilts for each season for each of her grandkids including ones with college mascots. Some of the patterns she has used for the quilts are her own, she added. Some are embroidered and others are pieced.

"I am working on an Ohio Star-pattern quilt," she said. "A lot of them are sampler quilts. The blocks in a sampler quilt are all different."

Topliff is involved in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Elks Club and First United Methodist Church as well as the Lincoln Larks.

City OK's bonds for streets

By Tom Betz

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The Goodland City Commission, at an early-bird special session at 7 a.m. Wednesday, took the next step to borrow about \$2.4 million with general obligation bonds to fix street and drainage problems.

The commission approved two ordinances and two resolutions on the recommendations of its bond lawyer, Kevin Cowan of Gilmore and Bell of Wichita, who was on a speaker phone.

City Clerk Mary Volk told the commission that the city's existing bond issue pays off in October. City Manager Wayne Hill had recommended keeping the tax level at the current rate and issuing bonds to begin fixing the streets.

The commissioners listened as Cowan explained the purpose of the ordinances and resolutions before approving each.

The first ordinance establishes a list of streets in the city to be designated as main traffic ways. Cowan said he worked with Volk, Hill and Rich Simon, public works director, to come up with the streets that have higher traffic to fit that meaning under the state law.

"Why can't we say any street in the city?" asked City Commissioner Dave Daniels.

"If someone wanted to challenge this in a court," Cowan replied, "it would be a

question of how the determination was made. The list is a better way and shows there was some discussion about how the streets on the list were determined to be main traffic ways. It could be considered arbitrary and capricious to just say all streets."

"Would it be hard to add a street?" Mayor Rick Billinger asked, but Cowan said no.

"This is the starting point because you don't have an ordinance now," he said; "...you can add streets in another ordinance."

The commission unanimously approved the ordinance, published with the list of streets on Page 8 of today's paper.

The next item was the resolution that Cowan said allows the commission to use general obligation bonds to make street improvements.

Cowan said it refers to the ordinance establishing the main traffic ways, and estimates the cost of the bond issue for street improvements to be \$1,805,000 including construction, engineering fees, any right of way or easements and administrative expenses.

City Commissioner Josh Dechant asked if the resolution would allow the city to add or change streets. Cowan said the street list can be changed by resolution.

"What about new streets?" Billinger asked. "Can we assess the landowners

along a new street?"

"You can, but it is not under this funding mechanism," Cowan said. "You would have to use another system. Even if it is a main traffic way, you can assess the property owners, but would have to go through the other process."

"That is what I wanted to know," Billinger said. "Part of what we are suggesting is a dirt street, and I wanted to make sure we could assess the property owners."

Cowan said that question could be determined as the street projects are planned.

Another question from Billinger was about streets on the edge of the city, such Cottonwood.

Cowan said if a street is inside the city limits, that is OK as long as the street is all the city's responsibility, and not a shared responsibility with the county.

"If it is an area where you want to have someone help pay for the cost, there is a different set of statutory schemes for doing that," he said.

"We are doing these in different resolutions," Dechant said, "but we are doing this in one bond issue?"

"It will be one bond issue," Cowan said. "In a perfect world, you could do it all in one resolution, but we have to do the improvements based on the state laws and put

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Goodland Chamber moves into new office

By Sharon Corcoran

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The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce has moved into a new office at 106 E. 11th and is looking to the future.

One of the most important things the Chamber can do, said Executive Director Andi Nelson, is promote a positive attitude.

"The last few years have been hard with the drought," she said. "We're an ag community. I think some people have forgotten how great Goodland is. They need to be reminded."

The Chamber just finished a membership drive, she said, topping out at 113 members out of 350 businesses in the county (not including home-based businesses).

"While we were on the membership drive," said Sandy Trachsel, board treasurer, "a lot of business people asked, 'What can you do for me?'

"It's not easy to say what we can do for each individual business, but what we can all do for Goodland is easier to say. We all need to work together for the good of the community."

Things the Chamber does, Nelson said, include promoting local businesses, educating business people, organizing promotional events, providing relocation packets for potential new residents, giving referrals to people in and out of Goodland who need services here, working with



Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

legislators to promote laws that support the development and growth of the community, and working to improve the appearance and atmosphere of Goodland.

The relocation packets contain information about member businesses and relocation information, such as a list of real estate agents, landlords, utilities, public transportation and public amenities.

Local, state and federal government representatives contact the Chamber office to arrange visits, Nelson said, and the Chamber

serves as a lobby for business people.

"We help them be heard," she said.

The Chamber's beautification committee works to improve the appearance of Goodland, Nelson said, and plans the annual citywide clean-up.

The Chamber also helps educate its members, she said, through seminars like a planned series of hospitality clinics. The clinics will help teach business people how to greet customers and how to promote

Goodland, she said.

Sometimes shoppers ask what there is to do in town, Nelson said, and they meet a retail clerk or even a business owner with a negative attitude who says there is nothing. If that happens, she said, the people may just pack their bags and go where there is something to do.

Business people need to know how to promote Goodland, she said, and need to have a positive outlook.

Success for the Chamber, Nelson said, would mean that 10 years down the road Goodland would see high quality in area businesses and the way of life here and a positive attitude.

She said her goal is to improve the atmosphere in Goodland.

Some people look at what Goodland doesn't have rather than what it does, she said, and there have been issues mentioned about the Chamber, the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Economic Development Council not getting along.

Those have been blown out of proportion, she said. Some have even asked whether Goodland wants to have a Chamber or needs a Chamber.

"That is the past," the director said. "We're looking to the future, a positive future. The Chamber is going to grow."

The businesses speak for themselves, Trachsel said; there are over 100 members who believe in the Chamber.

Some of the difference from the past have been misconstrued, she said. All three agencies have the same goal, to better Goodland.

"Whether or not we're in the same building," she said, "we work together. However, the Chamber believes the three entities should be working together much more, saving on duplication of resources. The Chamber is striving to make this happen."

"I think we've got a great future. If someone wants to say we haven't been able to work together, I dispute that because obviously we have. One example of this was economic development renting us office space for the past year at a reduced rate."

The Chamber moved to a new office, Trachsel said, because it has become self-sufficient. The new space is the perfect size, she said, and the location is right in the heart of downtown.

The Chamber wants to continue to grow membership, Trachsel said, to have more voices from people in the community on what they want the group to do.

She noted that the Chamber is supported solely from membership dues, so the more members there are, the sooner the Chamber can make Nelson a full-time director. (She has worked part time for about a year.)

And for its continued success, Trachsel said, the Chamber needs a full-time director.

Pickups add fun to races

Dalton Dolan (3D) and Dale Heyen (77D), both of Oberlin, had their mini-stock pickups running neck-and-neck in the preliminary heat Saturday at the Sherman County Speedway. Story, photos on Page 12.