

weather report

79°
 noon Monday

Today
 • Sunset, 6:52 p.m.
Wednesday
 • Sunrise, 6:31 a.m.
 • Sunset, 6:51 p.m.

Midday Conditions
 • Soil temperature 70 degrees
 • Humidity 44 percent
 • Sky mostly cloudy
 • Winds 17-28 mph out of the northwest
 • Barometer 29.88 inches and falling
 • Record High today 99° (1895)
 • Record Low today 34° (1971)

Last 24 Hours*
 High Sunday 93°
 Low Sunday 51°
 Precipitation 0
 This month .61
 Year to date 12.76
 Below normal 4.31

The Topside Forecast
 Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 89 and low around 51 with winds out of the north at 10-20 mph. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 84, low around 56 and winds out of the south at 5-10 mph.

Extended Forecast
 Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high near 89 and low around 55.
 Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 89 and low near 55.
 (National Weather Service)
 Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
 * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon
 Wheat — \$7.67 bushel
 Posted county price — \$7.50
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Corn — \$3.23 bushel
 Posted county price — \$3
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Milo — \$3 bushel
 Soybeans — \$8.54 bushel
 Posted county price — \$8.32
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 Sunflowers
 NuSun — \$17.90 cwt.
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
 (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Indians beat Cowboys

Cowboys junior quarterback Travis Angelos kept the ball on an option play in the first quarter against the Hoxie Indians on Friday, but did not get more than a couple of yards. See story, photo on Page 10.

Trailer teaches kids fire safety

By Sharon Corcoran
 sclcorcoran@nwkansas.com

A \$60,000 federal grant allowed the Sherman County Rural Fire Department to buy a trailer to demonstrate disaster planning and how to escape a home that's on fire.

The department has been borrowing a trailer to use for demonstrations at the elementary schools but now has its own and can do demonstrations for any interested group.

The fire fighters held a demonstration Wednesday for parents of children in the Head Start preschool.

The event was planned for the parents, said Firefighter Cary Amos, but a lot of kids were there too since many parents apparently didn't have a baby-sitter.

"About 100 people were there," he said. "We were overwhelmed when we first showed up."

Amos said he and firefighters Michael Dorn and Leslie Knitig went ahead and did demonstrations for the kids, as well as answering parents' questions.

The trailer has a "living room" with a television that Dorn used to demonstrate storm warning messages for the children, a door that heats up which he used to teach the kids how to find out if there is fire on the other side and little vents that filtered in simulated smoke to demonstrate how to find your way out of a smoky home.

Lights flash in the room, simulating lightning, which is accompanied by sounds of thunder. The simulated tornado sounds so real, said Fire chief Alan David, that if you didn't know it was a demonstration, you would swear it was right outside.

The children were taught to crawl to a window, where they exited to a balcony and were helped by firefighters to crawl down a ladder.

In the "kitchen" was a stove with a pan that has a simulated flame which Dorn used to show the kids what to do in case of a grease fire. He asked questions to get the kids to demonstrate what they already knew and help them see that pouring water on a grease fire would only make it worse.

A television screen on the outside of the van shows what is going on inside, so parents could watch their children's reactions during the demonstration.

Knitig was in fire-fighting "bunker gear"



Firefighter Michael Dorn talked about fire safety to Head Start preschool students and their brothers and sisters Wednesday. Sheila Hernandez (back middle) kept their eyes on the "grease fire" while Kelsey DeHoyas (back left) listened to Dorn. Anna Gutierrez (front left), Autumn Schreiber (right) and

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

to show kids what a fireman would look like coming into their home to rescue them. Little kids sometimes get scared, Amos said, because they can't see a face, and the firefighter is breathing through a mask and sounds like Darth Vader.

Dorn also told the kids their family needs to set up a place to meet in case of emergency so they will be able to find each other and suggested they should have fire drills at home.

Kids learn from repeating, Amos said, and every family needs to rehearse. Everyone

should have fire drills at home, he said. Children need to know their address and phone number, he said, and how to call 911. If the parents are incapacitated, he said, a child need to know that.

Adults can benefit from the demonstrations and reminders of what to do in an emergency, Amos said, and now the fire department can provide that. When the department was borrowing the trailer, he said, they had to have it back in a couple of days, so they had to rush through the demonstrations at the schools.

"We'll be able to go through it slower," he said.

Groups in nearby towns may also want demonstrations, he said, and the department can arrange that. Any group that wants a presentation can call the fire chief, Assistant Chief Chris Bauman or any member of the department, Amos said.

The trailer was paid for by a \$58,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, matched by a little over \$2,000 from Sherman County.

County sales tax shows slow growth

By Tom Betz
 ntbetz@nwkansas.com

Sherman County sales-tax collections through July show steady growth over the past five years, but slow growth this year, based on figures the treasurer gave the county commissioners at their meeting last Tuesday.

County Treasurer Iris Scheopner said the figures are for 44 percent of the 1-cent sales tax the county splits with Goodland and Kanorado, but don't include the special 1-cent sales tax for road improvements.

The figures are reported by the state Department of Revenue, she said, and the figures reported for July represent taxes from sales in June.

Collections through July were 19.4 percent higher than the first seven months of 2003, she said. The total through July was \$283,957, and in 2003 it was \$237,755.

Collections over the last three years have shown a modest increase of 2 to 3 percent a year, she said, from 2004 (\$269,406) to 2005 (\$275,057) to 2006 (283,433), she said.

This year, though, the first seven months show just a \$524 increase over last year or less than a .05 of one percent. Estimating the next five months — based on the previous four years, which show higher sales tax collections in the last part of the year — the year-end sales tax should show about a 3 percent increase, she said, about \$15,000 over the \$484,940 collected last year.

The apparent slow growth this year may be tied more to legislative changes in Topeka than

to the actual sales being made by businesses in Sherman County, a state study shows

Kansas Secretary of Revenue Joan Wagnon agreed to a study of the erosion of the sales tax base in Kansas, and the study was completed in December by Dr. John D. Wong, professor of public administration at Wichita State University.

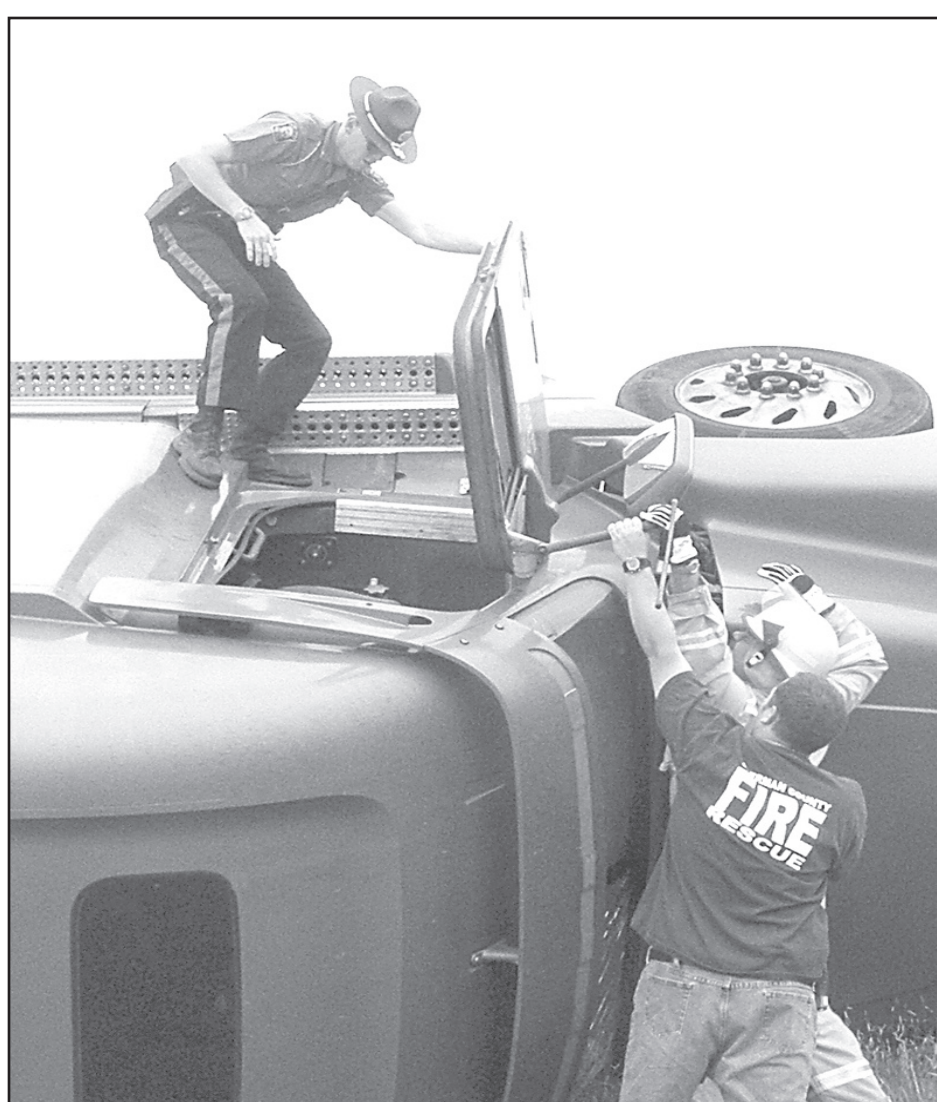
The major finding of the study was that "... while the sales tax is generally perceived by many to be a broad-based tax on final consumption, in most states it is neither broad-based nor limited to final consumption."

The study found that principal causes of erosion of the sales tax base include: Legislated exemptions, attempts to tax services, cross-border shopping and technological change.

"One reason for the erosion of the Kansas ... tax base is the passage of a large number of statutory exclusions and exemptions to the tax," the study concluded.

"Since 1937 there have been 71 original exemptions and exclusions from the sales and use tax, 53 expansions in exemptions or exclusions, 20 restrictions in exemptions and exclusions, and 62 other changes in the sales and use tax statutes, for a total of 206 legislative enactments or changes in the Kansas sales and use tax statutes."

Because of the numerous exemptions, the study said, the sales tax collection figures are not a reflection of total sales. Recent state computer changes eliminated a monthly report of county sales tax collections the Department of Revenue used to publish.



State Trooper Eric Hodges climbed up on the cab of a truck that tipped over on I-70 Friday morning. Hodges handed his hat to a county fireman and got down into the cab to find log books and other paperwork. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Truckload of apples tips over on I-70 curves

A semitrailer truck load of apples took a bumpy ride Friday morning when the east-bound trailer tipped over on I-70 about 10 miles west of town.

State Trooper Eric Hodges said the accident happened about 9:35 a.m. when the trailer, being pulled by Antonio Morgado, 61, of Homestead, Fla., got onto the shoulder. Hodges said Morgado overcorrected, or jerked the wheel, and the truck and trailer tipped over, sliding on the passenger side a few feet off the south edge of the highway.

Morgado was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center by ambulance. He was treated and released, said Tina Goodwin, director

of marketing at the hospital.

Two truck drivers who were behind Morgado saw the accident and stopped to help, Trooper Hodges said. One told him the truck in the accident had passed him about the state line. The driver said he saw the truck sliding off the road as he came around the curves east of the Kanorado rest area. With the help of another driver, the man pulled Morgado out of the cab, Hodges said.

The truck, a 2001 Freightliner, was removed by McB's. Trooper Hodges said the state health department was called to inspect the apples, which got jostled in the accident, but the trailer did not break open.

Fog sealing to begin Wednesday

The second step of the city's annual street sealing project will begin Wednesday when the streets that were chip sealed get a fog coat of oil to hold the rock in place

Phil Erickson, city street superintendent, said if the weather cooperates, the work should be done by Thursday.

People who live along streets to be fog sealed will be asked to get their vehicles out of the way by city crew members knocking on doors and delivering a notice today. The notice asks people on streets to be fog sealed to move their cars and not to water yards that morning. The message says the streets will be blocked to all through traffic for about

two hours after the seal is applied.

Erickson said if a car is in the way and the owner can't be found, the city will have it towed.

Streets to be fog sealed include Ninth from Main west to Cattle Trail; 11th east from Broadway to Eastridge; Seventh from Main east to Eustis; Sixth east from Caldwell to Eustis; Third west from Caldwell to Broadway; Walnut Ave. south from 13th to 16th; College south from 13th to 16th; 15th east from Main to Arcade; Clark Ave. south from Toelkes to Eighth; Fifth east from Caldwell to Kansas; Montana Ave. south from Eighth to 10th; and Grand Ave. between Second and Third.