

weather report

55°
noon
Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 6:04 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 7:02 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:07 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 50 degrees
- Humidity 41 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds northwest 40-55 mph
- Barometer 29.66 inches and rising
- Record High today 92° (2003)
- Record Low today 19° (1976)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	62°
Low Wednesday	35°
Precipitation	none
This month	00.36
Year to date	13.62
Below Normal	04.42 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 72, low around 30 and winds 10-15 mph. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers in the evening, a high near 82, low around 36 and winds south 5-10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a 40 percent chance of rain or snow before noon, high near 48 and low around 30.

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



Goodland firemen sprayed foam on an engine and broken wing of a Learjet that crashed during landing at Renner Field on Wednesday morning. The foam was sprayed as a precaution, firemen said, but there were no injuries to the pilot or co-pilot. The jet was owned by a Texas corporation, and the pilot told a state trooper he must have hit the runway with the wing when he was landing.
Photo by Jordie Mann/The Goodland Star-News

Texas jet breaks wing on landing

By Jordie Mann
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A private jet with control problems missed landing on the runway at Renner Field about 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, coming down on a nearby grassy field and breaking its left wing.

Neither the pilot nor the co-pilot was injured.

The captain's-side wing of the 10-seat Learjet appeared to be broken in half and lying on the ground.

Emergency crews and the Goodland Fire Department responded. Although there did not appear to be any fire or flames, fire crews

wearing silver Class A suits doused the aircraft with foam as a precaution because of fuel leaks, said Fire Chief Brian James.

"That fuel is highly flammable," James said. "Any heat or spark and that thing would go up like fireworks."

About 500 gallons of fuel spilled onto the grassy median, said pilot Mark Pippin.

The airplane was headed to Goodland from Fort Worth, the pilot said. He told a trooper with the Kansas Highway Patrol that he was trying to land on the runway when the airplane experienced a mechanical failure of the wing control mechanism.

"I've been flying for 23 years, both commercial and corporate-owned jets, and have never so much as hurt an aircraft," Pippin said.

Pippin said he is in a pool of pilots that fly corporate jets. Both the pilot and co-pilot, Rodney Boswell, are from Texas, and the jet is listed in Federal Aviation Administration records to Fort Worth-based JaGee Ventures Inc.

JaGee Holdings has major real estate investments in Fort Worth and, according to its web site, owns Service Oil, who operates the Goodland Conoco Travel Shoppe, a Dairy Queen in Colby, a restaurant in Burlington, other convenience stores and a petroleum bulk plant here.

The firm, founded by James Garvey, now is run by Richard F. Garvey and Carol Garvey Sweat. Their grandfather, R.H. Garvey, founded a grain and ranching empire in Kansas that spread across the Great Plains,

and the family once owned many elevators in western Kansas.

Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Eric Hodges said the pilot told him they were landing at Renner Field to pick up passengers. The pilot did not state who was being picked up or for what purpose.

Spectators at the scene said they did not see or hear the landing.

"I didn't even know there was a problem until we started noticing the emergency vehicles showing up," said Darin Neufeld, an engineer with Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates who works nearby. "Because they were coming in so fast, I knew something was up, so I came outside to see what was going on."

City votes to restore drug task force money

By Tom Betz
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The Goodland City Commission, reversing a budget decision made this summer, voted unanimously to restore money for the Quad County Drug Task Force after nearly an hour discussion Monday.

Mayor Rick Billinger, saying he felt this was something the city ought to do, made a motion was

to restore \$5,000 for this year and \$5,000 for next year.

The commission cut the money in July. Sherman County Crimestoppers group came to the commission on Oct. 1 to ask that the money be restored.

Doug Murphy, a detective hired with grant money to lead the task force, came to the meeting Monday to present his case and answer

questions. "I understand there has been some discussion about continued involvement," Murphy said. "Crimestoppers people asked me to come and talk to you. I understand you have some budget issues, and that is why I am here."

"Drugs are a continuing problem and the funding has to go on. Drug investigations are one of the most

time- and resource-consuming efforts agencies engage in. The problem for small rural agencies is they don't have the personnel to dedicate someone full time to drug cases."

"It is not a victimless crime. It costs the people around the user money, and the users are prone to accidents on the job. As taxpayers, we all pay for those who are using drugs. Drug crimes are tied to crimi-

nal activities."

Murphy gave statistics showing the number of cases and convictions over the past six years and up to date for this year. The chart shows that over the years, Goodland has had a high of 64 percent of all cases handled by the task force in 2001 to a low of 19 percent in 2005. He said

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local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$7.61 bushel	Posted county price — \$7.56
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢	
Corn — \$3.25 bushel	Posted county price — \$3.20
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢	
Milo — \$3.09 bushel	
Soybeans — \$8.35 bushel	Posted county price — \$8.48
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢	
Millet — \$7 hundredweight	
Sunflowers	
Oil current crop — \$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.)	

Budget Ok'd; property taxes will increase

By Tom Betz
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Just two citizens attended a county budget hearing Tuesday to question a proposed property tax increase, and when the discussion was over, two commissioners voted to approve the budget and 7 percent tax increase.

Larry Enfield, a farmer and former candidate for county commissioner, and Judy Hayden, former flower arranger for the Blossom Shoppe, asked questions and suggested that the commissioners find a way to balance the budget without raising taxes.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure continued to oppose a tax hike. After an hour of discussion, he voted "no" on the budget and left the meeting, saying the other two commissioners were not listening and didn't need him to make a decision.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he felt the budget was OK, and made a motion to adopt it as presented.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he agreed the budget was in line with what the county needs to operate and seconded the motion. The vote was 2-0 with Rasure gone.

Based on a business with an appraised value of \$50,000 and an assessed value of \$12,500, the property tax would increase by about \$44 next year. On a home with an appraised value of \$50,000 and an assessed value of \$5,750, the property tax would increase about \$20.26, based on a formula from County Clerk Janet Rumpel.

Enfield asked Thomas and Tiede why they felt it the county needed to raise taxes, saying that he had reviewed the figures and felt the commissioners had not put much effort into keeping the budget in line.

"I think our department heads do a great job of working within their budget," Tiede replied. "We have held the line over the past three years. We have been holding it pretty steady, but have kicked in some money for salaries."

"The carryovers have not been a big over the past few years, and it has just caught up with us."

Enfield said the increased valuation in the county this past year will bring in \$260,000 to the county without a tax increase. He said the proposed increase in property taxes will raise another \$230,000, adding that he won-

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Trailer trains firemen



Members of the Goodland and Sherman County Rural fire department trained in a fire trailer brought in by the Kansas State Firefighters Association on Sunday afternoon. Firefighters in full gear would go into the trailer and put out a fire. The trailer, designed for a fire to be set in it, can be altered on the inside by moving walls. The firemen spent time in the classroom, practiced with hydraulic rescue tools, and in the trailer on Saturday and Sunday.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

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Cowgirls take fourth

Junior Chelsie Gausman took a shot out of the rough at the state golf competition Monday. She tied for 15th, bringing home a medal, and helped lead the Cowgirls to a fourth-place finish. See photos, story on Page 12.