

weather report



74°
noon

Thursday

Today

Sunset, 7:42 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 6:01 a.m.

Sunset, 7:40 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil temperature 72 degrees
- Humidity 51 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds northeast 10 mph
- Barometer 30.08 inches and steady
- Record High today 106° (1937)
- Record Low today 49° (1978)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	86°
Low Wednesday	54°
Precipitation	trace
This month	3.48
Year to date	10.64
Below normal	4.47 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 71, winds out of the north at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 52.
Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 71, winds out of the east at 10 mph and a low around 54.

Extended Forecast

Sunday and Monday: Partly cloudy with a 20 to 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms and a high near 80.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Woman part of Heroes of Hope

By Sharon Corcoran

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A Goodland woman's brush with death led to her being chosen as an ambassador for the American Cancer Society, and she will be traveling to Relay for Life events to talk about cancer prevention, being a survivor and resources the society provides.

Ashley Kear, 28, co-owner of Kear's Quality Liquor with her husband Andy, is one of the two survivors from Kansas chosen to participate in the society's Heroes of Hope: Profiles of Courage program.

Every year, she said, the society picks two people from each state. She said someone from the Sherman County Relay for Life committee nominated her, and she ended up being chosen.

She went to Dallas July 25 and 26 to find out what would be expected of her and to meet others in the program. The training, she said, was for Heroes from Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Hawaii and Guam, which are in the High Plains Division.

Everyone has their own story, Kear said, and you're humbled by everyone's experience. Having cancer puts everything in perspective, she said. If you survive it, it gives you the greatest appreciation for life.

Kear had a lump on her neck four years ago, which she kept feeling when she scratched an itch. She had a needle biopsy, which came back as non-cancerous, but she felt tired all the time and didn't have the energy she used to.

She went to another doctor and had three biopsies, which also came back as non-cancerous. Then she went to Dr. Alfred Carr, an ear, nose, throat specialist from Denver, thinking she had an ear problem. Kear said he told her the lump concerned him, and he recommended a doctor he knew could remove it.

"I had been steered away from removing it," she said. "I was warned that if I had it removed, it would spread quickly, but Dr. Carr said he had



Ashley Kear, a cancer survivor who was chosen as a Heroes of Hope ambassador for the American Cancer Society, helped set up the Relay for Life display at the Carnegie Arts Center last summer.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Sherman Relay for Life begins today

Teams have been gearing up for the annual Sherman County Relay for Life fund raiser for the American Cancer Society starting at 7 p.m. on Friday and running into Saturday morning at the Goodland High School track.

The track is behind the Northwest Kansas Technical College administration building at 1209 Harrison. The relay begins with a lap by cancer survivors, who will be joined by their caregivers to finish the lap. All the teams will flood the track for the next lap.

Golf carts will be available for survivors unable to walk their lap, said Josh Dechant, a member of the organizing committee.

Teams are expected to keep at least one member on the track all night. A closing ceremony will be 5:30 a.m. Saturday, with the relay to wrap up by 7 a.m. Members will camp in the center of the track, Dechant said.

The theme for this year's event is Fight Back, Dechant said. A live auction at 7:45 p.m. Friday will include an afghan, lawn ornaments, a pink tractor and a survivor-signed T-shirt.

There will be a silent auction for baskets of goodies donated by the various teams, said Dechant. The

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local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$7.97 bushel
- Posted county price — \$8.14
- Corn — \$4.87 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.96
- Milo — \$4.42 bushel
- Soybeans — \$11.54 bushel
- Posted county price — \$12.05
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$22.35 cwt.
- Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today



More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Car races on Saturday

Tyrel Smith (car 12) leads the track point standings at the Sherman County Speedway and will attempt to defend his lead during the Bill Gray Memorial races at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday. See photo, story on Page 10a.

City removes fence from slab at Steever Park

By Tom Betz

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An orange net fence disappeared Thursday morning around the concrete slab of the skate park at Steever Park, and members of the Youth Committee had been told the skaters could not use the area because the city insurance company was under the impression the park was under construction.

City Manager Wayne Hill said he had talked to Jeanette Ruddell at Eklund First Insurance about the need for a fence, and that if the city took the signs about it being a skate park down it was just a slab of concrete.

He said she agreed that would work at this time, and would be covered under the city umbrella as a part of Steever Park.

Hill said that the city crew put the fence up on Friday under information from the city insurance company Employer Mutual Casualty Insurance Company handled through Eklund First Insurance about insuring the area as a skate park.

Kim Bohme, co-chair of the committee said she had talked to City Manager Wayne Hill and City Clerk Mary Volk about the problem, and agreed that if it would get the fence pulled out it was not a problem to remove the signs.

"This is not fair to the kids who



City street crew members Dan Knitig and Tony Daise worked together to pull out a fence post at Steever Park Thursday morning. Mikey Doll (left) tried to pull another fence post to take the orange construction fence down.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

worked hard to get that first phase done," Bohme said.

She said the concrete slab was poured by volunteers in mid-July and the kids who were able to skate on it have said the concrete is perfect.

Bohme said all of the concrete has been poured and \$8,000 paid for the project.

"We are done with the slab," she said. "We are planning to add equipment, but at this point the basic skate park is done."

Hill said the insurance company felt the area was under construction and that until it was completed the area should be fenced to keep people from staking or getting hurt.

"I am discouraged," she said, "and I don't want the kids to get

discouraged. They have worked hard on this project, and it seems ridiculous not to let them use the concrete base as it is.

"I have a list of things the insurance company says we have to do including put up a fence and have a list of rules."

Employer Mutual Casualty has provided the city skateboard facility questionnaire with 10 questions about what is at the skateboard park. The city is to fill out the questionnaire and attach a photo and explanation of any questions where the answer is NO. Hill said he would meet with Volk, Ruddell and Bohme on Tuesday to look at how the city wants to answer the questions about the skate park.

Hill said Wednesday he wants to protect the city as much as possible, but wants to see what the options might be to get the park insured when the youth committee gets the equipment to go in the park.

He agreed it seemed a bit of a stretch to say the slab was under construction, and said he was not sure why this came up at this time.

Bohme said the question about insurance on the skate park was brought up in the early planning and the city was asked if there would be any problems.

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Parking expansion planned for east side of courthouse

By Tom Betz

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Parking around the Sherman County courthouse could get some relief with a plan to add nine to 10 spots along the alley on the east side of the building presented to the commissioners on Tuesday.

The parking idea came after Sheriff Kevin Butts got permission to pull the overgrown bushes out north of the courthouse. Butts said he asked to pull the bushes out because they were making it a safety hazard to drive out of the alley.

William McKnight said he had a plan drawn

up that would add nine or 10 new parking places, and that he wants to see the alley be a one way going north.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he thought it was a good idea, and asked Curt Way, public works manager, if he could pull out and haul away the old curb on the west side of the alley.

Way said he thought his crew could do that and would saw the curb so it breaks off square.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked what they should do about the parking area.

Way said he recommended the commissioners go with concrete.

Tiede said the county could get the area ready and the county could take bids on forming and pouring the concrete.

McKnight asked about the bushes south of the courthouse.

"The sheriff's department has a tree puller," Way said. "But there may not be a place to tie to and we may need to dig those out."

Butts said it would be better for the road and bridge to pull those bushes out, and he agreed adding the parking would help especially on heavy days.

Tiede said it would cost more to add parking on the south.

McKnight said the county could do the north part and wait a year to do the south.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said it would be cheaper to do both sections at one time.

The commissioners agreed to pursue the plan and have the bushes pulled out on the south and get the area ready for concrete parking.

"Do you want us to pull the or do you want to do it," Way asked Butts.

"I think you can do it," Butts said. "I have a couple of inmates who would be willing to help to get outside."

Way said he would probably get to tearing out the bushes and curb next week.

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