

weather report

36°
noon
Monday



Today

- Sunset, 4:59 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 6:59 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:00 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 62 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds north 21-31 mph
- Barometer 30.14 inches and falling
- Record High today 70° (1935)
- Record Low today -11° (1957)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Sunday 47°
- Low Sunday 15°
- Precipitation trace
- This month 0.33
- Year to date 0.33
- Below normal 0.02 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with snow flurries after midnight, a high in the mid 40s, winds out of the west at 10 to 15 mph and a low in the lower 20s. Wednesday: Partly sunny with a high in the lower 41s, winds out of the northwest at 15 mph and a low around 20.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high in the lower 50s and a low in the lower 20s. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high in the lower 50s and a low in the lower 20s. Saturday: Partly cloudy with a high in the upper 30s and a low around 16. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$7.69 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.64
- Corn — \$5.79 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.12
- Milo — \$5.64 bushel
- Soybeans — \$12.65 bushel
- Posted county price — \$13.16
- Millet — \$5 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$27 cwt.
- Confection — no bid
- Pinto beans — \$18 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scoular 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



Cowgirls win trophy

Cowgirl M'Lynn Hinger has been working on free throws. Saturday Hinger had a great game with 14 points and 17 rebounds to help the Cowgirls win third place at Hillsboro. See photo, Story on Page 9.

Health Fair planned for Saturday

The Sherman County Health Fair is planned for Saturday from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, with about 35 different booths expected for the morning.

The City is joining with the Sherman County Health Fair to encourage residents to "take charge of their Health and their Energy Consumption" and will kick off the Take Charge Challenge at the health fair.

Volunteers from the city and others participating in the local effort will be on hand to hand out information and tips for people who can help the city move up in the competition.

Citizens can check out the Take Charge competition by going to <http://takechargekans.org> to learn more and to see which city in the northwest region is leading.

Tina Goodwin, hospital director of marketing and volunteer services, said informational programs will be presented Saturday morning.

The programs scheduled include, 9 to 9:20 a.m., Goodland Activity Center on activity/guidelines for senior citizens fitness; 9:30 to 9:50 a.m., Sarah Linton, hospital Dietician on nutrition topics; 10 to 10:20 a.m., GAC kids activities; and 10:30 to 10:50 a.m., Goodland hospital Physical Therapy Department program.

The blood profiles taken two weeks ago will



Catherine Bayawa, a lab technician at Goodland Regional Medical Center, was drawing blood samples from people to have tests done for the Sherman County Health Fair this Saturday. The man was one of 670 people who gave blood.

Photo by Pat Schiefel/The Goodland Star-News

be available the day of the health fair for review with one of the Goodland Family Health Center physicians who will be on hand, Goodwin said. Goodwin said 670 people went

through the blood draw process.

Another event this year is the Healthy Cooking Contest, but on Monday Sara King of the Goodland Activity Center said she had not received any entries. She said the committee was extending the deadline to Thursday to give people an opportunity to bring in their health recipes to the GAC at 808 Main Ave.

King said the idea for the healthy cooking contest was sort of a last minute idea, but hopes several people will bring healthy recipes to her at the GAC to be judged. Those entering are to make their recipe and bring the dish to the Health Fair at the Northwest Kansas Tech College by 9 a.m. on Saturday.

The dishes will be judged and prizes given for Healthiest and best tasting made by person under 18 years old; Healthiest and best tasting made by person 18 years old to 59 years old; Healthiest and best tasting made by person 60 years old and better; Best tasting food with the lowest grams of fat; Best tasting food with the lowest sugar content; and a Special award.

The left-over's will be sold at a bake sale with proceeds going to the Sherman County Health Fair and prizes.

About 35 booths planned for Health Fair

The Goodland hospital will have booths from the counseling service, emergency

See FAIR, Page 5

Comment period open on emergency plan

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkans.com

With blowing snow outside a small group of representatives from around Sherman County met at the city building Wednesday evening to review the draft of the county emergency mitigation plan.

The representatives from the city, county, school district, tech college and media hears a presentation by Misha Hernandez of E-FM outlining the basic details of the county plan.

Hernandez said the emergency plan is required by the Federal Emergency Management Administration, and the three county group including Sherman, Rawlins and Cheyenne County got a grant to develop the plan to be sent to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management after public review.

He said the plan focuses on natural hazards and said for Sherman County the top concern is hail storms. Thunder storms come in second with winter storms third. Flash floods are fourth with tornadoes fifth and wildfires sixth.

Additional hazards the plan covers includes drought, loss of a dam or levee, terrorism/AT/CD, and utility failure.

The least likely natural disaster for Sherman County is an earthquake with the lowest risk rating.

Mitigation is defined as any effort or action taken to reduce risk or impact on people and property in the future, primarily from natural disasters, Hernandez said.

The draft plan includes identifying hazards and risks, ranking the

hazards and risks and establishing goals, objectives and possible action steps.

The public and representatives from the groups at the meeting were encouraged to check out the plan. Copies are available at the Goodland Public Library and the Sherman County Emergency Management Office at Renner Field. The plan can be viewed on line at www.hzvat.net. The username is MPrevSH8 and the password is SH88review.

Comments will be accepted by either Ryan Murray the regional emergency management person at (785) 332-2560 or E-FM at (785) 312-9150.

The deadline for comment is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 1.

A final public meeting on the plan will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 2 at the city administration building.

Hernandez said after the final meeting the plan will be open for comment for an additional two week. He said after the second two weeks the plan will be finalized and then sent to Topeka for state approval. Once the state approves the plan it will be sent on to FEMA for review.

Once FEMA reviews and approves the plan it will be brought back to Sherman County for each of the groups in the county to approve.

He said the approved plan will be good for five years, and would be something that can be updated on a continuing basis through the county emergency management office.

Hazard	Relative Risk Rating	Hazard Risk Index Rating
Hail	38.95	1
TSTM Wind	20.93	1
Winter Storm	18.64	1
Flash Flood	9	1
Tornado	6.6	1
*Wildfire	6.31	1
Drought	2.4	2
(M) Dam/Levee	1	2
(M) Terrorism / AT / CD	1	2
(M) Utility Failure	1	2
**Earthquake	0.68	4

The ranking of natural hazard events in Sherman County are one of the items in the Emergency Mitigation Plan being finalized for presentation to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and to the Federal Emergency Management Administration. The plan is open for public comment until Tuesday and a second meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

County approves modified purchasing policy

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkans.com

Purchases made for Sherman County departments are supposed to have purchase orders, and Tuesday the county commissioners made changes in the county purchasing policy to clarify the process and try to keep more money in the county.

Commissioner Larry Enfield proposed the policy changes and Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said she made some additional changes.

Commissioner Max Linin had a few suggestions as well, as the commissioners discussed and agreed on portions of the policy.

Strnad said the first thing she wanted to see was elimination of blanket purchase orders.

"All purchases will require a signed purchase order from the county clerk's office before the purchase is made (to include smaller items under \$500). All purchases over \$500 will require both the purchase order and permission from the county commissioners before the purchase is completed. All purchases made on a county credit card will need to be followed up with receipts that are turned into

Road and bridge bills reviewed

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkans.com

Sherman County commissioners approved a change in purchase policy at their meeting Tuesday, and reviewed the changes with the public works manager.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad told Butch Vandiver, public works manager, she had been reviewing the bills and questioned one for solvent purchased from a company in Florida.

Vandiver said he was trying to change how the department does things, but admitted he ordered the solvent. He said it was a different product than the department has been using, and was supposed to be a green product that could be dumped out rather than being considered hazardous.

He said the solvent does not work as well, and he will not be ordering it again.

Strnad thanked Vandiver for his honesty, and reviewed the changed purchase policy including the forbid on purchasing out of the county without an approval from the commissioners.

She explained the change in credit cards being planned for the road and bridge and sheriff's departments.

Vandiver said presently the department has a card assigned to each vehicle.

Strnad said the commissioners had decided to do away with that and give each person who drives a county vehicle a card and the person would be

See BILLS, Page 5

the county clerk's office within 30 days. Any receipts failed to turn in or bills the commissioners feel were unjustifiable will be at the person's expense."

Strand said she felt the only things that ought to be charged on county credit cards were fuel and hotel rooms. She said the employees should turn in meal receipts

for reimbursement, and the county would not allow payment for any alcohol or tips.

A question had been raised about meals on one day trips, and Strnad said the employee can turn those meals in for reimbursement, but will be charged tax under the IRS rules.

"All fuel purchases made on county credit cards will need to

be kept track of in a log book (to include mileage, destination and location). Log books will be subject to random inspection at the commissioner's discretion, and is for all departments.

"There will be NO purchases allowed outside of the county (regardless of dollar amount) unless the pending purchase is presented to the

commissioners first for approval.

"Use of county credit cards to shop online is expressly forbidden. If the purchase is a state requirement for software or other specific needs, the commissioners will be notified for approval before purchase.

"If an employee needs to make an emergency purchase, the person can directly contact one of the commissioners, and it would be up to the discretion of that commissioner. The emergency purchase is to be reported at the next commissioner meeting.

"Failure to comply with these regulations can result in disciplinary action."

Strnad said the county employees need to know that while the people in the county clerk's office are handling the purchase orders and payments, the clerk's office is doing what the commissioners have requested.

Enfield made the motion to approve the purchase policy. Commissioner Linin said he could support the policy and seconded. The vote was unanimous.

