

weather report

51°
noon

Thursday

Today

Sunset, 7:11 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 6:29 a.m.

Sunset, 7:12 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 42 degrees
- Humidity 56 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds northwest 20-30 mph
- Barometer 29.87 inches and rising
- Record High today 86° (1940)
- Record Low today 10° (1949)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 58°
- Low Wednesday 29°
- Precipitation trace
- This month 0.81
- Year to date 1.62
- Below normal 0.41 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 67, winds breezy out of the north at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 35. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 76, winds breezy out of south at 5 to 30 mph and a low around 44.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers after and rain or snow at night, a high near 70 and a low around 48. Monday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain or snow, a high near 48 and a low around 29.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.



City approves playground deal

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Steever Park may get an upgrade this summer with approval by the city commission to approve a deal from GameTime for new playground equipment.

City Manager Doug Gerber said the quote from GameTime of Charlotte, N.C., is for two sets of playground equipment.

He said the staff—especially Amy Thorson—has been working with GameTime, and they offered a 50 percent discount on the equipment.

He said the total cost for the equipment was \$64,624, with one set being for younger children, and the other for older children. He said the company is offering a discount of \$31,240 to bring the cost down to \$37,815.

"It has been a while since playground equip-

ment has been purchased," Gerber said.

He said money has been put away for park improvements and \$94,000 is available.

"This is probably a good approach for whatever park we use," he said. "We are recommending Steever Park, or any park in the city. Most of them are in dire need of playground equipment. The parks are well used and we have gotten our money's worth out of the existing equipment."

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said when the city put in the new water park it was clear something needed to be done with the playground equipment at Steever Park. She said she was in favor of going ahead with it.

Commissioner John Garcia said he had seen increased use of Steever Park and a lot of people are using the shelter and skate park.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked about

getting the water sprinkler system in place. He said where the city has installed the sprinklers has made a great difference.

Mayor Josh Dechant asked if the city had checked with other playground equipment firms.

Gerber said they had contacted other companies, but the discount from GameTime was the best the staff had found.

Dechant asked if the city staff could put the equipment up and save the \$2,000 installation supervisory fee.

"We can put it up," said Rich Simon, public works director. "We did the work at Pioneer Park."

Fairbanks asked about the ground preparation.

Simon said they would get the equipment delivered and then get the ground work

done. Dechant asked if there were two different structures could they be put at two different parks?

Daniels said they could do one at one park and another at a different park.

Fairbanks said she would hate to see them split up since the pieces of equipment are for different ages. She said she would like to see them in the same park, and felt there was plenty of room.

Dechant asked about graffiti, and Gerber said he felt the equipment is probably resistant and washable.

Garcia said he felt it was great with the savings that Amy got, and made the motion to approve the purchase less the supervision cost. Fairbanks seconded and it passed 5-0.

Tuesday voters to decide

Tuesday is election day for Sherman County voters for Goodland and Kanorado, Goodland School board, the Goodland School District bond proposal and the Sunflower Extension board.

Advance voting is open at the County Clerk's office during regular business hours, but closes on Monday, said Sherman County Election official Mary Ann Snethen. More than 400 people have voted early or by absentee ballot as of Thursday morning, she said.

Polls at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 824 Main Ave., will open Tuesday at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

The ballot for the General Election includes the Goodland city commissioners, plus voters from Kanorado will be voting for mayor and councilman. The Goodland School District and Brewster School District residents of Sherman County will be eligible to vote for board positions. The Goodland school district proposed bond issue and two Sherman County positions on the Sunflower Extension District board.

Leadership Sherman County has

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Winter white giving way to spring green



Spring has begun, but not before Mother Nature dropped some snow to remind everyone that she doesn't pay attention to the human calendar. The snow on Sunday trimmed the trees at 14th and Caldwell Ave., with white, and the additional three inches that fell on Tuesday brought some much needed moisture. March ended with a flurry that brought an additional .39 inches and brought the month total to .81 inches, but that is below the 1.16 average. For

the month Goodland had 8 inches of snow, but below the average of 8.8 inches. Total snow for the season is 22.1 inches, but is below the average of 35.9 inches. The total moisture to date is 1.62, and is .41 below the average of 2.03. The weather forecast for the weekend is good, and there is a chance for moisture next week. The spring colors are beginning to peak through.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Start with blank slate on city, county fire

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Take a map of Sherman County and start by saying "we don't have a fire department."

The blank slate approach was the consensus of the city commissioners, county commissioners and rural fire board at a special meeting held Tuesday evening at the city administration building.

The special meeting was held to discuss the recommendations made by Harold N. "Skip" Starling, president of National Fire Services Office of Savannah, Ga., who had been hired to do a survey of fire services in Sherman County. His recommendations were presented to the same group at a special meeting held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 22.

"I am interested in getting the

Fire board sets pros, cons of options

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

At the joint city, county and fire board meeting on Tuesday the discussion was about implementing recommendations made by Skip Starling of National Fire Services Office of Savannah, Ga., who had presented his recommendations to a similar meeting the week before.

Darrel Cloyd of the Sherman County Rural Fire Board said they had met on Monday and discussed the pros and cons of the recommendations and possible consolidation.

City Manager Doug Gerber asked Cloyd what the fire board saw as the pros and cons of consolidation.

Cloyd said the board talked about 11 things. The board felt consolidation would benefit the city by having more manpower to fight fires because together would have more than 30 firefighters.

Would not have mutual aid situations to deal with.

Have more leverage for getting grants.

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Max Linin were present.

Dechant said the purpose of the meeting was to look at a game plan based on the recommendations Starling had presented the week before.

"We spent taxpayers dollars to do the study," he said, "and we need to make something happen. Anything we do will not happen overnight or be an easy process."

"We are dealing with the taxpayers money. Maybe we are duplicating the dollars and we need to keep the emotions to a minimum and look at the big picture. That is why we were elected."

Darrel Cloyd, chairman of the rural fire board, said the board held a meeting on Monday and went over Starling's recommendations and had a lot of discussion.

He said the board talked about the Brewster situation: where Sherman County appears to be paying the lions share, and agreed the agreement needs to be renegotiated. Cloyd said he had done some research on that and did not find a lot of answers, but that the negotiations appear to be with a township board.

He said they talked about upgrading equipment in Kanorado, and looked at the pros and cons of consolidation.

"We as a board decided we want to pursue a consolidation study," Cloyd said, "to see if it is the best thing for the people. That is what we want to do."

Dechant asked Cloyd what the next step forward was. He asked if going with the satellite stations was part of the discussion.

Cloyd said the fire board would

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local markets

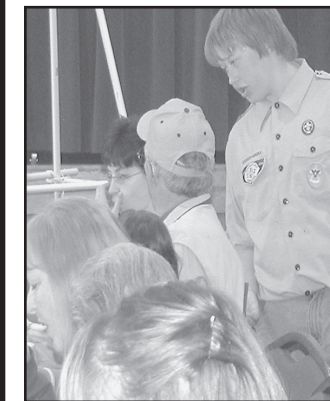
Noon

- Wheat — \$7.65 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.51
- Corn — \$6.15 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.36
- Milo — \$6.02 bushel
- Soybeans — \$12.66 bushel
- Posted county price — \$12.78
- Millet — \$5 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$31 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



Boy Scouts great chili

Goodland Boy Scout Jonah McClung checked to see if diners at the Chili Feed on Saturday, at the Goodland United Methodist Fellowship Hall, needed any refills on soup or drinks. See photo on Page 7

Take Charge Do It Yourself energy class Saturday at Walmart

The Take Charge Challenge for Goodland will participate in the Walmart Lawn and Garden opening from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

People are encouraged to stop by the Take Charge booth to learn how to help Goodland win a \$100,000 efficiency prize in the Take Charge Challenge contest by making the switch.

Amy Thorson, co-chair of the Goodland committee, said people can sign up for a home energy audit, and they will be doing a "Do It Yourself Energy Audit Class at the Walmart Garden Center on Saturday.

This class will equip you with information to assess your home's energy efficiency and to make changes that can save you money and energy, she said. The first 10 individuals to sign up will receive

a \$25 voucher for energy efficient product from one of the local home centers.

The Take Charge Challenge continues through September, and anyone can help by pledging to change regular light bulbs to CFLs by going to www.takechargekansas.org and clicking on the northwest contest and on Goodland.

For more information or to sign up early contact the City Office at 890-4500 or Matt Breininger at Millers Home Center 899-2386. For information on how to obtain a whole house audit or just make the switch from regular light bulbs to CFL's, contact the City Office (785) 890-4500 or Lane Patterson Take Charge Northwest Regional Coordinator at northwesttakecharge@gmail.com

best service you can have at an affordable cost," Starling said was his goal.

He said the question he was asked

when he first came to Sherman County was "who should provide county fire services."

Starling said he wanted people

