

weather report

40°
noon
Monday

Today

- Sunset, 7:36 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 5:53 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:37:19 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 48 degrees
- Humidity 97 percent
- Sky cloudy with light rain
- Winds northeast 15 mph
- Barometer 29.79 inches and steady
- Record High today 89° (1927)
- Record Low today 23° (2006)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	51°
Low Sunday	36°
Precipitation	0.24
This month	1.02
Year to date	2.44
Below normal	0.77 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with patchy fog before 9 a.m. and 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 9 a.m., a high near 56, winds out of the east at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 38. Wednesday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers, a high near 57, winds out of the north at 15 mph and a low around 37.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny with a high near 69 and a low around 44. Friday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers at night, a high near 71 and a low around 39. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

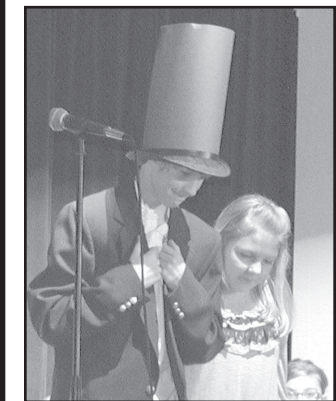
local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$8.18 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$8.28
 - Corn — \$6.78 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.03
 - Milo — \$6.65 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$12.47 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$12.96
 - Millet — \$5 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$31.40 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



Fifth grade entertains

Peyton Sieck was Abraham Lincoln and Molly Hernandez was Mary Lincoln in the fifth grade's music program last Tuesday at the Goodland High School auditorium. See photo, story on Page 3.

Easter Egg Hunt draws big crowd



The Easter Bunny (above) was busy giving out treats before and after the Easter Egg Hunt held Thursday at Northwest Tech. Three, two, one go! and the young kids took off across the grass to collect their special eggs. Check out the videos posted on The Goodland Star-News Facebook page.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on Thursday at Northwest Tech, because the college was closed for Good Friday and organized by the college Circle K club along with Goodland Take Charge Challenge. More than 600 people attended.

The weather was great for the Easter Egg Hunt and the Circle K had the eggs planted for the first group: infants to 3 years old.

It took the young group less than a minute to clear the ground of all the special plastic eggs. One special golden egg won the young person a special Easter Basket, and the other eggs were filled with candy and some special prizes from local merchants.

The Circle K students scattered eggs for the next group—the pre-kindergarten to kindergarten age. Again it took less than a minute for the kids to clear the grass of all the eggs.

The third group of eggs were scattered for the first and second graders. It took less than a minute for this group to clear the grass.

The final group of eggs were scattered for the third and fourth graders, who swooped across the grass in under a minute.

Brad Schields, Kiwanis helper for the Circle K, said he was glad the large crowd came, and felt using the same area helped stretch the event out to about 20 minutes.

The second half of the event was organized by the Goodland Take Charge Challenge committee, with a free hot dog feed, and several local vendors of energy efficient equipment and a special display of easy things homeowners can do to improve their energy efficiency and lower their monthly utility bills.

A special show gave young kids a chance to learn about the Energy Bandit and how to help their parents save electricity.

Amy Thorson, co-chair of the committee, said more than 300 adults went through the line and many signed up to help save electricity and change light bulbs. The committee drew two names for a \$500 voucher to purchase energy efficiency products from local vendors. The winners were Becky Cloyd of Kanorado and Jody Verlinden of Goodland.

She said about 96 students went through the Energy Bandit presentation.

The Take Charge Challenge is a nine-month contest among five northwest Kansas communities to see who can save the most energy. The winning town gets \$100,000 for an energy project in the town.

The competing towns are Oakley, Colby, Hoxie, WaKeeney and Goodland. To check on the standings go to www.takechargekansas.org.

If you want to help or have questions about what you can do call Amy or Shauna Johnson at the city offices (785) 890-4500.



City holds hearings on six unfit structures

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

City commissioners heard from five of six owners of homes declared as unfit structures during hearings held Monday, and all were given 90 days to begin repairs or demolish the buildings.

The six locations, 910 W. 17th, 1613 Colorado Ave., 1222 Syracuse Ave., 623 W. Ninth, 322 W. Seventh and 223 East First are the latest in the continuing clean up efforts the city started more than two years ago.

City Building Inspector and Fire Chief Brian James said that on each property he had found several reasons they were in disrepair: broken windows, bad roofs and siding or other conditions that made the homes currently

unfit to live in, based on his information and visual inspections.

On the first one at 910 W. 17th, James said it was in rough shape, and referred the commissioners to photos he had taken of the property on April 13.

He said the property is a blight on the community and is vacant.

Owner Connie (Carson) Amack said she wanted the commissioners to know the plan is to tear it down. She said by the end of summer it will be down, and she would work with the city to get it done.

Mayor John Garcia said the city would give her 90 days to get the work started, and that she needs to work with Brian and City Manager Doug Gerber about a plan.

On the second one at 1613 Colorado, James said it was a single-wide trailer, and he said a lot of trees need to be taken out, and the decking needs to be cleaned up.

The owner Mary Hicks from Norton said she has entered into a contract with Mark Russell in Goodland to rent-to-own and fix the trailer up to live in. She said she has not been out here, and said it was her mother Catherine's house and it looks terrible.

She said Russell has assured her he is going to cut down the trees, take the deck out and clean it up so he can live in it.

Garcia said the rent-to-own is OK, but he said if that fails, the responsibility falls back on the owner. He said she should be sure the guy is working with Brian and Doug to get it

taken care of in the proper time frame.

Commissioner Dechant asked James if it is livable.

James said he has not been inside, but felt the trailer was in better shape than most of the houses. He said it needs some TLC (tender loving care).

Gerber said what the mayor and commissioners are saying is that it is important for the owners to work with the city staff, especially Brian.

"We say that and no one has in the past," Gerber said. "We wait until the 89th day, and then try to call the owners. It is the property owners responsibility. That is my little speech

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County expects hospital to turn ambulance service operation back to county

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Sherman County commissioners talked Tuesday about recent discussions with the administration and board of the Goodland Regional Medical Center about operation of the ambulance service, and expect the hospital to turn operation over to the county when the agreement runs out in August.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said she got the feeling from the recent hospital board meeting, in which she and Commissioner Larry Enfield attended, that the hospital

wants the county to take back the ambulance service.

She said the current contract runs out in August, and the hospital wants a seamless transition. She said she did not see a real option for the county.

Enfield said he did learn quite a bit, and talked to Jim Precht, hospital financial director, about the reasons for transferring operation of the ambulance service.

He said part of the discussion was about the rate of Medicare re-

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City commission agrees to drop nuisance weed height to eight inches

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

The dreaded weed letters usually begin arriving in late May for those who have yards where the weeds or grass have gotten out of control, and the city commissioners are considering lowering the height to get on the weed mowing list.

Goodland's weed ordinance defines "Weeds and grasses on or about residential property, which, because of its height has a blighting influence on the neighborhood. Any such weeds and indigenous grasses shall be presumed to be blighting if they exceed __ inches in height."

City Manager Doug Gerber told the city commissioners he would like to see the current height of 12 inches lowered to 10 or even 8 inches. He said the current height of 12 inches allows the property to get

well out of control before the city begins to take or request the owner take action.

Under the present ordinance the building inspector — Brian James — is responsible for checking on lawns that are not being mowed or taken care of, and the city sends a letter once a year to the property owner saying they have 10 days to get the lawn mowed or the city will have it mowed and the owner will be charged.

Gerber said he looked at a number of other cities about the weed and grass height and found one at eight inches.

Questioned by Mayor John Garcia about his research on weed heights, Gerber said it was not an exhaustive search, but did look at 20 to 25 cities.

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