

weather report



79°
noon
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 8:09 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 5:21 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:10 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 65 degrees
- Humidity 41 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds southwest 20-26 mph
- Barometer 29.84 inches and falling
- Record High today 99° (1933)
- Record Low today 34° (1954)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 90°
- Low Wednesday 57°
- Precipitation none
- This month none
- Year to date 7.31
- Above normal 0.16 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight, a high near 82, winds out of the north at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 54. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 86, winds out of the northeast at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 55.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 92 and a low around 64. Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 92 and a low around 65. Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 92.

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

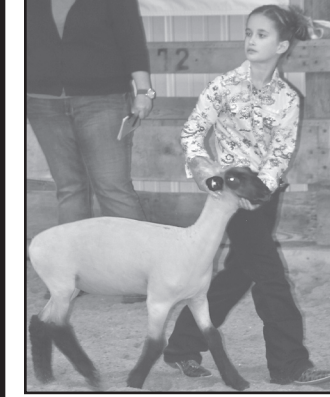
local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$8.13 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$8.30
 - Corn — \$7.18 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.26
 - Milo — \$6.92 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$12.84 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$13.15
 - Millet — \$5 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$31.95 cwt.
 - Confection — no bid
 - Pinto beans — \$28 (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



Results from Spring Show

Hannah Dechant was the Reserve Grand Champion in sheep showmanship at the Sherman County Spring Livestock Show. See photo, story on Page 10.

Relay for Life event tonight

By Pat Schiefen

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The Sherman County Relay for Life will start at 7 p.m. on Friday night and end at 7 a.m. on Saturday morning at the Goodland High School track. In the event of bad weather, the relay will be at the student union at Northwest Tech.

After the presentation of Colors by Boy Scout Troop 142, Peggy Berls will sing the National Anthem. Then with a swarm of purple shirts, cancer survivors will assemble on the track for their victory lap against cancer. For those unable to walk the lap, golf carts will be provided.

Next up is the lap for the various teams in the event. Members of the 10 teams of excited

relayers will make the lap as a team. The goal is to raise \$35,000 for the American Cancer Society.

The Kansas Region of American Cancer Society Hero of Hope, Deb Winter from Medicine Lodge, will talk about her cancer experience and why, even though a victim of cancer, she is carrying a message of hope to relays all across Kansas.

Behind the scenes co-chairs Ginger and Dusti Chadwick and the organizing committee have been at work. Survivor and corporate T-shirts have been handed out, and a silent auction with baskets made by the various teams has started. The Kiwanis Burger Shack will be feeding people until 10 p.m. The luminaria that honors those who

have cancer, are fighting cancer, or have lost the battle with cancer have been set up to go around the track.

The teams have set up their camp sites in the middle of the track and decorated them to the theme of "Lights, Camera, Cure." Teams have been raising money all year with garage sales, bake sales, other food sales and money making projects that the teams have come up with.

Around 10 a.m. the Luminaria Ceremony is scheduled. "Amazing Grace" will be sung and the list of people honored with luminaries will be shown on a screen. The lights are shut off and the luminaria will be lit. Many of the bags have been decorated by those who donated them. If people want the luminaria

after the relay ends, they need to pick them up between 6 to 7 a.m. on Saturday.

The organizing committee has worked this year to try to make the event more fun for those attending, with games and various events planned throughout the night.

The night's walk represents the experiences of a cancer patient from the first news of diagnosis to the breaking dawn of a victory against the disease.

After the closing ceremony on Saturday morning, relayers break camp, clean up and go home for some rest.

Anyone wishing to donate to Locks of Love can have their hair cut at a beauticians and turn in the pony tail to Ginger Chadwick.

Officials frustrated by delays

By Ava Betz

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Sherman County Commissioners continue to be frustrated by lack of action from a company planning a new courthouse heating and air-conditioning system, which must be in place and working by fall.

State inspectors ordered the old system shut down, and a replacement system must be on board in the next few months. So far commissioners have had no indication from James Richmond of Energy Solutions Network, that progress is being made.

The commissioners expressed dissatisfaction with the situation in regular session Tuesday morning with Commissioners Larry Enfield and Max Linin in the Courthouse and Commissioner Cynthia Strnad attending by conference call due to a family medical emergency.

A letter from the Goodland Regional Medical Center to the commissioners gave formal notice the hospital will not be renewing the ambulance service contract when it expires August 31 of this year. The letter did say if the commissioners desired, the hospital would extend the current contract through December, but there were no plans to finance an ambulance service beyond that date.

"I don't want to take it over," Commissioner and Board Chairman Enfield said, "but they're not giving us much choice."

Complicating any county plans to develop an ambulance service is conflicting information on whether the current service is making or losing money and lack of logistical statistics from the current system to use as a planning base, Enfield said.

The meeting started at 8 a.m. and immediately went into a 15-minute executive session to discuss personnel. When the meeting reconvened, Shirley Houston of Redesign Finds asked the commissioners if she could rent the county's 17th street building for her business, which is currently run out of her home. Enfield explained Northwest Tech has requested a grant which, if received, would enable the college to make use of another county-owned building. Materials currently stored in that building would then be moved to the 17th St. site. It was agreed renting the 17th St. site would be put on hold pending further information from the college.

Butch Vandiver, interim road and bridge supervisor, told the commissioners a recent bridge inspection had been done improperly at some point in the procedure by State personnel, and the inspection would be re-done at State expense.

Also, Vandiver reported, he had been notified the county had to recycle big tarps from the grain elevators or have the elevators take care of their own tarps. The tarps could not be disposed of as is at the landfill because they were not municipal solid waste. Having the county do the recycling would mean more cost and personnel, Vandiver said.

Commissioner Strnad volunteered to investigate the tarp disposal requirement with state employees



High wind damages home roof

A gust of wind about midnight on Wednesday took half the roof off Donice Monhollon's home at 1529 Texas Ave. Monhollon said the double-wide mobile home has been there since 1975.

She heard a noise like something ripping about midnight. She said when she heard a bigger noise she got out of bed to see what happened, and in the dark could tell the roof had major damage.

The metal roof was folded back to the north exposing the roof timbers and carrying chunks of insulation to the north side of the house. Smaller pieces could be seen in the alley nearly a block away.

The house to the south and the one next door to the north showed no evidence of damage.

Gregory Guillot at the National Weather Service Goodland office said the overnight wind statistics did not show a big gust around midnight, but showed one at 4:45 a.m.

Meteorologist Scott Mentzer



Donice Molollon surveyed the damage high winds did to her double-wide mobile home at 1529 Texas Ave. overnight on Wednesday. Meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Goodland believe the damage was from a wave of winds from the south that came down to the surface.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

said the weather service had reports of high winds south of Goodland, and he believes the wind damage was caused by a strengthening low pressure system in Colorado and strong winds aloft that made it to the ground. He said apparently the winds were about 5,000 feet from the ground, but moved in some-

thing of a wave motion as they moved across the area causing the higher gusts.

A barn roof was reported damaged in a wind gust about 2 a.m. three miles north of Russell Springs. A wind gust of 69 mph was reported at Sharon Springs at 2:19 a.m. A similar 69 mph gust

was reported 7 miles southwest of Sharon Springs at 2:23 a.m. A 68 mph gust was reported at 2:49 a.m. 1 mile south southeast of Wallace.

Reports of medium-sized tree limbs down were reported on the east side of town along Cherry Ave. and 12th Street.

Hospital gets better ratings from patients

By Tom Betz

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Reports from patient care services, quality control and risk management show improvements in the first quarter, the Goodland Regional Medical Center board heard at its meeting, with more patients rating the service excellent in the first quarter.

Lori Gaydusek, director of patient care services, Karen Hooker, quality manager and Mary Ann Elliott, risk manager, each presented reports about improvements being made within the hospital and areas the nursing staff have identified as areas to improve.

Gaydusek said the staff held a recent meeting to review the standards, and felt some progress was seen.

She said the customer service program idea came from the board, and Tina Goodwin, public relations director, said the staff was available to help.

Gaydusek said the timing was good to work with the StuderGroup program that is designed to help hospitals identify ways to improve patient service and to improve staff performance and the work environment.

Quint Studer, who started the program said, "the group partners with healthcare organizations

to create great places for patients to receive care by first creating a great place for employees to work and for physicians to practice medicine."

Gaydusek said Brenda McCants, hospital board chairman, had asked for the physicians to let her know what education is needed for the staff.

One thing, she said, is to educate the patient at admission that multiple people will be coming in to help with their care. This is important because up to eight people might be involved in creating a care plan. Some of the patients are feeling overwhelmed by the number of people.

The out-patient pre-authorization process for medications and shots needs is working between the clinic and emergency room, she said.

McCants asked about the grant program to be part of the StuderGroup.

Erick Wick, executive secretary, said they put in for it last year and purchased it, and it came in last week. The program is called "hourly rounding."

Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, said the program came through the Small Hospital Improvement Program funded by the Kansas Hospital Association.

Hooker said the emergency room reports from follow-up calls to patients showed an increase in

the number of people who gave the service excellent ratings. She said the program began in the first quarter last year and the report compared the first quarter of this year to that base year.

She said patients are saying they are getting good and quality service and happy with the service provided. She said the number of patients who said they got OK or poor service last year dropped this year.

She said the reports are that the nurses are giving the patients good discharge information and are available if the patient needs to call the nurse back.

Hooker said, based on the StuderGroup principles, the reports show more people moving into the loyalty category.

"When patients feel they have excellent service they will be more likely to go back and are more loyal to the hospital for more service," she said.

Jolly asked how many patients were called.

Hooker said the staff had reached 82 percent of the patients. She said the staff tries at least three times to reach the patient. She said there is an exclusion list of those who do not want to be called, those who live in a care facility and those

