

weather report

87°

noon
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 8:12 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:34 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:12 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 74 degrees
- Humidity 43 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds south 10 mph
- Barometer 29.92 inches and steady

• Record High today 106° (1925)

• Record Low today 52° (1990)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 87°
- Low Wednesday 64°
- Precipitation none
- This month 2.26
- Year to date 11.73
- Below Normal -.12 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny and hot with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 3 p.m., a high near 98, winds out of the south at 10 mph and a low around 69. Saturday: Mostly sunny and hot with a high near 101, winds breezy out of the south at 15 to 30 mph and a low around 70.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny, hot and breezy with a high near 100 and a low around 67. Monday: Sunny and hot with a high near 100 and a low around 71.

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$6.95 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.68
 - Corn — \$6.72 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.81
 - Milo — \$6.46 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$12.82 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$13.02
 - Millet — \$5 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$32.30 cwt.
 - Confection — no bid
 - Pinto beans — \$28
- (Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Slammers win tourney

Goodland Slammers 16 and Under winning pitcher Stephanie DeLaRosa in action at Dodge City tournament. Goodland went 5-0 to win championship. See photos, story on Page 12.



County halts weed cost sharing

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County commissioners reviewed spraying bills on Tuesday, and voted to end any cost sharing for spraying noxious weeds effective immediately.

The spraying bills were coming in for spraying fields with noxious weeds, and in the past the county

has agreed to cost share and pay 25 percent of the cost.

Commissioner Larry Enfield said he did not feel it was proper for the county to be doing weed spraying on private property.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad asked County Clerk Janet Rumpel to see if there was a resolution passed years ago setting up the cost sharing.

Rumpel said she looked at the county resolutions and could not find one specifically for this cost sharing.

Strnad made a motion to end the county cost sharing and Enfield seconded. Commissioner Max Linin voted in favor and said he agreed he did not feel it was a proper use of taxpayers money.

Rumpel said the motion should do away with any previous resolution, but she would continue to look to see if she could find anything establishing the cost sharing program.

Enfield said the word needs to be given to Butch Vandiver and Doug Hall that the county will not be cost sharing for weed spraying.

The commissioners were con-

cerned because a number of bills had been received from spraying companies without any purchase order numbers or indication of why the county was receiving the bill.

Later in the meeting Vandiver arrived and the commissioners informed him about their decision to stop the spraying cost sharing, and for him to tell Hall.

Ambulance agreement on table

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County commissioners and the Goodland Regional Medical Center administration talked Tuesday about looking for a middle ground way to handle the operation of the Sherman County ambulance service.

For more than a year the hospital has been telling the county they wanted to turn the ambulance service over to the county to reduce the cost the hospital is getting from Medicare.

Commissioner Larry Enfield said he met with Hospital Administrator Jay Jolly, Board Chairman Brenda McCants, Chief Financial Officer Jim Precht and Bruce Gleason, ambulance service director to talk about how the hospital was going to turn the ambulance service over to the county in September.

He said Jolly and McCants were talking about a middle ground option that could leave the ambulance service where it is, but turn it over to the county and have the hospital administer the service.

At the commission meeting Enfield told Commissioner Cynthia Strnad and Commission Max Linin about his meeting with the hospital board and administration.

He said he told the hospital people if the county were to take the ambulance service over the hospital would lose the funding the county has been giving the hospital for operating the service.

Strnad wondered if the county needs to be getting numbers, and called Jolly on the phone.

Jolly said he was to have a phone conference with an attorney to see what might be done to draft an inter-local agreement that would put the ambulance service under the county, but the hospital would administer the service.

Jolly said the attorney might have some sample agreements, and this appears to be a middle ground approach for the service.

Strnad asked Jolly if the county needed to be busting around getting numbers.

Jolly said Gleason was looking into that question. He said it might take some time if a Medicare number is needed, but said it is possible the hospital or county will have to get a new tax identification number for the ambulance service.

"Put it in the county's name and the hospital would operate it," Enfield said.

"Yes, it would be administered out of the hospital," Jolly said. "It would be through a separate set of books and take it out of the hospital cost report. We would have to deal with the square footage, but that would not be as much."

"I will know more after the phone discussion this afternoon."

Enfield asked if Jolly thought there would be a huge cost to the county.

Jolly said he did not see it being a major change to the budget.

"It is the same service, and people to start with," he said. "As we go on we might have to modify the operation."

Jolly said he should be able to get the county information in the next week.

The county commissioners approved reappointment of Brenda McCants to the hospital board for a three-year term, and appointed Janice Phipps to a three-year term.



Weather causes wind damage

By Tom Betz

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Saturday evening about 7 p.m. Mother Nature put on a show with rain, lightning and high winds that caused some damage south of Goodland, and had sirens going off with reports of a possible tornado south of town.

Meteorologist Dave Floyd, severe storm coordinator at the Goodland National Weather Service office, said he was out watching and taking photos of the storm clouds as they moved across the area, and said he had seen a cloud formation that at first appearance looked like a tornado. He said he had determined it was a scud cloud hanging down near the ground, but it was not a funnel cloud because he could not see any rotation.

A dramatic photo (top) taken by Dan Rasure from his home on County Road 16 shows the scud cloud and a lightning bolt.

Floyd had a photo (bottom) of the same cloud formation he took within five minutes, and



he lives about two miles southwest of old U.S. 24. Floyd said even others at the weather service thought the scud cloud had the appearance of a tornado as close to the ground as it appeared to be.

"I don't think there was a tornado," he said, "but based on the damage reports I can say there was some gustnados and dust swirls."

The weather service had .27 inches of rain on Saturday, .59 on Sunday, a trace on Monday and Tuesday and .04 on Wednesday. Some places south reported heavier rains and the rains were spotty over

the area. Floyd said Al Pietrycha of the national weather service, had compiled some damage reports from the storm.

There were reports of power poles down on County Road 11 and County Road 52 near the Wallace and Sherman county line reported by sheriff deputies.

Pivots were overturned near County Road 11 and 53 and a semi truck was moved 60 feet.

Mark Buller reported two combines at County Road 16 and 52 were moved about 30 feet.

The unsettled weather has brought rains to the area and in some cases slowed down the wheat harvest. The weather pattern will continue through today with a high expected near 100 and a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms.

Hot weather is expected over the weekend with the skies clearing and the high each day close to 100.

The rains have brought 2.26 inches of rain in July, and that is ahead of the 1.51 monthly average. The total year to date is 11.73 inches, which is slightly below the 11.85 yearly average.

Courthouse improvement account created

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County commissioners agreed to use \$500 to open an account with the Sherman County Community Foundation to be able to accept donations to help with the courthouse improvements.

The commissioners met by phone with Jim Richmond of Energy Solutions Network of Nederland, Colo., who designed the heating, air conditioning and lighting upgrades for the courthouse.

On the phone was Elvira Stewart, a grant consultant the commissioners agreed to hire to help find possible foundation grants and donations for the improvement project.

The duct work for the heating and air conditioning part of the project is underway, and the lighting work will begin soon Richmond said.

Stewart said she has been looking for possible foundations, and felt having an account with the Sherman County Foundation a good first step. She said it fits well with the project.

She said she has found three foundations that appear to be possible places to apply for grant money. She said having the foundation account is good because it gives the foundations she is going to apply with a pass through and a way to get a tax deduction with the Sherman County Community Foundation.

She said the other option is the US Department of Agriculture development program, but this is fairly complicated.

She said the local banks are competitive, and the USDA can only be brought in on a financial need basis if local banks are not able to handle

the county project. Richmond asked if the foundation grants Stewart are looking at would be able to bring in \$20,000 or more.

She said the three she is looking at could be that size or larger. She said a problem is that some foundations do not like to get involved in a project that is ongoing.

Richmond said some parts of the project have not been started yet including the roof and lighting.

Commissioner Cynthia Strand said the county will have to do some refurbishing once the basic projects are done so there will be more work to do.

Stewart said that does help, and said it would be good to have other projects the county can develop.

Enfield asked if the \$500 is something the county could get back if the

county does not get any grants. Stewart said having the account would allow the county to accept corporate donations.

Strnad said she felt the county commissioners would set up the foundation account.

Stewart said she would get started on the three foundations to see if the county can send in an application to get a pre-qualification.

She suggested the commissioners might want to look into some local business corporations in the community who might be willing and able to make a donation.

The commissioners unanimously approved setting up the Courthouse Improvement Fund through the Sherman County Community Foundation.