Friday, Sept. 16, 2011

Volume 79, Number 74

Ten Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report 10:30 a.m. Thursday

Today

Sunset, 6:53 p.m.

Saturday

 Sunrise, 6:30 a.m. Sunset, 6:51 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 60 degrees
- Humidity 93 percent
- Sky cloudy • Winds southeast 20-30 mph
- Barometer 30.29 inches and falling
- Record High today 98° (1955) Record Low today 34° (1965)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 59° Low Wednesday 0.26 Precipitation This month 0.27

Year to date 16.34 0.14 inches Below normal

The Topside Forecast Today: Mostly cloudy with a 30

percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 71, winds out of the south at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 50. Saturday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, a high near 79, winds out of the north at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 51.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 81 and a low around 53. Monday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 82 and a low around 52.

(National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

markets

Wheat — \$7.04 bushel

Corn — \$6.91 bushel

Milo — \$6.53 bushel

Confection — no bid

Pinto beans — \$28

inside

today

news, views

from your Goodland

Star-News

Soybeans — \$12.67 bushel

10:30 a.m.

Posted county price — \$7.48

Posted county price — \$7.11

Posted county price — \$13.03 Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Oil current crop — \$32.20 cwt.

(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta,

Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean.

These may not be closing figures.)

County health director resigns

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

The temporary change of commission chairman was reversed on Tuesday with Cynthia Strnad moving back to be chairman and Larry Enfield stepping back to be vice chairman.

The meeting opened with Strnad reading a letter of resignation from Jean Kosmatka, county health director. The letter said Kosmatka was resigning effective the end of October as the full time director. She said it was for personal and family issues.

The commissioners voted to accept the resignation with regret, and Kosmatka later in the meeting said she would be available on a part time basis until January to assist if the county has not found a replacement and to

help a new director.

Strnad had agreed to change places for the summer, and with fall coming and his busy farming season he asked Strand if she would change back to being chairman.

Strnad said she would be willing to do that, if that has changed this year. and that she agreed with Enfield it was going to be his busy time of year.

Enfield made the motion to make Strnad chairman and Commissioner Max Linin seconded. The vote was unanimous and Strnad and Enfield switched chairs at the table.

When Kosmatka arrived Strnad said they had read her letter and accepted the resignation with regret.

Kosmatka said she liked the work, but sometimes family issues must come first.

Before Kosmatka arrived Enfield said on Tuesday, Oct. 11, and said in the past the county has paid for flu shots for the county employees.

> She said last year there was a discussion about whether to bill insurance first, and asked

> Strnad said the thing to do this year is bill insurance first and the county will pick up the difference if someone has not reached their deductible.

> A suggestion was made to add in the court service people and possibly the Sunflower Extension Service.

Kosmatka said she felt the insurance would pay for most of the flu shot cost.

She had annual grant requests for the commissioners to sign for WIC (Women, Infants

She said the public flu clinic will be held and Children), emergency preparedness and contract for registered dietitian.

Kosmatka said she would suggest the commissioners begin to advertise for her position, and gave them several suggestions of where to place ads and said she would help draft them.

She said the commissioners ought to have an open mind about the option of having a non-nurse administrator. She said it would mean they would lose the nursing options with the existing system. Finding a nurse to fill the health director's position might be tough she said.

Strnad asked if Kosmatka knew of any nurse in the area who might be wanting to

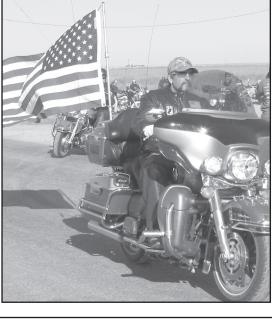
See COUNTY, Page 5



Trucks gathered at Wilkens Truck and Trailer Saturday morning as they prepared to convoy to Colby to raise money for Special Olympics.

Trucks, motorcycles convoy for Special Olympics







Truck drivers and motorcycle riders (above) had coffee while they waited at Wilkens Truck and Trailer for the convoy for Special Olympics. The first and second places in line were auctioned off with the winner paying \$1,000 and second went for \$500. The Goodland convoy was led by area motorcycle riders and members of the American Legion riders with flags (left). The line of trucks (above) waited their turn as the convoy left for Colby where they joined a larger convoy from Oakley. Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Forty-one trucks and 21 motorcycles paraded through Colby Saturday morning, forming the "World's Largest Convoy to raise money for Special Olympics Kansas."

A line of 10 trucks and about the same number of motorcycles left Wilkens Truck and Trailer about 8:45a.m. on Saturday as the west convoy for Special

The convoy was escorted by Goodland police and Sherman County Sheriff's deputies through town and as far as the Thomas County line where the Thomas County Sheriff took over on the way to Colby where the combined convoy paraded through town.

Organizer Jane Mentlick said they are still counting up the money raised, but the convoy had four more trucks than last year. The American Legion Riders and area law enforcement officers provided escorts for the convoy from starting positions in Goodland and Oakley to the end point at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

Drivers bid to get a place in line, with the first place going to which driver won the bidding. The lead truck from Goodland came from Downing Farms, who bid \$1,000. The lead truck from Oakley was driven by Jack Collins, who donated \$900.

Downing had six trucks in the Goodland convoy. The oldest driver was Donna Schwindt, who works for Frahm Farms. The drivers who came the farthest for the convoy were Dan and Jan McCarter, of Tulsa, Okla., who provided entertainment for Friday's spa-

The Special Olympics had a torch run as the convoy paraded through downtown. Mentlick said athlete Aaron Luckert and Reba Schiesser from the Sheriff's Department carried the torch, which had been at an event in Hoxie during the week. The torch run will become an recurring event in Colby, she said.

Mentlick said the Special Olympics is already planning next year's convoy, and they have several truck drivers interested in returning. One driver, Don Prickett of Hoxie, always wants to be the tail-end truck, she said.

Telephone customers donate to school district

By Pat Schiefen

pjschiefen@nwkansas.com Branch Manager of S & T Don Newell was at the Goodland School Board meeting on Monday night to give the district a check for \$1737 for this quarter. Newell said the It represents three per cent of their S & T and Nex-Tech bill.

Parents Loren and Margie Schnabel spoke at the public forum about their concern with Yoga being used as part of a class in American history at Goodland High School. The Schnabel's concern was that Yoga was not just exercise and meditation but was part of the religious practice in Hinduism. Margie Schnabel said as a Christian she and her husband

were opposed to it being used in the be replaced on the roof because of Annual Yearly Progress. school. She said they had come before the school board because they felt like no one had listened to their concerns at the high school. Board president Gary Slough thanked them for expressing their concerns money was from their customers. and that the board does not give any opinions at the public forum but just listens. Slough said the Goodland Superintendent Bill Biermann would get back to them.

Superintendent Biermann said that the work on the roof of West Elementary School had started. He said the Roofmasters of Colby is doing the work and they said they thought there wouldn't be water problems if it rained. Biermann said that the flashing would have to changes in the roof depth. Also that the roofing job is running behind schedule.

West Elementary Principal Verna Milnes said they are beginning to group kids for intensive instruction in reading using Multi Tiered Support System. Due to the large size of the kindergarten she said there are two paraprofessionals in each classroom. They are serving breakfast 122.

Grant Junior High Principal Steve Raymer said there would be no seventh grade football game against Colby because 10 members of the team were on the down list. He said they have started a "We Can" campaign to promote all classes to make

Central Elementary Principal Harvey Swager said they had 28 parents that wanted to be on the site council. Body Venture would be at the school today and expected to recruit some help from the high

school students. Goodland High School Principal Mike Hubka said the school year was off to a great start. They have had problems with the server mirroring student files so the students couldn't get in. He also said that the number of kids eating lunch at school has increased. Hubka said they had 25 percent of the kids on

Activities Director Greg Ferguson said all the fall sports were ry paraprofessional immediately.

off and running. He said that after this year the display case with the individual picture at Max Jones Fieldhouse would be full and that some changes would need to be made. He also wanted the board to think about having all-state recognition for athletes.

In other business the board: • Paid \$208,672 in bills.

Hired Johnny Mercer as the year

book sponsor for Goodland High School. Accepted the resignations of

Judy Herl as West Elementary secretary immediately, Tina Tesmer as West Elementary three hour cook and five hour custodian today and Lisa McNeely as Central Elementa-

Cowgirls in action

Cowgirl Taryn Bedore set up a spike for Senior M'Lynn Hinger at the quad on Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse against Lakin. The Cowgirls will be in action on Saturday. See photos, story on Page 10.

