

weather report

55° at noon

Today

Sunset, 7:54 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 5:31 a.m.

Sunset, 7:55 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 58 degrees

• Humidity 51 percent

• Sky partly sunny

• Winds north at 16 mph

• Barometer 30.21 inches and falling

• Record High 95° (1934)

• Record Low 29° (1930)

Last 24 Hours*

High 70°

Low 43°

Precipitation .32 of an inch month, 1.48 in. year to date, 6.11 in., +1.18

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low 40-45, winds southwest 5-10 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 80s, winds southwest 15-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday through Friday: thunderstorms possible, highs 75-80, lows 45-50.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.24 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.16

Loan deficiency payment — 29¢

Corn — \$1.76 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.87

Loan deficiency prnt. — 12¢

Milo — \$2.67 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.06 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.95

Loan deficiency payment — 94¢

Millet — \$4 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$7.85 cwt.

Loan deficiency prnt. — \$1.31

Oil new crop — \$8.10 cwt.

Confection current — \$17/\$10 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Israelis voting on leadership

JERUSALEM (AP) — After a lengthy and divisive campaign, Israelis voted today to choose their next prime minister, the man who will chart Israel’s course through the tumultuous Middle East peace process.

Incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu faced off against moderate opposition leader Ehud Barak today after three other competitors dropped out over the weekend, ensuring a two-man race and no need for a run-off vote. Opinion polls and public mood predicted a Barak victory.

“There is a feeling that Barak will win,” said an elated Eli Eilon, while observing the long lines at a polling station in a wealthy Jerusalem neighborhood. “A lot of his supporters are voting because ... they want to bring a change.”

Netanyahu refused to give up the fight.

A tractor hood might really be a grasshopper ... if you believe it is

Welder creates critters

Goodland farmer decorates roadside

By Charlie Baker
The Goodland Daily News
If you have ever driven up K-27 north of Goodland and seen the giant grasshopper, ant, and road runner on the side of the road, you have probably wondered what they were doing there.

They are the creations of Lloyd Harden, who takes everyday articles that we all are familiar with and puts them together to make other things we all are familiar with. Harden is a full-time farmer and part time artist, having lived and worked near Goodland 50 years.

He uses junk, mostly parts of old farm equipment, mower guards, sprockets, bearings, parts from rakes, shovels and plows, whatever he can find that somehow sparks his imagination.

For example, just the other day he was mowing out along the highway and came upon a hubcap. He said he stopped to pick it up and throw it away, but as soon as he picked it up, he had an idea.

“I knew exactly what I was going to do with it,” he said.

That hubcap is now a turtle in his front lawn, Harden said with a grin, speaking as if he were the turtle:

“Yesterday I was flying down the road at 65 mph; now I can barely creep along.”

His art shows the same sense of humor and imagination.

Other examples of his work are his “nut people.” They are made up of mostly wire, washers and nuts, but, when Harden puts them together, they seem to take on a personality of



Sculptures of a giant grasshopper, ant and roadrunner (top) along K-27 north of Goodland are created by Lloyd Harden. Harden (above) shows off his shop, showing some of the tractors he has made. Photos by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News

their own. He has nut people that are mowing the lawn, nut people playing the accordion, nut people golfing, a snow-skiing nut person, and a favorite, a nut person driving a tractor. All are crude and simply made, and perhaps that is the real beauty of them.

After seeing an imitation of his nut people idea, Harden said, he decided to start giving his people serial numbers. He is now on number 210.

Asked how he got started, Harden said that on a Sunday afternoon some 20 years ago he didn’t have anything to do, so he went out into the garage and started tinkering. He spent all afternoon, and came out with a tractor made of sprockets, a spark plug, nuts and wire, put together with a welder and imagination.

Then he started to see pieces of equipment that reminded him of certain things: the front-end of a tractor that looked like a grasshopper, an air cleaner that made him think of the body of a roadrunner.

Now He looks through old junk piles for material, and sometimes his friends bring him things that they think he can transform into some likeness. He has mainly used parts from horse-drawn equipment, and he says that many of the things he has used are getting hard to find.

Another one of his creations in his front yard is a cactus. Harden says that he has a hard time with colors, so his wife Betty helps in that department. He would like to put a life-size cactus out with the others by the road, but is looking for a

floor from an aeration bin to use for material.

Harden has received some recognition for his work. The head of Grasshopper lawn mowers happened by his sculptures and stopped to inquire about them. He ended up buying one of the grasshoppers and said that he intended to use it as a mascot at a show he was traveling to.

Another time a photographer from Farm Bureau News took a picture of his sculptures, and that photo ended up being shown in China.

Harden isn’t in it for the money, and he doesn’t plan on being famous anytime soon. He says he sells a piece now and then, about enough to pay for the materials and equipment he uses. For now it is just a hobby, something to do on a quiet afternoon that he and his family enjoy.

West I-70 ramps should reopen by Monday

By Steve Haynes
Goodland Daily News
State officials say the westbound ramps for I-70 at K-27 should reopen on schedule a week from today.

“It sounds like things are pretty well set to open it up,” said Chriss McDiffett, district engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation in

Norton. “It’s coming together just like it was planned.”

The state gave the contractor, Koss Construction, just 30 days to tear our and rebuild the ramps. The work is part of a larger project to repave the westbound lanes of the freeway from Edson to the K-27 exit this summer.

“The project is going OK,” McDiffett said, add-

ing that all the work should be done, and the west-bound lanes reopened, by the end of the summer.

A contract for rebuilding the eastbound lanes will be out for bid next month, the engineer said, and if Koss gets that job also, they might begin some work this fall. However, all four lanes will be open through the winter months.

“We’d hate to have head-to-head traffic in the

snow,” McDiffett said.

On both sides, the state is ripping out both the existing concrete, which is about 15 years old, and the original asphalt pavement beneath. Workers then level and base and lay a mat of crushed concrete. New concrete, designed for today’s heavy truck traffic, is being put down in its place. Engineers hope it will last a little longer.

Careless homeowners contaminate yard dumpsters

By Keith Lippoldt
Goodland Daily News
It is really quite simple.

Yard waste, including grass clippings, tree limbs, weeds and other items, goes into the big yellow dumpsters. Residential waste, basically trash and garbage that comes from your home, goes in the tan dumpster.

The City of Goodland has this relatively inexpensive system, but people who put the wrong stuff in the color-coded bins could force the city to go to a different, more costly plan.

The solution could be as easy as you and your neighbors thinking twice before dumping your trash.

“I think the first thing we need to do is to ask the citizens to do a better job of sorting their waste,” City Commissioner Jim Mull said. “I’m sure that we are all guilty, one time or another, of mixing our waste.

“I believe that if we just ask the citizens to do it properly, the problem will be solved.”

The reason for the system is at the

county’s trash transfer station, at the old county landfill, which was closed due to contamination problems. Residential waste is all dumped into the trash pits and then hauled to Garden City, where the county is charged a fee based on weight.

Yard waste is set aside and not hauled away, saving the taxpayers money. It just piles up at the old landfill.

When a load of yard waste is found to be littered with trash, though, it must then be dumped with the trash at the transfer station and taken to Garden City.

The heavy clippings can cost the

county, and the city, a lot of money.

“I don’t think people know how much money we are spending to haul away our trash,” City Commissioner Rich Billinger said. “I think if they

said, “There is no way to monitor what is going on. I guess we need to make a plea to the people and ask them to do it right. It just comes down to being more conscientious.”

One possible solution would be to provide each home with an individual “polycart” for trash. Not only would the initial cost of purchasing carts be high, nearly \$80 each, the labor needed to pick up trash would increase tremendously.

The current system has the sanitation department dumping just a few community dumpsters per block each week. Individual residence carts could force the city to purchase additional trucks and employ additional personnel to handle the extra stops.

“The possible alternatives to our present system would be more costly,” Mull said. “It now costs us eight dollars per month for this service.

“If we had to change, it would probably have to go up. The last time we asked for the citizens help, we had a great response.”

Rohr said he feels much the same as Mull.

“We need to make another plea to the people,” he said. “If not, the cost will increase.”



Residents of Goodland have two options for dumping waste: The yellow carts are for grass clippings and yard waste only, while the tan dumpsters are for trash and garbage. People who mix them create a costly problem for the city.

Photo by Keith Lippoldt/The Goodland Daily News