

weather
report

91°
at noon

Today

- Sunset, 8:08 p.m.

Tomorrow

- Sunrise, 5:40 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:07 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 80 degrees
- Humidity 33 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds light
- Barometer 30.09 inches and rising
- Record High 110° (1936)
- Record Low 51° (1950)

Last 24 Hours*

High	96°
Low	64°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, low near 65, light south winds. Saturday: mostly sunny, high in the upper 90s, south light winds

Extended Forecast

Sunday through Tuesday: dry, lows nea 65, highs in the upper 90s. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.18 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.96
Loan deficiency payment — .49¢
Corn — \$1.82 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.65
Loan deficiency pmt. — .34¢
Milo — \$2.62 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.07 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.82
Loan deficiency payment — 1.07¢
Millet — \$4 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$7.10 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.75
Oil new crop — \$7 cwt.
Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$13 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon
wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Columbia flies!

CAPECANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — With NASA's first female space shuttle commander at the controls, Columbia carried the world's most powerful X-ray telescope safely into orbit today despite an electrical problem on the way up.

Seven hours after their stress-filled launch, Air Force Col. Eileen Collins and her crew accomplished the main objective of their mission: ejecting the \$1.5 billion Chandra X-ray Observatory from the shuttle.

Collins was barely nine seconds into her flight when she radioed down she had a fuel cell problem.

Twenty-eight tense seconds later, after scrutinizing the data, Mission Control informed Collins the problem appeared to be a short circuit in an electrical system.

The drop in voltage, which lasted only half a second, caused the loss of a controller on two of Columbia's three main engines. Each engine has two controllers, and only one is needed for an engine to operate and propel the shuttle into orbit.

Building to handle more sunflowers



Cranes loom over the superstructure of the addition of storage space at Northern Sun. Management hopes the structure will grow as fast as the sunflowers in the foreground, and be ready by harvest.
Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News

Interstate 70 cone zone to change this weekend, Edson ramps closed

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

Drivers will need to be extra careful along I-70 near Goodland this weekend as the cone zone is rearranged to allow work to begin on four miles of the east-bound lanes.

According to Donna Binning, construction engineer for the Kansas department of transportation out of Colby, the plan submitted by Koss Construction of Topeka, to begin the second half of the I-70 reconstruction project has been approved.

"The plan is for the first changes to be made Saturday moving the west-bound traffic back onto the newly completed concrete lanes about four miles west of Goodland," Binning said. This will not be four lanes, but rather a single lane through the weekend. Monday the plan is to switch the eastbound traffic from the west Goodland exit onto the new westbound concrete in a single lane for four miles and then back onto the eastbound lanes for another six miles."

The change will create a double switch as traffic threads through the 10 mile construction zone, and drivers will need to be alert to the changes and follow the signs Binning said.

With the change Koss and their subcontractors can begin ripping out the old eastbound lanes in this four mile section while they continue construction of the westbound lanes on the remaining six miles.

Chriss McDiffett, area supervisor for the department of transportation, said Koss has worked very hard to be able to begin work on the second half of this project. He said, however, there will not be any two-lane traffic during the winter as the contractor has agreed to reopen all the lanes by the end of October.

With successful completion of the four miles of the eastbound lanes this fall the project will be shorter next spring with only six miles remaining to be completed.

Binning said Koss is to complete the reconstruction of the westbound lanes by October. She said as part of that the Edson westbound ramp was closed Wednesday, and is expected to remain closed for about three weeks. This will complete the repaving of the west-bound ramps she said.

There are no plans to try to replace the eastbound ramps at the Goodland exits this fall, but Binning said the ramps will be closed a day or two while

the concrete highway paving is done. She said replacement of the eastbound ramps on at the K-27 exit will be scheduled to try to coordinate with the reconstruction of K-27, from the KLOE corner up to business 24, expected to begin next summer.

"This is going to be more tricky than the westbound ramps because there are more trucks coming off heading east," Binning said. "We will try to work this out so the ramps are closed for both projects and only one time rather than having to do this twice."

McDiffett said the K-27 project is one of three City of Goodland projects scheduled for next year, and are to be let in September. The other two projects include the straightening of Cherry Street from the railroad to business 24 and replacement of three brick intersections on Main Street.

The following year the state has scheduled the replacement of the intersection of K-27 and business 24 which includes new stop lights and a change in the way truck will access Cattletail. Then the state is expected to do the reconstruction of K-27 north of Goodland to the Sherman County line in 2001.

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News

If you build it, they will come.

That is what Northern Sun processing plant is hoping for. They are in the process of a building project that will add more storage area for sunflower seeds.

"We are adding extra capacity," said plant manager Steve Boshoff. "The project is going along nicely, we should be finished by harvest if the weather doesn't interfere."

Boshoff said the last building they added did not go so smoothly. "If we dug a hole, it filled with water.

"If we emptied it, it filled back up.

"This time things have fallen together like a puzzle," he said.

Boshoff said that with the added storage the plant won't lose as much seed to other processing plants outside Sherman County. He said that his plant has also made improvements that will increase their capacity to process the seed.

Kelly Ehmcke, merchandising manager at Northern Sun, said that the added capacity will benefit area producers and elevators both.

"With our increased capacity, we can handle more seed, farmers can produce more, elevators can buy more, both parties benefit."

Goodland is recognized as one of the three market centers for sunflowers, said Lynn Hoelting, manager of Mueller Grain.

"The majority of high plains sunflowers are produced within a 150 mile radius of Goodland," he said.

"Sunflowers provide many advantages.

"They can help control grasses and weeds, and break up the disease cycle.

"They are a scavenger plant that uses nutrients other plants don't because of their long tap roots, and they tolerate drought."

Hoelting said the sunflowers are an alternative that are good in rotation for high plains producers.

He said he is pleased with the expansion project.

"The increased capacity should promote increased production," he said. "That is good for the farm economy."

City street sealing to begin in northwest sections on Monday

The annual City of Goodland street chip sealing program is to begin Monday in the northwest part of the city according to Ed Wolak, city public works director.

About a third of the city streets are scheduled to be chip sealed this year Wolak said, and the crews will be working from the north to the south.

Weather permitting the first street will be Maple Drive from Aspen to Main; then Aspen

from Poplar to First; Poplar from Aspen to Acacia; and Sycamore from Maple to Poplar.

Then the crews will move to First Street from Grand to Kansas; Grand from First to Second; Second street from Kansas to Caldwell and Main Street from First to Sixth.

The other streets are mostly in the western part of the city, and will be done in order as the contractor works his way south Wolak said.

Farmland retaliated against feedlot says federal charges

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The USDA has accused a Farmland Industries partnership of retaliating against a Kansas feedlot that criticized a Farmland unit for the cattle prices it paid.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Wednesday contended that Farmland National Beef Packing Co. engaged in unjust practices when it cut back its purchases of cattle from the Callicrate Cattle Company Feedyard in St. Francis in northwest Kansas.

According to the complaint, National Beef routinely bought cattle at the feedlot from 1986 to 1998. But in December, the USDA alleged, a National Beef buyer told Callicrate there were reservations about continuing to do business with the feedlot because of a Callicrate manager's criticism of National Beef published in a livestock journal.

The USDA said that after that discussion, National Beef quit routinely buying cattle from Callicrate. In the first six

months of 1999, it bought cattle at the feedlot only during three weeks, the agency said.

"This case goes to the heart of the concerns that every small and medium-size producer has about possible retaliation, discrimination and denial of market access in the livestock industry," said James Baker, a USDA administrator.

Farmland said Wednesday that its dealings with Callicrate were in accordance with its bidding policies and that it did not retaliate against the feedlot. The co-op will defend itself against the complaint, Farmland spokeswoman Sherlyn Manson said.

National Beef is a partnership of Farmland Industries Inc., based in Kansas City, Mo., and U.S. Premium Beef Ltd. National Beef operates beef-processing plants in Dodge City and Liberal in Kansas.

National Beef could be fined if it is found in violation of federal statutes.

Private mass for Kennedy's

NEW YORK (AP) — At the stately 126-year-old church where Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis often found solace, friends and relatives remembered her son John Fitzgerald Kennedy Jr. and his wife today at a private Mass.

An invitation-only group of about 350 people, including President Clinton and his family, streamed into the Church of St. Thomas More in Manhattan for the 1 1/2 hour service.

Dr. Richard Freeman and his wife, Ann, the stepfather and mother of Carolyn Bessette Kennedy and Lauren Bessette, were among the first to arrive, walking quietly into the church. Kennedy's sister, Caroline, and uncle, Sen. Edward Kennedy, arrived later.

The Massachusetts senator, who became a father figure to his nephew, had the job of eulogizing JFK Jr., one insider said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Other mourners included JFK Jr. hero Muhammad Ali, hip-hop artist Wyclef Jean, cousins Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Maria Shriver, her husband, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and former U.S. Sen. Alan Simpson.

After the service, the congregation was invited to walk two blocks uptown to the landmark School of the Sacred Heart for a reception. Caroline Kennedy once attended the independent girls school, which was founded in 1881.