

weather
report

75°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 6:25 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:48 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:23 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 54 degrees
- Humidity 27 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds southeast at 13
- Barometer 30.19 inches and falling

• Record High 95° (1947)
• Record Low 23° (1932)

Last 24 Hours*

High 71°
Low 33°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low 45 to 50, southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.
Wednesday: mostly sunny, high 80 to 85, south winds 10 to 20 mph.

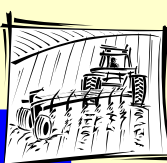
Extended Forecast

Thursday: dry, low near 40, high near 70.
Friday: dry, low 30 to 35, high 65 to 70.
Saturday: dry, low near 35, high 75.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.15 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.12
Loan deficiency payment — .33¢
Corn — \$1.54 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.56
Loan deficiency pmt. — .43¢
Milo — \$2.21 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.97
Loan deficiency payment — .92¢
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.10 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.56
Oil new crop — \$6.10 cwt.
Confection current — \$9 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$16 (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.

Trains collide
near London

LONDON — Two packed commuter trains collided near London's Paddington Station during the height of the morning rush hour today, killing eight people and injuring at least 160.

Several cars derailed in the residential Ladbroke Grove area of west London.

"It is a tangled and difficult scene," Deputy Police Commissioner Andy Trotter said.

Passenger Stuart Allen said the crash "almost felt like a dream."

"I was thinking, 'God, please don't let me die,'" he said. "You've got flames. You've got smoke. You've got a big bang. You've just got to think the worst."

British Transport Police said eight people were known killed and at least 160 hurt. Authorities said 128 people had been taken to hospitals, 21 of them with severe injuries.

Housing
company
in trouble

By RACHEL MISCALL

The Oberlin Herald

An Omaha company that began building an "affordable" housing apartment complex in northeast Oberlin almost a year ago says it's no longer responsible for the project and although firms with money in the project may be vying for control, no one's sure when the nearly finished apartments will open.

The firm, Retro Development, also planned an apartment complex on Cattletrail Drive in Goodland, but has never begun construction. The firm had financing through the First National Bank of Goodland, which is beginning procedures to foreclose on the Oberlin property.

The Goodland property was purchased a couple of years ago from John Golden, but no work has been done.

Retro ran out of money in mid-June, and workers abandoned sites in Oberlin and elsewhere, saying they wouldn't return until they were paid. Retro subsidiaries will have to file for bankruptcy reorganization, said President Doug Hiner on Thursday, and the company plans to change its name.

"Retro itself is probably dead," he added.

Hiner blamed the company's situation on what he called "mismanagement" by Peter Spoto, the former president who left the company in June. It remains unclear whether he was fired or quit.

Other players include Paramount Financial Group, an Ohio investment firm that supplied Retro with \$4.9 million to build this and about eight other complexes around Kansas and Nebraska, and First National, where Retro has a \$650,000 mortgage on the Oberlin property filed in November 1997.

Paramount's \$4.9 million has been spent and Retro has stopped making payments on the mortgage, representatives of Paramount and the bank say.

Both are considering different ways to finish the project and have differing ideas on who would manage the apartments once they are finished. However, they agree that it has to be done by Jan. 1, or the state may not provide low-income housing tax credits — without which the project would be a financial disaster.

Meanwhile, four mechanic's liens totaling \$127,059 have been filed against the property by subcontractors and suppliers since mid-June and Retro owes Decatur County \$450 in property taxes and the City of Oberlin \$3,034 for utility charges and installing meters.

The company hasn't responded to a lawsuit filed by subcontractor Dean Humphrey, who owns Dean's Painting-Plus, on Aug. 13 seeking \$54,220 or foreclosure on his lien. The organization was required to reply within 20 days.

Foreclosure is inching nearer each day.

First National will make a decision this week as to whether they will bid on the property at a foreclosure sale, said Jerry Fairbanks, the bank's in-house lawyer and trust officer. He said Allen Shelton, an Oberlin lawyer who represents Humphrey, and the bank will make the first move towards foreclosure.

Shelton said they are holding off to allow time for other subcontractors to file liens against the property.

If the bank decides to buy the property, Fairbanks said, the next step would be to hire a general contractor to finish the job and then possibly transfer it to an organization that would manage it.

He also said the mortgage agreement gives the bank the right to finish the property, but didn't specify whether the bank would be required to buy it in that case.

Fairbanks could not say whether all lien holders would be paid if the bank bought the property, but did say they would be "more than happy" to let Paramount do whatever they want, if they paid down the mortgage.

Retro has handed the responsibility for the future of projects in Kansas and Nebraska to Paramount, or Protech (a management and development arm of the company), said Lee Blackburn, senior asset manager for Paramount.

He said projects in Sidney, McCook and Valentine, Neb., and Concordia have or will soon resume.

First National was the only lender to reject the proposal, he said, which included providing the company with a zero-interest loan that would be paid off by rent over the next 15 years.

And the bridge came tumbling down



Workers are demolishing the old Caruso bridge west of Goodland on old U.S. 24. Cahoj Earthmoving is wrecking the bridge. Reece Construction will begin a new span as soon as the old structure is removed. Work is to be completed sometime near March. Motorists traveling west should remember to use Eighth Street to County Road 14 to bypass the closed road.

Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News

Goodland homecoming parade, rally 6:30 p.m. Thursday

It's time to get ready for "Homecoming '99" at Goodland High School, as the Sherman County High School Alumni Association presents its annual homecoming parade and pep rally at Cowboy Stadium on Thursday.

The association has selected "The Wild, Wild West" as the homecoming theme to be featured in the parade that will get underway at 6:30 p.m., at Eighth Street and Main Avenue. The parade will proceed to 13th and Main and then turn east and wind their way to Cowboy Stadium for a pep rally and bonfire.

Participants are asked to begin assembling at 6 p.m., in these locations: convertibles, antique cars and motorcycles in front of the library and courthouse on Broadway. Floats and individual entries along Eighth Street adjacent to Gulick Park. Trucks and trailers should also fill in along Eighth next to the park. The Goodland High School band will assemble further up on Eighth between Main and Broadway.

The Goodland Police Department and City of Goodland will block off Eighth street from Main to Caldwell as well as Broadway from Ninth to Eighth between 5:45 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. Only parade participants should enter these areas, so that association members can stage the various elements of the parade.

The association will award \$50 to all Goodland High School organizations that provide parade entries. Floats from other schools will also receive prize money to help in defraying costs. The association encourages as many boosters as possible to take part in this year's parade to make it a memorable event for all involved.

Goodland's fall sports teams will be riding on flatbed trailers. Other parade

participants will include the cheerleaders, the Goodland Drill Team, the "Jumpin' Juniors," senior parents and Black & Gold Booster Club members, and homecoming king and queen candidates.

About 50 members of the Goodland High School Class of 1949 are expected. They will be this year's honored class at homecoming and will be holding a reunion over the weekend. There will also

be former homecoming queens and attendants and individual entries from Sherman County residents.

For automobile enthusiasts, there will also be a variety of classic cars in the parade, many of which will be used to provide transportation for parade dignitaries.

For safety's sake, the Alumni Association and the Goodland Police urge parents not to let youngsters get too far out

onto Main Street during the parade to get candy being thrown from cars and floats.

After the parade, participants will enter the south gate at the stadium. After they have been seated, participants will be recognized during pep rally announcements.

The association encourages everyone to take part in as the Cowboys prepare for their homecoming game with the Concordia Panthers at 7 p.m. Friday.

Sprint sale
raises many
questions

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A merger for Sprint Corp. leaves the telecommunications company's thousands of Kansas City area employees, as well as business and government leaders, wondering how it affects their futures.

Mississippi-based MCI WorldCom Inc. has made a successful \$115 billion bid for Sprint, according to a person familiar with the negotiations. An official announcement is expected today.

Sprint had dedicated its new world headquarters on Friday in suburban Overland Park, Kan., a 22-building complex still under construction that is designed to accommodate some 15,000 employees, now spread out in various facilities around the metropolitan area.

Overland Park granted millions of dollars worth of tax incentives to get the complex, and Mayor Ed Eilert said Monday night he hoped the proposed merger wouldn't have a major effect on area employment.

"I have more questions than answers at this point," the mayor said. "What MCI has in mind I don't know."

"One of the over-arching concerns in any kind of business transaction like this is what does it mean to the current employment base in Overland Park and the metropolitan area," Eilert said. "That's the kind of detail and kind of information we'll be looking for."

"We would hope there would continue to be a large presence of Sprint employees in the metropolitan area," he said.

Robert Marcusse, president of the Kansas City Area Development Council, said area civic leaders stood ready to make their case.

"What we, as a community, need to do now is stay close to the company," Marcusse said. "We need to continue to advocate for Kansas City. I'm confident that we'll have every opportunity to do that."

Meanwhile, the Communications Workers of America union had expressed strong concern Monday about a Sprint-MCI merger.

The union said competition would be undermined in long-distance and Internet services, local service could be degraded, and there could be labor relations problems. The union and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers represent about 10,000 Sprint employees.

A merger with Bell South would be much better for employees, said Debbie Goldman, a research economist for the CWA in Washington.



Brent Linin harvested a field of sunflowers on the west of Goodland Monday afternoon. He said he planted the 51 acre field with Triumph and Pioneer varieties. Sunflower harvest is just getting started, said a local elevator manager, and should be in full swing by the end of the week.

Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News