

## weather report

51°

at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 4:52 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:03 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:53 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 37 degrees
- Humidity 37 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds north 30 mph, gusting to 40 mph
- Barometer 30.03 inches and rising

• Record High 72° (1986)

• Record Low -17° (1962)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 51°

Low 32°

Precipitation none

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy; low 15; winds north 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny; chance of light rain or snow; high 40-45; winds southwest 5-15 mph; low 15-25.

### Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday. Friday: chance of light rain or snow; high 40s, low 15-25. Saturday and Sunday: dry, high 40s, low 15-25. (National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets



### Noon

Wheat — \$2.30 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.11  
Loan deficiency payment — 34¢  
Corn — \$1.73 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.83  
Loan deficiency payment — 16¢  
Milo — \$2.70 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.22 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.26  
Loan deficiency payment — 63¢  
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$6.20 cwt.  
Loan deficiency prnt. — \$3.80  
Confection current — \$13/\$8 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.

## House studies meeting law

TOPEKA—A bill introduced in the House would allow government boards, commissions and councils to tape their closed sessions.

But, under the legislation, if a government agency decides to record a closed session, the evidence could be reviewed by a judge in a lawsuit filed by either the attorney general or a county prosecutor alleging violations of the Kansas Open Meeting Act.

Under the act, government agencies generally are required to have open sessions and notify the public of coming meetings. The law contains a list of exceptions — subjects that can be discussed behind closed doors — though no action can be taken in a secret.

The bill is sponsored by the Governmental Organization and Elections Committee, with the backing of the state's newspapers.

## Across the pasture from the competition



A sign of things to come has appeared on Kansas Avenue west of the Third Street intersection, staking out the location for a second assisted living center in Goodland. The Parrish Care Center IV is being developed by Joyce Michal of Kit Carson, Colo. Thirty apartments will be

located on land purchased from the Goodland School District west of Kansas between Third and Fourth Streets. In the background is Wheatridge Acres, an assisted living center which is expected to open this spring.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

## State delays bids on Cherry Street

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Daily News*

The state has put off bids on straightening Cherry Street, but Monday the City of Goodland approved the preliminary design for scenic enhancements which will beautify the new entrance to the city from Business U.S. 24.

City Manager Ron Pickman read a letter from the Kansas Department of Transportation delaying the bidding on the Cherry Street Improvement project until June. The letter said the delay was because the work plans which were submitted by the city in October have not moved through the Transportation Department's approval maze as quickly as was expected.

Pickman said that worries him, because a similar delay apparently caused the bids on the K-27 project from Broadcast Plaza north to the intersection with Business U.S. 24 to come in several hundred thousand dollars higher than anticipated. After a rebid and some negotiations, that project is on track and work is expected to begin in the spring.

The manager added that a major difference in the Cherry Street project is that the state's portion of the funding is set, and any costs over the anticipated budget would have to be paid by the city. Also, there are two other projects which are related to and intertwined with the Cherry Street job.

Replacement of the railroad crossing on Cherry is supposed to be coordinated with straightening the street so that the construction closings and delays would be minimized. However, with the bidding delay, that may not be possible. One of the items the City Commission approved at its regular meeting Monday was an agreement with the Department of Transportation and Kyle Railroad for the Cherry Street



Preliminary plans for scenic enhancement of the new entrance to Goodland which will be part of the Cherry Street project were approved by the city commission Monday.

crossing to be replaced this year with a new concrete crossing and automatic crossing safety arms. The cost of the project is \$161,000, and the city's share will be minimal.

The second project which is also being delayed the scenic enhancements, storm water mitigation and hike and bike trail which are to be built on the west side of the new street.

Pickman presented a site development plan for the enhancement project for the commission's approval. This project is being funded with a grant from the state of \$225,000, and the city will be responsible for about 30 percent of the cost.

The design includes a storm water pond on the south end of the project which would catch runoff and then spill into the larger, shallow pond which stretches to the north towards 19th Street. The hike and bike trail is to be laid out around the ponds and is to connect with another project which would take the trail north along Cherry and up to 16th Street, turn east to Arcade and follow Arcade up to the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Commissioner Curtis Hurd asked how long the trail portion would be around the ponds, and Darin Neufeld of the engineering firm said it would be 470 meters which is just a little longer

than one-quarter mile.

Pickman said the original estimate of the complete scenic project was \$415,000, but that some of the features — such as rock walls and a dike which would allow the north part of the pond to be used as an ice skating rink — had been cut to bring the cost down to the budget. Also, there would not be as many trees planted in the first year as shown in the drawing, Pickman said.

The pond would have a small fountain in the south portion and a stream fountain at the north end to aerate the water. There will be a pump system to

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## Lunar eclipse the best free show in the night sky

By the Associated Press

It won't take a telescope, filter, star chart or degree in rocket science to appreciate the total eclipse of the moon Thursday night.

It will be visible above virtually all of North and South America, where the weather allows.

"It's perfect the way it's choreographed," said Kelly Beatty, a senior editor at Sky & Telescope magazine.

The eclipse begins at 7:03 p.m. Mountain Time Thursday with an imperceptibly encroaching shadow. It will reach its darkest phase between 9:05 p.m. and 10:22 a.m. Friday. In most places, the moon likely will dim to a dull charcoal or ruddy red, but it

could disappear from some vantage points.

Many star clubs, planetariums and observatories intend to seize on the broad appeal of the eclipse with parties for mass watching. In the western Massachusetts city of Springfield, hundreds are expected to crane their necks from a downtown parking lot next to a science museum.

Most people are apt to take a peek from back yards or apartment windows.

The familiarity that people feel for the moon heightens the sense of wonder when it steps unaccountably behind a curtain.

"It's almost like the clockwork of the heavens is suddenly revealed," said Richard Sanderson, a party

organizer for the Springfield Stars Club.

The moon is eclipsed from the sun's light when it coasts through the shadow of Earth. The last total eclipse of the moon happened in September 1997.

Experienced sky watchers suggest watching for the first signs of darkening as the Earth's shadow advances from the moon's left side. The shadows may carry hints of green, blue or other colors, especially if inspected with binoculars.

Of course, if there is bad weather, "we'll just have to wait until next time," said Joe Rao, an astronomy lecturer at Hayden Planetarium in New York.

The next total eclipse will be best visible from the West Coast on July 16.

## Citizens plead for blacktop

## County reviewing plan to rip up oil

By Janet Craft

*The Goodland Daily News*

Sherman County commissioners faced a room full of citizens Tuesday who came convince them to reconsider their decision to tear up the pavement on Road 67, also known as the Nemechek Road.

Commission Chairman Kenny Davis made the suggestion for Road and Bridge Director Curt Way to take some people at the meeting out to look over the road and said no action would be taken until after next week's meeting.

Way was to meet with group at 1:30 p.m. that day to look at the road.

The commissioners decided a couple of years ago to tear out the oil roads in the county and go back to gravel. So far, the Kanorado, the Edson and Brewster roads have been torn out and returned to gravel.

Many suggestions were made by citizens. Most felt that the money to be spent tearing the road out could be used to fix the pavement instead. Some suggested that the commission look for grants. Others thought that hiring a county administrator to look for grant money might be the answer. A few were even willing to volunteer their time to do what they could to keep the road.

But as the commissioners and Way tried to explain, it would cost so much more to fix the road correctly and the money just isn't available.

Taxes would have to be raised, they said, and a few people said they thought taxes were already high.

Way estimated it would cost \$500 a day to tear out the road. If it took 10 weeks to do the job, then the total expense would be \$25,000. But if the county was to put a one-inch overlay on that road, the cost would be about \$30,000 a mile, or \$150,000 for five miles.

"I feel like I have one hand tied behind my back trying to get things done," said Davis.

Many of the people didn't want the Nemechek Road to become like the Edson-Bird City Road, which they said wasn't good since it has been torn up.

Larry Ihrig said it's a popular road. Other people use it, he said, not just the ones living on the road. Glenna Jarmin said she thought it was one of the busiest county roads.

Commissioner Gary Townsend said in the 1980s, a road advisory board figured out what it would cost to keep oil roads in the county and decided that it was too costly to maintain them. He said since then prices have tripled.

"We're trying to do something," he said, "but we can't fix it all."

Way said the problem was that the road has never had a maintenance program since it was laid in 1972. Davis said the downfall of the road was not putting a seal on it from time to time.

"The problem goes back to the 1970s," said Commissioner Chuck Frankenkfeld.

"Has the county looked for grants?" asked Kevin Sanderson.

Townsend responded that the county has to have the money up front before it can get a grant, and the money isn't there.

Ron Nemechek said he thought they needed some time and asked if the commission could postpone any action until they had time to look at the situation.

"We've been looking at this for three years," said Davis.

He said Way had the manpower and the equipment to do the work on the road and it was a good time to get started, as the decision had been made.

But Davis suggested that a group of citizens go with Way and Garry Hagan, a county employee, to look at the road.

In other business, the commission approved a motion to accept leases for county-owned farm ground, with the county to get one-third of the crop and the farmer to get two-thirds. Expenses would be shared.

The commissioners approved employee salaries as submitted by the department heads and department head salaries as proposed by commissioners.