

weather
report

56°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 5:13 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:47 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:14 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 36 degrees
• Humidity 31 percent
• Sky mostly sunny
• Winds north 20 mph
• Barometer 30.38 inches
and falling

• Record High 74° (1987)
• Record Low -16° (1933)

Last 24 Hours*

High 61°
Low 21°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Clear; low 25, winds light.
Tomorrow: Partly sunny; dry; high 70-75; winds west 10 mph; low 30-35

Extended Forecast

Wednesday through Friday, Wednesday: dry; high 70; low 30-35. Thursday and Friday: dry; high 40-45; low 20-25.
(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 — \$2.06
Loan deficiency payment — 39¢
Corn — \$1.76 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.84
Loan deficiency payment — 15¢
Milo — \$2.71 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.27 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.30
Loan deficiency payment — 59¢
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.95 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.50
Confection current — \$13/\$8 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$12 (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.

British police,
hijackers talk

STANSTED, England—Police launched urgent negotiations today with hijackers who seized an Afghan passenger airliner and forced it across Central Asia and Europe.

Authorities said five of the remaining 165 hostages were freed at Stansted Airport outside London. No reason was disclosed for releasing the two men, one woman and two children.

“We are at a very critical stage in our negotiations,” said John Broughton, assistant chief constable of the Essex police force.

The hijackers released a total of 22 hostages in return for supplies during earlier stops in Uzbekistan, Kazakstan and Russia before arriving at Stansted early today.

Their political demands were not disclosed, but police had been discussing delivery of food, toiletries and medical equipment.

City may go ahead and build ballpark

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

While the city awaits new bids on the proposed water park, City Administrator Ron Pickman plans to ask the City Commission for permission to begin building a new baseball park so it can be used this summer.

The water project was put on hold when the bids for the pool came in over budget. The rebid will be presented to the commission in March. The ballpark move is scheduled to come up its regular meeting at 5 p.m. today.

Moving the baseball park this spring would give the city time to prepare the new field for use this summer, and Pickman says he feels this is an important part of the overall project which needs to be done now to allow the water park to begin later this year.

“The timing of this part of the project is that if

we don’t move the ball park now, and do get the water park project within budget, we could be without a ballpark for the summer,” Pickman said. “We have the funding to move the ballpark, and it would make preparing for the water park project that much easier.”

The commission will also hold a public hearing on the vacation of a part of Cherry Street which is part of the McB’s Corner property and stretches south to the railroad. McB’s owner Virgil Baumfalk asked the city to consider vacating the right-of-way. The commission indicated a consensus to allow the vacating of the property, but the hearing is required to hear any objections.

Pickman said the original design of Cherry Street was that it was to be straight and not curve as it actually does, and that based on that, the city right-of-way would go through the east side of the McB’s Corner property from 17th Street to 18th

Street.

Cherry Street also figures in a request from Kyle Railroad to have the city help pay for the new concrete crossing which is to be installed, and crossing gate arms. Kyle is asking the city to pay \$4,800.

Exactly when the new crossing will be installed is still up in the air, and Pickman said there is still hope that it can be coordinated with the rest of the Cherry Street project.

The city will also review an agreement with Sherman County which trades a portion of North Caldwell Avenue which belongs to the county with two pieces of old U.S. 24 which belong to the city so the county can pay for repaving the highway.

In other agenda items, the commission:

• Will hear from Charles Krull of Blue Cross and Blue Shield about the city’s health insurance

coverage. The city is faced with a large increase in the premium, and may have to consider some changes in benefits.

• Consider a request from the Goodland Arts Council for \$5,000 to be presented by Rebecca Downs, the new center director.

• The city annually asks for proposals from the local banks for services, and the commission will review proposals from First National Bank, Bankwest and Western State Bank.

• The commission will also review bids for a new police car, and bids on drilling two new city water wells.

• Also the commission will consider moving the next regular meeting from Monday, Feb. 21, to Tuesday, Feb. 22, because of the President’s Day holiday.

The city commission meets at 5 p.m. upstairs in the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th.

Sunflower gets grant of \$50,000

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Goodland is a big step closer to building 80-foot replica of a Vincent Van-Gogh sunflower painting, thanks to a state tourism grant.

The giant painting, planned by Canadian artist, Cameron Cross, may be built on city land near the Cherry Street intersection with Business U.S. 24, or somewhere else visible from I-70. The idea is to draw people off the highway to see the art piece and other attractions in town.

The Travel and Tourism Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing last week gave the Goodland Arts Council a \$50,000 Attraction Development Grant to help in paying for the VanGogh sunflower project.

The grants are designed to expand the tourism base or develop new tourist attractions in the state.

The Sunflowers USA Association, a nonprofit organization, was formed to get the project going and applied for the grant.

To get the grant, the organization has to raise matching funds, said Darin Neufeld, who is on the board. Not all the money has been raised yet.

“It was nice to get the grant,” said Neufeld, “because we knew we could get the artist to come and start work this spring.”

No money is coming from the city or county to fund this project, so local taxpayers aren’t paying for it.

Donations to the organization are welcome, Neufeld said. For information, contact either Pete Whalen at 899-6264, Ron Harding at 899-5041, Marcia Golden at 899-7128, or Barbara Aten at 899-3177 or send donations to the association, Box 628, Goodland.



Ask some questions

Interviewers (above) with with EBH & Associates Engineers, (from left) Darin Neufeld, Goodland; Joel Kroshell, Cimarron; and Rob Wilshusen, Lawrence, talked with a student from the engineering technology program at the Northwest Kansas Technical School on Friday. Brenda Meineke from DMJM, an engineering firm in Denver, talked with a student that morning. The companies were among more than 20 which were at the school to conduct interviews.

Photos by Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News



Kyle Whisler, a junior for the Goodland Cowboys, wrestled against Wes Copper, a senior from St. Francis, in a dual on Friday night at the Max Jones Fieldhouse. Story, more photos on Page 6.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Legislators lukewarm to seat belts

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Gov. Bill Graves’ proposal to strengthen the state’s seat belt law may emerge from a Senate committee, but only because many members want to give all 40 senators a chance to vote on it.

The Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to take up a bill containing the governor’s proposal on Tuesday. Most of its 11 members insist they still are undecided.

Only Senate President Dick Bond, R-Overland Park, said he supports the bill. Three other committee members oppose it. The remaining seven are in various stages of indecision.

But at least three of those seven are willing to send the bill to the Senate without a recommendation on whether it should be approved because they

don’t think the issue should die in committee.

“I’ll probably vote to get it out on the floor, so it can have a full Senate debate,” said Sen. Nancey Harrington, R-Goddard.

The senators who list themselves as undecided are struggling with whether the additional government intrusion is justified by the possible number of vehicle accident deaths and injuries it will prevent.

For example, Harrington has a long conservative voting record, but her equally conservative husband is an insurance adjuster. She says he’s seen enough damage from accidents that he favors the bill.

Sen. Greta Goodwin, D-Winfield, said she understands the objections of constituents who think the government shouldn’t force them to wear seat belts.

However, she also acknowledged, “The concept of public safety, I agree with.”

She said she is undecided but added, “I will vote to put it out of committee.”

State law requires all drivers and front-seat passengers to buckle up, as well as all children between 4 and 14, whether they ride in a front or rear seat. Children under 4 must be in child safety seats.

But failure to use a seat belt is a “secondary” offense, meaning law enforcement officials cannot ticket people without citing them for another violation, such as speeding. Also, the fine for not wearing a seat belt is only \$10.

Graves’ bill would allow law enforcement officers to stop motorists simply for not wearing a seat belt. It would require all passengers to wear seat belts and increase the fine to \$25.

Commissioners plan to decide on mutual aid pacts with other counties

Among the things to be discussed at Tuesday’s Sherman County Commissioner’s meeting will be disaster mutual aid agreements with area counties, as requested by Mary Messamore, central dispatch director.

The commissioners also are scheduled to sign a contract with Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas

in Hays, which provides services to mentally retarded children and adults in the county. The meeting will start at 8 a.m. in the commission meeting room on the first floor of the courthouse.

Charter resolutions for county road maintenance and equipment presented last Monday by Dave Warren, need to be revised to correct an error made in

the name of the newspaper being used for legal publications.

Noxious Weed Supervisor Daryl West is on the agenda to have the commissioners sign the annual noxious weed report and the contract for spraying the ditches along the highways.

Rick Billinger is scheduled to talk to the commissioners about the solid

waste fees on some of his trailers at Nationwide Mobile Home Park.

Crystal Linsner, a county employee, will be at the meeting to talk about getting all the county’s offices on the same software program to transfer information electronically to state offices.

The commissioners will also meet with William McKnight who is to give

bids on mowers.

Road and Bridge Director Curt Way will present information on the options the county has for replacing or repairing a 1988 motor grader.

The commissioners received a letter recently from the Yuma County Economic Development Corp., which they need to review and discuss.