



Crews laid yellow and white traffic lines on the east side of K-27 Monday evening, in preparation for the work on the west side of the road starting Friday.
Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Work to start on west side of K-27

ROAD, from Page 1

But some work is getting done.

Traffic will be moved to the east half of K-27 on Friday so repaving work can be started on the west side. Workers started on the east side at the end of April.

One reason for the delay, said Pickman, is that Smith has another project in the works and the company will not bring all of its workers to Goodland until the other project is done. Both he and Brands said they aren't sure where

the other project is.

Once the deadline expires, Pickman said, the engineering crew will have to pay the state \$600 a day for each day after. The fee, or liquidation cost, said Brands, is paid to the department of transportation and the money goes into a general fund used for maintenance and construction costs for projects across the state.

The city won't directly see any of the contractor's late fees, though Goodland is in charge of the project — for which it paid about \$300,000. The total cost of

the project, including state and federal money, is about \$1.3 million.

Pickman said the construction company has been having problems from the start. They were scheduled to start in the early part of April, he said, noting that some signs were posted mid-April but work didn't start until the end of the month.

"There have been several periods of time when little or no work at all was done on the project," he said, "and the only explanation the construction company has given is they have until September, but now it looks like they will be going over that deadline."

Pickman has heard several complaints from business owners on K-27.

In early July, business owners called Friday-morning meetings so they could complain to representatives of the transportation department, the engineering firm, and the construction company about the slow work and the fact the contractor closed the I-70 exit for repairs near the Fourth of July. Evans-Bierly and Hutchinson and Associates is the engineering company.

The meetings were held when the west Goodland exit off I-70, Exit 17, was closed and owners were concerned about the loss of business. Pickman organized the meetings after hearing complaints.

"There aren't any plans for another meeting right now," he said, "but there might be one in the future."

Pickman explained that business owners just have to request the meetings and one will be called.

"I can understand their concerns," he said.

Farmers face loss on corn

CORN, from Page 1

"Obviously we can't expect the yields farmers had last year on dry-land corn," he said.

On irrigated corn, he said, in some areas farmers are having trouble pumping up water fast enough for the demand of the crop due to the heat, dry winds, and extended dry conditions.

But Stockton believes that even on irrigated corn, farmers will still be looking at a loss on their crop because of increased irrigation fuel costs.

He said because of very little rainfall, farmers have had to water the corn all season long.

No-till fields have a little more moisture than fields that have been conventionally tilled, Stockton said.

"We hope we see a little better yields there," he said.

As far as insects, Stockton said he

has seen corn root worm and corn ear worm.

He said insect damage to corn is about the same as most years.

"We really haven't seen much in the way of diseases," Stockton said.

A lot of diseases need wetter conditions to be spread, he said, and the dry weather has kept it to a minimum.

Stockton said some farmers with drought-stressed corn have asked about letting their cattle graze on it.

He said it's an option, but farmers really need to get corn samples tested for nitrates before going ahead because if nitrates are too high, the corn will poison the cattle.

He believes there may be a dangerous level of nitrate concentration in the corn because of the dry weather. "The dry weather has disrupted the normal plant growth and caused nitrates to accumulate in the stalk," he said.

Board members back stricter discipline

SCHOOL, from Page 1

to the discipline policy, but the district will strictly enforce what is in place.

During his report to the board, Superintendent Selby said painting of Cowboy Stadium is underway and most of the district's summer projects are almost done. He said a representative of the company that will resurface the track was expected in town today or Wednesday to see if the surface is ready. Once the track has been prepared, Selby said, it will be about a week before the company brings in a crew to lay the new surface.

One project not completed is the new trophy cases at Max Jones, but Selby said that will be finished once the district gets parts for the new shelves.

Training for teachers begins Monday with Allan November, a speaker who will spend the whole day on technology. Tuesday begins with a breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the high school and an all-staff assembly at 8:30 a.m. That evening there will be a picnic beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Gulick Park.

On Wednesday, the teachers will hear from Carl Boyd, a motivational speaker in the morning. He will work with the administrators during lunch and the reading and special education teachers in the afternoon. Thursday is

the first work day for teachers. Friday is a day off for returning teachers, but there is an orientation for new teachers.

The first day for students is Monday, Aug. 28, and the superintendent said depending on the weather, the district may use the heat policy and release students at 1 p.m. that first week.

"If the forecast for the week is for very hot weather, I will probably have the students released at 1 p.m. each day," he said. "It is not something we can just announce each morning because parents have to have an opportunity to make arrangements. I will make the decision late next week depending on the weather forecast."

Selby said there is no magic formula for deciding when to use the heat policy, such as, when the temperature hits 90 degrees. He said it is more an overall determination of when the conditions will be uncomfortable for the teachers and students.

Campbell asked what it would cost to put an air conditioner in every room. There was not a specific answer, but Russell suggested the utility bill would more than double if that were done.

"If that is what it takes for a month we might need to consider it," Campbell said.

In other business the board:

- Approved the budget for next year,

which will provide about \$60,000 in increased revenue. The general fund will total \$6,047,824 and the local option budget will be \$875,000. The capital outlay will remain at four mills, but the district will have about \$248,000 less to work with this year at \$1,475,985.

- Discussed joining the city in a joint project to build four tennis courts at Steever Park. The school district would put up about \$60,000 as their share. The board agreed to have Selby explore this further, and indicated support for the project.

- Gave Selby permission to take the best investment bid on a \$840,000 certificate of deposit that is coming due Monday. Selby said he will take the best bid for either six months or one year.

- Accepted resignations from Linda McKee as junior high assistant volleyball coach and Jill Beringer as a paraprofessional at West Elementary.

- Approved hiring of Chandra Ruhs as eighth grade head volleyball coach, Marianne Gray as assistant seventh grade volleyball coach, Travis Witman as assistant seventh grade football coach, Ben Williams as head girls golf coach and Donna Fenner as assistant girls volleyball coach.

The next regular board meeting will be Monday, Aug. 28 at 7 p.m.

kanorado chronology

By Dixie Hooker

Kanorado Correspondent

Useless facts: donkeys kill more people annually, than are killed in plane crashes.

New Jersey!? Boy folks, I made a big mistake! Our pastor Kay Kincaid is in Nebraska, not New Jersey! She is staying with her daughter Liz Henning and her family. So if you would like to drop her a line, send it in care of Liz Henning, 1180 Lakeshore, Crete, Neb. 68333. Please don't mention New Jersey to her. (And me? Just don't ask how I did such a thing.)

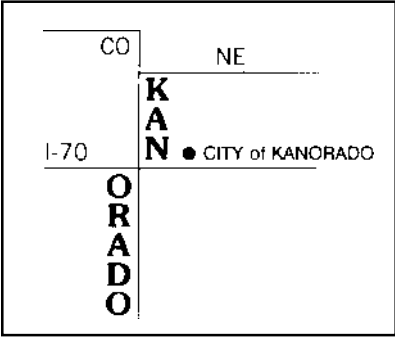
Exercise theory: I don't exercise at all. If God meant for us to touch our toes, he would have put them further up our body.

Okay you limber seniors out there, the 17th Annual Kansas Senior Olympics will be held Sept. 21-24 in Topeka for individual and doubles sports and Oct. 5-10 for team sports.

The competitions are open to all athletes who will be 50 years old on or before Dec. 31. The entry deadlines are Aug. 18 and early deadline fee is \$35. Sept. 1 is the final deadline and the fee is \$45. So get on those sneakers, or whatever, and go!

Now if you win you could qualify to compete in the National Senior Olympics in Baton Rouge, La., in 2001. For information write: The Kansas Senior Olympics, 1534 SW Clay, Topeka, Kan. 66604, or call: (785) 368-3798.

Short wit: A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why



is it necessary to be quiet in church?" Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping."

Don't forget the Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Goodland Methodist Church on Thursday, Aug. 24, from noon until 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, call Dolly Irvin at 899-2111. Walk-ins are welcome. If you bring a friend who has not donated blood in the last 18 months or has never donated, you both will receive a T-shirt!

Fran Christenson took a trip to visit her mom in Hobard, Neb. It was nice to be talking with her in person, instead of over the computer. Fran hooks up a line through her computer and chats away with her mom. Now her mom on the other end uses the phone. Have any of you done this? It requires a bit more patience, and you can't interrupt or talk over the other guy. You have to wait for the person to finish before you can speak. As it won't go through, and if it does, only bits of your conversation are heard, and the other guy is saying "what," while you have gone on to say

something else. But hey, if you can overcome this hurdle, you sure won't have any phone bills.

I want to go back to the time when: "Race issue," meant arguing about who ran the fastest. The worst thing you could catch from the opposite sex was cooties. Having a weapon in school meant being caught with a slingshot. Taking drugs meant orange-flavored chewable aspirin. Saying "Oly-oly-ox in free" made perfect sense.

Margie Lopez said her youngest, Joe, was in the hospital last week with a "bout with his tonsils." We are glad to hear Joe is home and getting back to par. Think ice cream, Joe!

A thought: If it weren't for me, there'd just be a pile of my clothes on the floor.

Last week in our neighborhood, Jennifer Glidewell's place was lit up like Christmas! Literally. She has been collecting cans and converting them into Christmas lights.

I don't know exactly how she is doing it, but stepping outside on a balmy summer eve, her place was gorgeous with Christmas lights, strung on her trailer and around the yard. Keep up the good work Jen; glad you couldn't wait till Christmas to see how they worked.

Life's teachings: I've learned that it's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.

Rose Williams brought ole Phil and the best dill pickles last week. They are cold packed, I believe. I will get the recipe from her and stick it in this column for you to try. They are crunchy! You will love them.

City folk get a taste of country living

SWITCH, from Page 1

in Denver ready for a four-hour car ride to Oberlin. They traveled along I-70, which was something new, Mr. Kramer said. They had never realized how much country there really is out here.

They arrived at the Oberlin Robinsons' farm house in the dark, during a Kansas lightning storm. They hadn't experienced complete darkness before, the producer said, nor utter silence.

"They still had the roar of New York in their heads," said Mr. Kramer. "Then there was complete quiet."

Their home for a week waited complete with barking dogs, cows and horses. They were nervous, he said, because they weren't animal people and they had heard about bobcats and other wild animals in the country.

"They were a little tentative" said Mr. Kramer. "Then the next morning they had to do the chores."

The first day, they had Corey Fortin, a local teen-ager, come out to the farm to help and make sure they didn't do anything wrong. Merlou Robinson had left a long list of what needed to be

done. Although it was new, Mr. Kramer said, the New Yorkers caught on fast and gained a reprieve with the animals.

While the New York Robinsons were milking cows and adjusting to farm life, the Oberlin Robinsons were living in an apartment and trying to complete the list of everyday chores that they do. While in New York, Mrs. Robinson was communicating with the family in Oberlin through e-mail.

One night, the New York Robinsons went to dinner with Merlou's family. This was different for them, since they aren't used to having family so close, Mr. Kramer said. There were tears at the end of the evening, he said. Having such a large family welcome them touched the New Yorkers, who had only seen family situations like this on television, not in person.

The Robinsons walked Main Street while in Oberlin and met many people. Mr. Kramer said they seemed surprised that they could meet someone in the morning and hours later meet someone else who was related to the first people they had met that day. During the evening, the family was able to read

about what was going on in New York over the Internet.

Although it wasn't planned in advance, the New York Robinsons went to the Decatur County Fair and even worked in the riochet booth opening night.

The next morning, they left early for their drive to Denver and flight back home to New York.

While in town, they experienced small town and farm life and met a lot of people. The New Yorkers were welcomed by the Oberlin people, Mr. Kramer said.

That night, the Oberlin Robinsons returned home and back to life as normal, in time to catch the end of the fair.

The segment will run sometime in the fall as a series, possibly three days, although Mr. Kramer said he was not sure when. After it is scheduled, he said, the families will be able to talk about their experiences, but their contracts forbid them from talking until then.

This will be the first "Switch Family Robinson" show, but the idea may become a new series for Inside Edition, said Mr. Kramer.

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'Democratic mantle' is passed on

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Heralding Al Gore as "one strong leader," President Clinton got a roaring, sentimental send-off from the Democratic National Convention as he yielded the political stage to the man he wants elected his successor.

Clinton's vice president watched the convention farewell on television, preparing to join the president Tuesday in Monroe, Mich., to dramatize the passing of the Democratic mantle.

"It's a symbolic message that's more important than most of the words we'll be using," Gore said, calling Clinton's Monday night speech a great one. "It's a handoff, a passing of the torch."

Gore paid tribute to his boss Tues-

day as he vowed to battle for targeted tax cuts for "the right people" while fighting off "a huge tax cut for the wealthy at the expense of everyone else."

"Bill Clinton worked hard to get the economy right," Gore said. "I'm not going to let the other side wreck it."

Clinton, speaking aboard Air Force One Tuesday en route to the Michigan campaign stop, said of his speech, "I said what I wanted to say. I hope it helped, maybe it did. The main thing is that I just wanted to thank the people."

The convention is Gore's show now, adopting his platform on Tuesday and installing his vice presidential running

mate, Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut. Lieberman was meeting Tuesday with black Democrats, some of whom are concerned about his stance on affirmative action.

Republican nominee George W. Bush held a 9-point lead over Gore in a tracking poll released Tuesday, half of what it was in the Voter.com Battleground poll taken at the end of the Republican convention, 18 points in Bush's favor. The poll of 1,000 likely voters taken Sunday and Monday has an error margin of 3 percentage points. The Los Angeles Times poll out Tuesday also gave Bush a 9-point lead, with the same margin of error.

