

weather report

30°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:48 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:05 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:49 p.m.

Middy Conditions

• Soil Temperature 35 degrees
• Humidity 72 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds north 13 mph
• Barometer 30.18 inches and falling
• Record High 68° (1943)
• Record Low -6° (1930)

Last 24 Hours*

High 33°
Low 17°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy, areas of fog, 20 percent chance of snow, low 10-15, northeast winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Cloudy, 60 percent chance of snow, high 15-20, low 10-15.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: dry, high mid 30s, low mid 20s. Thursday: dry, high 15, low mid 30s. Friday: dry, high 40-45, low 15-20.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.



City Manager Ron Pickman described the plan on Friday morning for the construction of the new Cherry Street entrance to the city. Construction is set to start in March.

Photos by Eric Yonkey / The Goodland Daily News

City gets big state check for project

By Eric Yonkey

The Goodland Daily News

A state official brought a \$10,000 check to Goodland on Friday to help pay for park improvements at the old wye on Cherry Street.

Melody Burkholder of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks presented a \$10,000 check to City Commissioner Tom Rohr and City Manager Ron Pickman for improvements at the city's new Pioneer Park. The check comes from the Local Government Outdoor Recreation Grant Project.

The city plans to apply the \$10,000 for a park pavilion. Gene Tromble, a Goodland Kiwanis Club board member, pledged a minimum donation of \$5,000 toward the \$25,000 pavilion, challenging other service organizations to donate the remaining \$10,000.

EBB and Associates designed Pioneer Park last year to include a storm water detention pond, lighted water fountain, pavilion, pedestrian benches, hike and bike trails, street and trail light fixtures, iron perimeter fencing, drinking fountain, information kiosk, trees, and a large evergreen tree that will be lighted for the holidays.

The pond will always maintain a

minimum level of two feet, and will include pumps to keep it turning so it will not become stagnant. In the winter, the retaining pond can be lowered to a few inches that will provide a skating rink.

The overall cost of the area street improvements, Pioneer Park and area hike and bike trails will come to an estimated \$1.4 million, Pickman said. Of this, the state Department of Transportation awarded the City \$430,000 through its geometric program for street improvements, and \$200,000 toward the park through the Transportation Enhancement program. Between city funds, which will be offset in part by additional gifts from organizations and individuals, the overall project balance is \$755,000.

"It's nice to see the support for the project," the manager said. "This problem area has been cussed and discussed for 60 years."

He commended recent city commissions for taking the leadership to resolve this problem.

Pickman expects work will begin this spring and will continue all this year into 2002.

The Sunflowers USA Association plans to erect the giant Van Gogh sunflower painting near the park.



Melody Burkholder of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks listened to suggestions from Goodland Kiwanis member Gene Tromble at a grant presentation Friday morning.

Officials to accept road deal

County will pay for repairs with sales tax

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland City Commission today will review an agreement with the county to rebuild a rough portion of Old U.S. 24 in the city that in the past neither have maintained.

City Manager Ron Pickman said he and County Attorney Bonnie Selby wrote the agreement saying Sherman County will repair part of old U.S. 24 at the east edge of Goodland with money from the quarter-cent sales tax. The city commissioners will consider signing the agreement at their regular meeting today.

City and county commissioners agreed to use the sales tax — implemented in 1998 to raise money to maintain Old U.S. 24 — at a joint meeting this month, which was scheduled after drivers came to complain about the bumpy, worn-down section.

County Clerk Janet Rumble said the sales tax money is used to maintain the portion of highway in Sherman County, but the county has not paid for repairs to the "connecting link" between Business U.S. 24 and Old U.S. 24 because it is in the city limits.

The county pays for repairs to Old U.S. 24 and the city pays for Business U.S. 24, but neither have maintained the quarter-mile stretch of highway that extends east off Business 24.

The city and county agreed at one point to trade roads, with the county taking the stretch of Old U.S. 24 and the city taking North Caldwell by the airport. However, city officials later decided that state law says the county is responsible for "connecting links."

Also at the meeting today, Pickman said, commissioners will recognize three city employees with civil service awards from the Kansas League of Municipalities. He said Neal Thornburg, water department; Dale Fenner, electric department; and Mike Rubio, a volunteer firefighter, have worked for the city for 10 years.

In other action, the commissioners will:

- Approve three appointments to the housing authority and two to the cemetery board.
- Consider granting home occupation permits to F.L. "Mac" McGinley, for a law office at 520 East Seventh St., and Roger Blume, for a small engine repair shop at 1323 Harrison Ave.
- Discuss buying a pickup truck for animal control.
- Agree on a time and date for the annual utility rate workshop.
- Sign a proclamation from DECA students at the high school and their teacher, Richard Schwasinger, declaring this as "Free Enterprise Week."
- Hear reports from the commissioners and Mayor Chuck Lutters.

Heads ask for parking at Bastille

At Tuesday's Sherman County commissioners' meeting, Sheriff Doug Whitson and County Attorney Bonnie Selby are to speak with the commissioners about designating parking space for county department heads on the west side of the Sherman County Bastille, behind the county courthouse.

Dorrendo Harrel, administrator and registered nurse at the Sherman County Health Department, is on the agenda to discuss the possibility of acquiring a van from the state Women, Infants and Children health program.

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local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.99 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.87
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$1.93 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.94
Loan deficiency pmt. — 5¢
Milo — \$3.20 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.25 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.17
Loan deficiency payment — 73¢
Millet — \$8.25 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.90 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.75
Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$15
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Baptists hire black pastor

WICHITA — A predominantly white Southern Baptist church has reached across racial lines to hire a black pastor, just five years after the denomination apologized for supporting slavery in the 1800s.

The Rev. Scottie Welch sees his new position as pastor of Harmony Southern Baptist Church as a sign of changing times.

Welch is black and the congregation, which had about 30 people in the pews last Sunday, is white. "Culture is no longer a factor, but we're concerned about spirit," Welch said after the congregation capped a three-month courtship by naming him its pastor on Sunday.

Harmony Baptist members don't necessarily see Welch's appointment as a statement about race relations.

Welch, 50, had lead a predominantly white church in Wichita.

Internet temporarily shuts down

Internet services for nwkansas.com customers across northwest Kansas were interrupted for about two hours on Saturday by a power outage caused by heavy, wet snow which fell in Oberlin during the afternoon.

Power for the system at *The Oberlin Herald*, which provides both e-mail and domain name service for nwkansas.com customers, went out about 2:30 p.m. and was not restored until about 4:30 p.m. An entire block of downtown Oberlin lost power.

Steve Haynes, president of Nor' West Newspapers, said the outage was caused by the snow. Oberlin got about 8 inches during the afternoon, much more than had been predicted.

Customers in some towns with a secondary "DNS server" listed in their setup had outside Internet access, Mr. Haynes said, but all service to Oberlin customers was out because of the power failure, as was the e-mail server.

A division of the newspaper company, nwkansas.com has Internet systems in Goodland, Oberlin, Colby, St. Francis, Norcat, Bird City, McDonald and Oakley.



Heavy wet snow fell Saturday, bringing six inches to Goodland. With the earlier rain the white stuff stuck to nearly every surface. Later Saturday, the winds picked up and created visibility problems. Goodland received .48 of an inch of moisture.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Weekend snow piles up in city

Goodland received just a little over six inches of snow in a storm that hit Saturday morning and ended that evening.

Aaron Johnson, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Goodland, said their office measured 6.1 inches of snow for Saturday, with .45 of an inch of precipitation from the snowfall.

Large, wet flakes piled up on yards, cars and streets making roads slippery and bringing out city workers with tractors and sand.

Despite bad driving conditions, there were only two accidents reported this weekend outside the city and one inside.

There was one accident reported on I-70, but the highway was closed most of Saturday.

Light rain started around 7 a.m. and continued until about 10:30 a.m., when snow began to fall. The moderate to heavy snow kept up through Saturday afternoon when it began to taper off and

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