

weather report

14° at noon

Today

- Sunset, 5:21 p.m.

Tomorrow

- Sunrise, 6:36 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:22 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 33 degrees
- Humidity 84 percent
- Sky overcast
- Winds northeast 8 mph
- Barometer 30.00 inches and rising
- Record High 72° (1967)
- Record Low -8° (1936)

Last 24 Hours*

High	33°
Low	18°
Precipitation	0.01 inch
Snow	trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy with areas of fog, low 10-15, light winds. Tomorrow: Cloudy, high 35-40, low 20, light wind.

Extended Forecast

Friday: dry, high 30. Saturday and Sunday: dry, high 40s, low 15.

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

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.74 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.62
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$1.91 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.85
Loan deficiency payment — 14¢
Milo — \$3.07 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.99 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.86
Loan deficiency payment — 1.04¢
Millet — \$7.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.10 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.47
Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$14 (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.

Evolution back in standards

TOPEKA — Evolution has been restored as a central theory in Kansas’ science curriculum, ending a debate that subjected the state to international ridicule over the teachings of the origins of man.

The State Board of Education voted 7-3 Wednesday to approve new science standards to be used in developing tests that will be given to students later this spring. The tests will include questions on evolution, which will now be considered one of the unifying concepts of the state’s science curriculum.

The new standards will replace ones adopted in August 1999, which omitted references to many evolutionary concepts. Those standards brought Kansas international attention and criticism from scientists and science groups who saw evolution’s de-emphasis as a step back.

Sweethearts for life

Key to 57-year marriage is a sense of humor now then

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

This Valentine’s Day, Joy and Hilaria Huff of Goodland have been sweethearts for more than five decades, and have been husband and wife for 57 years.

The couple, who have lived in Sherman County for six years, were both born in Decatur County. He comes from a family of four children. She was the second oldest in a family of 12 kids. He graduated from high school in Jennings and she graduated in Oberlin. But they both grew up on farms that were 10 miles apart and their fathers were good friends.

They got to know each other when his sister, Maxine, and her were in high school together and their families took turns driving them to school.

Hilaria, 75, recalled how she and some of her sisters would mess up the pool balls while Joy, 80, and his buddies were playing pool at the American Legion hall in Jennings.

“He thought he was a big shot and I was just a snot-nosed kid,” Hilaria said.

Hilaria said being together, working together and doing just about everything else together, has helped them stay together. They walk together and have bowled, square danced and golfed together.

They deliver Meals on Wheels, too. Hilaria said Joy drives and she takes the meals to the people.

They go to mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church every day. They said they walk to church and back home when the weather is nice.

“We’ve had a pretty good life,” Joy said.

Having a sense of humor, Hilaria added, is also very important.

“We do a lot of laughing,” she said.

They fixed up their many houses in Colorado, Wyoming and Kansas together. She did the painting and he did the plumbing, electrical and carpentry work. They’ve even laid carpet and linoleum together. But Hilaria admitted she needs her space and so does Joy.

“You can always find me with a needle in my hand somewhere,” she said.

She crochets, does embroidery and makes quilts.

Joy said when they lived in Wyoming, they owned a Volkswagen pickup. He said it cost \$15 to fill it up with diesel fuel and \$15 to buy yarn for Hilaria to crochet.

Hilaria said Joy keeps busy with projects in the garage. He set up train tracks, with three trains on it in their garage.

“I tell her once in awhile that I love her,” Joy said.

The Huffs have weathered some tough times.

Hilaria has fought cancer, both of them have suffered heart attacks and now they must live with Joy’s case of hepatitis C, which is incurable.

Joy suffered his heart attack in 1985 and had to have an eight bypass surgery.

Nine months later, Hilaria had one and went though a five bypass surgery.

Joy said after his heart attack, he had an egg crate mattress on his bed. He said Hilaria wanted one too, so she had a heart attack.

Despite the tough times, the couple keeps laughing, especially when they get to talking about the good old days.

Joy joked that his wife’s mother was the one that got them together and even bought their marriage license.

Hilaria said her mother told her to write Joy while he was in the U.S. Army Air Corps, which he enlisted in 1940, two days before the draft started for World War II. Hilaria was in nurse’s training at the time.

The couple married on July 7, 1943, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in New Almelo when Joy had a leave of absence while stationed at Lake Charles, La.

Joy said he flew into Oklahoma City and got on a bus headed for Wichita, but the driver said he wouldn’t get to his destination until the afternoon of July 7.

They were supposed to be married in the morning, so he said he got off the bus and hitchhiked to Grainfield. He called Hilaria’s home and told her father she needed to pick him up there. Hilaria said she didn’t know where Grainfield was, but after getting directions from her father, she made the trip.

Her mother went to Oberlin to get their marriage license because Joy couldn’t get there in time and Hilaria was too young to get it.

The next day, Joy returned to Lake Charles, with Hilaria along. After the war ended in 1946, he bought a farm in Norton County without telling Hilaria about it until the deal

See SWEETHEARTS, Page 4

Water quality, availability will be topic of annual ag expo

Two speakers are scheduled to talk about water at the ninth annual High Plains Ag Expo from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday at the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The event is sponsored by KLOE/KKCI/KWGB Radio and the National Sunflower Association.

Marty Melia, general manager for the radio stations, said the biggest part of the program will be about the Governor’s Task Force on Water.

Susan Stover of the Kansas Department of Agriculture in Topeka will speak at 9 a.m. on water quality and availability in the Ogallala aquifer.

At 10 a.m., Lee Allison, state geologist, will speak. The Kansas Geological Survey, which Allison is director of, produced an atlas which shows how much water is being depleted in Kansas counties and how much is replenished, along with other information. The atlases will be available to buy.

Melia said the geological survey issued a statement last month that told how the water could be depleted in some Kansas counties in 25 years.

From 11 to 11:30 a.m., Woofert Construction of Colby will give a grain bin drying seminar. The 21st Century Bean Alliance from Sharon Springs will give a presentation from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

There will be a free ham-and-bean feed at noon sponsored by the Sharon Springs bean alliance and the Goodland radio stations.

During the noon hour, people will hear the “Best of the Cowguy” from “Cowguy” Ron Schilling, an Edson farmer and rancher. Schilling will tell funny stories about agriculture and give a commentary.

At 1 p.m., Brad Lubben and Dan O’Brien, Kansas State University agricultural economists, are to talk about what to expect with President Bush — what the farm bill and farm policy will be with him in office.

O’Brien is also to talk about sunflowers on behalf of the National Sunflower Association. Rich Hawkins of the Ag Info Center Radio Network will be emcee for the day’s show.

Melia said there should be a good turnout, as fields are wet and farmers won’t be able to work in them. He said the show will be held snow or shine.

Most of the attendees are farmers, farm wives or agriculture businessmen. Over 40 exhibitors will have booths.

Dropout program a success

Principal says lab helped hundreds

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Thanks in part to a five-year-old program that helps high school dropouts graduate, the number of Sherman County students who leave school every year has gone from 14 percent to almost nothing.

“We’ve really made drastic improvements,” said Harvey Swager, Goodland High School’s principal who helped start the “dropout recovery” program after he moved here six years ago. At that time, he said, the district’s dropout rate was 14 percent, but now it is .3 percent.

Swager gave the Goodland School Board a report on the Student Tutorial Educational Program, or STEP, at Monday’s regular meeting, saying 238 students have enrolled since it began in 1997.

Of those who have enrolled, he told members, 137 were dropouts who returned to school and 101 were students who made up credits by taking classes at the STEP laboratory, which is in a modular classroom behind the high school. The program has helped 26 former dropouts graduate, he said, noting that three students in the program are expected to graduate this year.

“Five years ago it was questionable,” Swager said, “but now statistics show we’ve helped kids out.”

Swager said after the meeting that when he took the job in Goodland, one of the district’s biggest problems was its high dropout rate. He said he started looking for solutions and found one in Phoenix, Ariz.

Swager said the Goodland District’s dropout recovery program was modeled after one at a Phoenix alternative school, which he and school administrators visited. The STEP program, he said, allows students to work at their own pace by taking classes on the computer and makes it easy for the district to offer summer school classes to high school and junior high students.

Swager said the STEP lab, which other Kansas districts have used as a model, not only pulls dropouts back into the system, but stops students from leaving by allowing them to work on problem subjects outside the traditional classroom.

“It helps keep them in the flow of education,” he said, “so they just don’t give up.”

Swager told the board that since the program began, two junior high students have taken classes and one is using the facility to take Internet classes.

He said of the 137 students who enrolled in the program after dropping out, six have received General Educational Development diplomas, 26 dropped out again, one enrolled at the Northwest Kansas Technical School in Goodland, six went to jail, two were sent away by the court system, 46 moved out of the district, three adults enrolled for typing skills only, four were asked to leave by the program’s instructors, one died, one was homeschooled, five got married and he’s not sure about the remaining seven or eight students.

In other business, the board:

- Came out of a 10-minute closed session, held to discuss personnel matters, to hire Alicia Avila as a teacher’s aide at the high school and accept a resignation from Don Trimmell, a high

See SCHOOL, Page 4