

The Goodland Daily News

Volume 69, Number 106

Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

64°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:05 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:23 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:06 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 59 degrees
- Humidity 75 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds north 18-25 mph
- Barometer 30.06 inches and falling
- Record High 96° (1934)
- Record Low 39° (1946)

Last 24 Hours*

High 69°
Low 53°
Precipitation 0.39 inch

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 50, winds light and variable. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, high 80, low 50s, south wind 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday and Saturday: dry, high 80-85, low 50. Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, high 80s, low 50s.

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

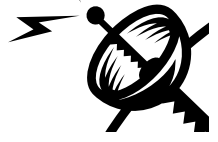
local markets

Noon

Current wheat — \$2.82 bushel
New wheat — \$2.82 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.73
Corn — \$1.70 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.62
Loan deficiency payment — 37¢
Milo — \$2.77 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.84 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.79
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.11
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.90 cwt.
Oil new crop — \$6.00 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — \$2.96
Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$14 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, 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.

Bomber faces death penalty

NEW YORK — Warning a jury that "justice is not done yet," a federal prosecutor today urged the death penalty for one of four men convicted in the bombing of U.S. embassies. A defense lawyer said he could offer no excuses but "there can be an explanation."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald promised the jury they would be coming days witness the pain that resulted from the Aug. 7, 1998, attacks on U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

A day earlier, the same anonymous jury had convicted the four followers of Saudi fugitive Osama bin Laden of a global conspiracy to murder Americans. The simultaneous bombings killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

"Justice is not done yet," Fitzgerald said in his opening statement.

Let's get wet!

New, flashy water park opens today

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

After a hot dusty summer last year, when the city had to close Goodland's leaky old swimming pool, the flashy new Steever Water Park opened it's waves to kids today under cloudy, cool skies.

The weather failed to keep the kids away, though, as contest winners became the first to use the slides and diving boards, and then the pool opened for the season at 1 p.m.

It took almost two years of planning and a year of construction, and the city spent nearly \$2 million to replace the old swimming pool with a modern, multi-faceted facility that features water slides, water fountains, diving boards, wading pool and a "zero-depth" beach-like entrance to the main pool area.

A ribbon cutting was held at 10 a.m. and there was a general open house at the park until noon. The Goodland Ambassadors joined city officials and members of the citizens committee which helped plan the park to celebrate the opening.

"It took a while to get it done," said City Manager Ron Pickman, "but I believe it is a project the entire city can be proud of for many years to come."

Many members of the citizen's committee were on hand to see the result of their work.

"I am happy with how it came out," said Annette Fairbanks, chairman of the citizens committee, who helped shepherd the project through the many steps from conception to reality.

A drawing was held to select kids to be the first to use the diving boards and water slides.

Andrew Miller was the first off the low board and Brandon Nemecheck was the first off the high diving board. Eric Ross was the first down the long yellow slide and Matthew Becker was first down the blue slide.

"It was long," Ross said of the yellow slide. "It was great and I know it will be my favorite."

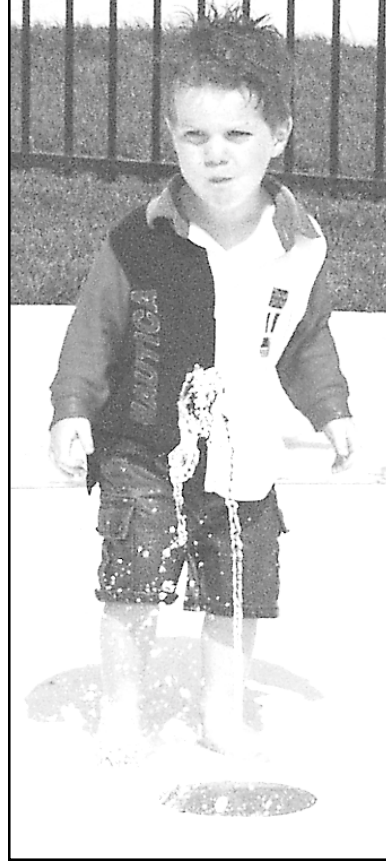
Following the open house, the water park was closed and then reopened at the regular time of 1 p.m. Debbie Lawson is pool manager and Christie Nelson assistant manager. There will be 12 lifeguards and four employees who will handle admissions and concessions.

The park will be open daily through the summer, with swimming lessons and swim team practices in the mornings and open swim at 1 p.m. It will be open Monday through Saturday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The park will have adult swimming from noon to 1 p.m., and in the evenings from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Admittance will cost \$1 for kids 5 and under; \$2 for kids 12 and under; and \$3 for those 13 and over. There



First down the long yellow water slide at the new Steever Water Park today was Eric Ross, who said it was a fantastic ride. The park officially opened at 1 p.m. Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Daily News



will be a special adults lap swim rate for \$1.

Several parents have complained about the costs, and the city's decision not to sell season passes for the new



Nolan Deeds, 3, (left) wasn't waiting for the official opening as he tested out the water fountains at the water park today. Matthew Becker (right) began his journey down the tube of the blue slide.

park. Instead of season passes, the city is selling multi-use ticket books, which will eliminate abuses in the pass system.

"I am upset with the prices in Good-

land," said Mary Reasoner, 218 W. 11th. "I called surrounding cities and believe I can buy a season pass, drive

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County begins road jobs

Old highway to get new, smooth surface

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Road crews are grinding up and removing pavement from two closed sections of Old U.S. 24 — one in east Goodland, the other just west of Edson — and preparing to lay down up to four inches of new asphalt.

The repaving job, which started Tuesday, will force drivers to find detours for a few days, but will leave the beat-up sections that motorists have complained about smoother and stronger.

Curt Way, Sherman County road and bridge supervisor, said the county closed a quarter-mile section from Business U.S. 24 east to the city limits, and one mile and a quarter stretch west of Edson, between County Roads 27 and 28. The sections are expected to re-open sometime next week.

He said Dustrol, a construction company from Towanda, which just finished work on K-27, is using a milling machine to remove three inches of the old pavement. The county is stockpiling the material at a site east of Edson.

Next, he said, LaFarge, a large construction company with an office in Burlington, will lay four inches of asphalt on the section in Goodland and three inches on the east portion.

While rain Tuesday night has delayed the job, Way said, work should be finished early next week — if things stay dry.

Drivers will notice the difference.

Both sections, which were last paved in the early 1990s, were rough, bumpy and marked with cracks and potholes. Way said the surface of the east section was failing and the west portion was in an embarrassing state of disrepair.

Semi trucks and weather do the most damage, he said, noting that one legally loaded semi can do as much damage as 10,000 passenger cars. He said hot and

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County to appoint members

Appointment of members to the Mid States Port Authority board and a review of the audit for the year 2000 are among the items on the Sherman County commissioner's agenda for their meeting at 8 a.m. Thursday morning.

There are nine members on the port authority, and the commissioners are asked to approve appointment of three each year. The three members up for renewal are John Golden from Sherman County and Eugene Hase and William Caumans.

A letter from the authority recommends appointment of Troy McCue and Caumans to four-year terms, and says that they have a letter from Golden indicating his willingness to continue. The other Sherman County representative on the board is Lynn Hoelting.

Mark Bauer of VonFeldt, Bauer and VonFeldt will meet with the commissioners to review the audit report for last year.

Amy Griffee, of the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission from Hill City, will be at the meeting for a public hearing on the fire truck which was purchased for Kanorado with grant money. This is part of the process to close out the grant.

The commissioners will review a request from a family to hold a party at the 4-H building at the fair grounds.

Since it is the last meeting of the month, the commissioners will review and approved bills and claims.

Following the regular meeting, the commissioners will meet with the Goodland Regional Medical Center board for lunch at the Sugar Hills Golf Club.

Storms drop little rain here, spawn tornadoes

Tuesday's storms brought less than a half inch of rain to Goodland, with some tornadoes being sighted in nearby counties of Colorado and Kansas.

Mike Skipper, meteorologist at the National Weather Service office here, said the storms developed at mid-morning and lasted into the afternoon.

He said most of the severe weather occurred before 4 p.m. Scattered storms developed in eastern Colorado and moved south and southeast into the area, Skipper said, then intensified, especially south of I-70.

Goodland received .39 of an inch of

rain, but no hail. The strongest wind gust was 32 mph about 2:30 p.m. The breakdown on rainfall was .02 of an inch between 2 and 3 a.m., .01 of an inch between 9 and 10 a.m., .14 of an inch between 1 and 2 p.m. and .22 of an inch between 7 and 8 p.m. Wallace, Logan and Gove counties in Kansas also reported storms.

Two tornadoes were reported in Cheyenne County, Colo., between 2 and 2:30 p.m. They were between two and seven miles south of Kit Carson, over rural areas. A third tornado moving slowly from the north destroyed

four homes near Lamar, Colo., south of Kit Carson.

Tornadoes were spotted in Kansas in Logan County between 2:45 and 3 p.m. Mountain Time, but no damage was reported.

Skipper said a severe thunderstorm warning was issued for Sherman County in the afternoon because of a cell moving out of Wallace County, but the storm died out when it moved closer to Goodland. A second band of storms, which came through in the evening, moved across Yuma County in Colorado in the late afternoon and reached

Goodland by early evening.

The forecast today is for a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms into the evening. Then there will be a bit of a break, with the next chance for thunderstorms being Sunday and Monday, Skipper said.

Skipper said the temperature dropped from the upper 60s into the 50s Tuesday when the storm moved in.

He said the high and low should stay at or below normal for the next several days. The normal high for this time of year is 77 degrees and the normal low is 50.

Corn forecast predicts biggest harvest ever across state

WICHITA (AP)—If early forecasts hold, Kansas farmers can expect to harvest the biggest corn crop ever recorded in the state — good news for communities braced for a dismal winter wheat

crop harvest.

The latest projections, calculated from planted acres and early corn condition, projects a 2001 corn crop of 525 million bushels, according to the Kan-

sas Corn Growers Association.

That estimate is based on a projection by Bill Tierney, agricultural economist at Kansas State University, of an August corn yield of 148.3 bushels on 3.54

million planted acres. Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service has estimated 3.4 million acres planted in corn. Those numbers mean nearly twice as much corn as wheat will be harvested.