

weather report

85°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 7:45 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 5:59 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:44 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 73 degrees
- Humidity 45 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds southwest 20-25 mph
- Barometer 30.02 inches and falling
- Record High 104° (1937)
- Record Low 50° (1979)

Last 24 Hours*

High	89°
Low	56°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy with 60 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 55-60, southwest wind 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, high 80s, low 55-60, northwest wind 15-25 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: chance of thunderstorms, high 75-85. Friday and Saturday: dry, high 80s, low 55-65.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.54 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.54
Corn — \$2.07 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.97
Loan deficiency payment — 2¢
Milo — \$3.33 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.72 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.68
Loan deficiency payment — 24¢
Millet — \$4.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.60 cwt.
Oil new crop — \$7.55 cwt/
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.23
Confection current — no bid
Pinto beans — \$16 (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.

IRA decides not to disarm

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — The Irish Republican Army announced today it had withdrawn its agreement on a method for disarming, rebuffing Britain's efforts to create more negotiating time to preserve Northern Ireland's power-sharing government.

In a statement, the IRA didn't rule out the prospect of eventually scrapping some weapons. But the outlawed group emphasized that recent British and Protestant demands were "totally unacceptable."

The move — and the arrest of three suspected IRA members in Colombia — undermined efforts to salvage the Catholic-Protestant government at the heart of Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord. Protestants said both developments showed that the IRA was not ready to renounce violence, a key principle in the peace process.

Sporting season

Players' health at issue

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

With the intense heat common to August in Kansas and the recent death of a professional football player from heat exhaustion, protecting high school athletes from the weather is a big concern for both coaches and parents.

Goodland High Athletic Director Richard Liess said he has talked to each of the coaches. He said he gave them information from the Kansas State High School Activities Association about heat indices and has a chart of the heat/humidity index posted for the coaches.

On the chart, areas in red are conditions in which extra caution is needed for the athletes to practice, he said. If the heat index in Goodland is in the red zone, the football team will practice without helmets and pads and practices would be held later in the evening.

Goodland doesn't usually get into the red zone, he said, because of the low humidity in this area, but if that happens, precautions will be taken.

Liess said he has made sure the athletes have information on rehydration, which encourages them to make sure they drink plenty of water all day, not just during practice. The teams have to take breaks to drink water, he said, and the athletes are not allowed to skip these.

"We are getting away from the old school of thinking," he said, "that athletes should not need to drink water during practice, that it is wimpy to need a drink."

"Dehydrated kids do not perform."

Football Coach Chris Walters said the coaches are keeping plenty of water at each station during practice and

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Junior high football players tried on and checked out gear in preparation for the fall sports' season Friday morning. While they were in the locker room, Derek Fenner and Tyler Selbe help Brandon Zelfer adjust his shoulder pads.
Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

Athletic director says he cuts traveling costs

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Responding to inquiries about the district's use of busses, the high school athletic director said Monday that he and the transportation director always work to find the most efficient, economical ways to get athletes to out-of-town events.

"I work with Bob Harkins to figure out the most economical way to get somewhere," Dick Liess told the Goodland School Board at a regular meeting. "I also try to keep kids in class for as long as possible."

To keep costs down, Liess said, he's even taken classes to become licensed so the district doesn't have to pay an extra driver. Sometimes, he said, he drives his own vehicle at his own expense to save money.

"I don't mind doing that," he said.

Liess said he thought it was important to talk about transporting athletes because people have asked why the district must use so many busses and suburbs — paying drivers and buying gas — to take students to sports events.

Practice for fall sports, including

football, volleyball, girls golf, girls tennis and cross country, started on Monday, and the seasons will begin later this month. Players will make weekly trips — sometimes hundreds of miles — to play teams in Kansas or Colorado. This season, the football team will travel to Holcomb, Phillipsburg, Oberlin and Scott City.

Earlier in the meeting, the board passed the district's 2002 budget, including a slight increase in local property taxes, which will raise about \$33,000 from property owners here to pay for school operations. The district

may be facing some financial problems this year because the state gave schools less money than expected and rising insurance and gas prices have cut into the district's budget.

People want to know the district is doing all it can to save money, Liess said.

"Sometimes it isn't what is," he added, "but what is perceived to be true."

It may look like the high school is taking a whole fleet of busses on the

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Sunflower Festival to brighten downtown for the weekend

By Reagan Smith

The Goodland Daily News

Goodland's annual Sunflower Celebration and Festival will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday downtown.

Goodland bills itself as the Sunflower Capitol of the High Plains because of the processing plants here and the growing number of farmers producing the seeds. The National Sunflower Association, area sunflower processors and industry supporters, have joined to present the Sunflower Celebration as a promotional and educational program for farmers and businesses.

The celebration mostly for sunflower growers, kicks off at 7 a.m. Friday at Goodland Industrial Park, with a test plot and sunflower research plot tours, sunflower and harvesting equipment displays, and sunflower industry personnel available to answer questions.

This free event is sponsored by the National Sunflower Association, Mueller Grain Co., Northern Sun Industries, a division of food conglomerate Archer-Daniels-Midland, Goodland Greenline, Frontier Equity Exchange, Sigco Sun Products, Collingwood Grain, the Goodland School District, and the Goodland

Painting dedication postponed due to dusty site

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The dedication ceremony for the giant replica of a Vincent Van Gogh sunflower painting that had been planned for this weekend, during Goodland's annual Sunflower Festival, has been postponed until the site is cleaned up.

Marcia Golden, vice-president of Sunflowers U.S.A., the group which raised the money and erected the 80-foot replica, said it was being put off because of the dirt work that is going on near the site, north of Business U.S. 24 and Cherry Avenue.

The painting is surrounded by mounds of dirt and the road that used to go by the painting to the east is dug up and closed to traffic. A new road connecting Cherry and Business U.S. 24 is being built to the west and a park is planned near the site later. Cherry itself is closed, making it tough to get to the painting.

"We felt we would be eating dirt out there," Golden said, adding that the ceremony would be rescheduled during the spring, but she's not sure when.

Darin Neufeld, the engineer who placed the painting and also a leader

of Sunflowers U.S.A., said the Cherry project, which includes the new road, should be finished by the end of August and then workers will start landscaping for the painting and park.

Golden said Sunflowers U.S.A. is planning to build a parking lot to the south of the painting on land donated by Bankwest. Neufeld said there will also be a parking area for the park.

Golden said Cameron Cross, the Canadian artist who conceived the worldwide seven-painting project and spent three months here last year

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Street sealing to begin

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

The city is planning to begin the annual street sealing project Wednesday, but the work could be delayed a day or two because of the weather, which is expected to turn soggy tonight.

City Manager Ron Pickman said a good rain could help wash the streets, but if it is raining when crews are ready to start, it will delay the project.

Chip sealing the streets helps the city maintain what is there, and the schedule is designed to seal about one-third of the city streets each year.

"I don't actually know when the sealing began," said Pickman. "It was before I came to Goodland, and that was eight years ago. I think it has been going on for many years. About the only thing that has changed is the material being used."

Pickman said he did not know where the contractor will start, but said they will try to get any streets around the schools done as quickly as possible.

This year's project is expected to cost \$135,627. The contractor is B&H Paving of Scott City and Pickman said they were the only company that bid.

Ed Wolak, public works director, said the project should take about five days, but that could be affected by the weather. He asks that citizens move their vehicles off the streets to be sealed, and to refrain from driving on the sealed street for several hours if possible.

"Every year we have some people who think it is smart to spin their wheels in the fresh oil and rocks," Wolak said, "but we will have the police keeping an eye out for these, and as in the past, tickets will be issued...."

He said if the damage made by the drivers is serious they can be held responsible for redoing the seal.

The streets to be sealed this year are all over the city, but the majority are east of Kansas Ave.

Streets scheduled for chip sealing:

18th from Cherry to Arcade; 17th Railroad to Clark and Sherman to Cattletail; 16th Broadway to Main; 15th Main to Sherman; 13th Harrison to Eustis and Eustis to the city limits; 12th Harrison to the alley; 11th Harrison to Eastridge, Cherry to Caldwell and Caldwell to Broadway; 10th Eustis to city limits, Eustis to Arcade, Arcade to Caldwell and Caldwell to Broadway; 9th Cherry to Caldwell, Caldwell to Main and Main to Montana. Eighth city limits to Caldwell and Caldwell to Main; 7th Washington to Arcade, College to Arcade, Cherry to Caldwell and Caldwell to Clark; 4th Caldwell to Broadway and 1st Caldwell to Main.

Avenues to be chip sealed:

Eustis 8th to 10th and 13th to 15th; Eastridge 8th to 10th and 10th to Eustis; Washington 8th to 10th; Arcade 8th to 17th, 4th to 8th and 1st to 2nd; College 1st to 2nd; Cherry 14th to 17th, 8th to 11th and 7th to 8th; Caldwell 17th to 8th and Toelkes Dr. to 8th; Clark Toelkes Dr. to 1st; Broadway 8th to 9th, 9th to 10th and 15th to 17th; Willow Road-Maple Dr. to 2nd; Center 2nd to 6th, 6th to 8th and 17th to 15th; Sherman 17th to 15th, 11th to 10th, 9th to 10th and 2nd to 3rd; Grand 16th to 17th, 11th to 12th, 10th to 11th and 8th to 10th; Main Toelkes to Caldwell, 1st to Toelkes; Cemetery Road; Willow Road - Spruce to Maple; Acacia - Willow Road to Spruce; Sycamore - Poplar to Spruce; Spruce - Main to Cottonwood; and Enterprise Road.

stacle course. The driver will be blindfolded, while the other member serves as navigator. The object is to make it through the course with the fewest number of errors possible. Team performance will be judged and points will be lost for such things as driving outside boundaries, hitting cones, people or judges, and for cursing. Points will be tallied and cash prizes awarded.

Another must-see event is the Great Ping Pong Ball Race. At 10 a.m., 500 ping pong balls will be "raced" down Main Street, powered by the fire department's hoses. The first ball across the line wins 10 percent of the total earnings, possibly \$120. The second ball wins 8 percent and the third 7 percent. The remaining proceeds will help the Chamber of Commerce buy new street banners for downtown.

The crowning of the Sunflower Queen and Princess will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, followed by a hot dog

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