

weather
report

98°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:37 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:05 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:35p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 68 degrees

• Humidity 20.00 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds south 17 mph gusting to 24

• Barometer 29.94 inches
and falling

• Record High 104° (1987)

• Record Low 47° (1950)

Last 24 Hours*

High 91°

Low 56°

Precipitation —

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of isolated thunderstorms, low 60s, southwest winds 5-15. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 90s, low 60s.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday and Thursday: chance of thunderstorms, high 85-90, low 60s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.51 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.50

Corn — \$1.98 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.88

Loan deficiency payment — 11¢

Milo — \$3.17 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.50 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.51

Loan deficiency payment — 41¢

Millet — \$4.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$8.20 cwt.

Oil New crop — \$7.90 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$0.95

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.

Bush continues
Heartland tour

MILWAUKEE — President Bush said today he will insist that Congress approve the additional money for the military that he has asked for, and he promised the struggling health system for veterans will be restructured.

“All I ask Congress to provide is an increased \$39 billion for the military,” Bush told cheering delegates to a Veterans of Foreign Wars convention. “This is the largest increase in military spending since Ronald Reaganf.”

Bush also pledged that the system of benefits for veterans would be revised soon, accusing past administrations of letting veterans’ claims linger for years.

“That is no way to treat America’s veterans and that is going to change,” Bush said.

Dozens of protesters, whose causes ranged from abortion to the environment, waited for Bush outside the Midwest Express Center.

Farmers hear production solutions

By Eric Yonkey

The Goodland Daily News

A Caruso area sunflower plot that turned bad served as the example of sunflower production problems Friday morning during the annual Sunflower Celebration.

Roger Stockton, crops and soils extension specialist for Kansas State University, used the field as an example in his presentation, “Most Frequent Sunflower Complaints and How to Avoid Them.”

“This is a goof plot,” he told the nearly hundred sunflower producers and agri-business people present. “This contains the most common problems experienced by sunflower producers.

“The sample plot follows a wheat, sunflower and fallow rotation. In order to use the plot for this year’s Sunflower Celebration, the land was too quickly turned into sunflower production. The poor stand of sunflowers is mostly the result of weeds and drought.

“Only 3.94 inches of rain fell on this plot. (A similar test plot located only about a half-mile away has received 5.27 inches of moisture to date.) We see a lot of drought stress here.

Stockton prepared a pamphlet for producers addressing such topics poor stands, weed control, insufficient root development, over-irrigation and other problems.

Poor stands are often caused by inadequate soil moisture, he said.

“Sunflowers need more moisture to germinate and emerge than anything else you grow,” he added.

Inaccurate seed placement and wrong size of seed for planter mechanisms, soil-borne pests and pathogens, and residual herbicide from the previous crop, are among other factors that cause poor stands. And hungry ground squirrels often dig up seeds around the perimeter of sunflower fields.

Weeds can be caused by inadequate weed control in the previous crop or fallow, insufficient rainfall to activate herbicide, or too much space between plants. The “goof plot” received insufficient rainfall to activate herbicide, he said.

Insufficient root development is most often caused by soil compaction in the plow pan.

“Seventy-five percent of the fields I have examined in over two years have a root-restricting v-blade plow pan beginning three or four inches below the surface and extending three to six inches thick,” Stockton said. “The only way to correct this is to put a steel shank at least one inch deeper than the low pan.”

Abundant early season soil moisture encourages lateral root growth more than vertical, he said, and removal of plow-pan barriers improves water infiltration and roots will grow toward moisture as it moves down into the soil.

Over irrigation produces beautiful, large plants with yield no better than dry land production, Stockton said. Sunflowers should be pre-watered to at least 80 percent full soil profile to insure good germination and stand, he said. No irrigation should occur until bud formation starts. This will encourage good root development, he said, and ensure that the soil can absorb any seasonal rainfall. No more than four inches of irrigation should include in the first bloom stage.

“Irrigation should be stopped while flowers are blooming so that pollen won’t be washed off, resulting in unfertilized seeds,” he said. “Irrigation can resume at R6 as needed. Six to 12 inches

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Crowning the sunflower princess



Sunflower Princess Adison Avelar was crowned by last year's princess, Chelsea Schroller, with help from Scott Schroller, Chelsea's dad and general manager of Wal-Mart, which was co-sponsor of the event Saturday at Chambers Park. (More photos on Page 7.)

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News



Volunteers from the city and rural fire departments provided the power for 247 ping pong balls to “race” down Main Street from 10th to 8th on Saturday during the Sunflower Festival.

Photo by Reagan Smith/The Goodland Daily News

County commissioners to review department budgets

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

In something of a marathon session the Sherman County Commissioners plan to meet with all county department heads beginning at 8 a.m. Tuesday to review the budgets for next year.

Before they actually get into the budgets, the commissioners will meet with rural Fire Chief Kenneth Griffith in a closed session to discuss personnel.

The commissioners also plan to discuss the hospital’s proposal for an emergency medical training contract. The decision was delayed to get information from Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, on how much air ambulance operator Eagle Med is willing to contribute.

What remains is to be split between the county, the hospital and the hospital foundation.

Rick Billinger, owner of Nationwide Mobile Home Sales, will be asking the commissioners to split a piece of land out of the Gibson’s delinquent taxes to allow him to take ownership of the property. At the time Gibson’s went into bankruptcy, Billinger says, he was in the midst of purchasing a piece of land on the east edge of the Gibson’s property, and had made a payment.

When the property went into bankruptcy, Billinger was told by the bankruptcy lawyer that they would consider completing the sale if the county would release that piece of land from the delinquent taxes.

Billinger approached the commissioners about the matter last year, but they declined to split out the property.

Getting the budgets together, County Clerk Janet Rumpel said it looks like the county is in good shape, and depending on the reviews by the commissioners, there does not appear to be any need to increase taxes. Rumpel is optimistic there may be a small decrease in the county tax levy based on the figures she has compiled.

The first of the department heads to discuss their budget will be Dorendo Harrel of the county health department. She will be followed by Curt Way of the road and bridge and landfill.

County Appraiser Terry Ballard is next to be followed by Carol Arm-

strong, register of deeds. Sheriff Doug Whitson is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to review his budget, followed by Treasurer Shelby Miller. Then noxious weeds and the special prairie dog budget will be reviewed with Daryl West.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby will review her budget before lunch. After lunch, the commissioners will review the county clerk and election budgets with Rumpel.

Once the main departments are completed, the commissioners will review the remaining small budgets for the historical society, Soldiers Memorial Park (Smoky Gardens), senior citizen centers in Kanorado and Goodland and the senior meal sites for Kanorado and

Goodland, the fair, library, Area Agency on Aging, Silverhaired Legislature, extension, family shelter, soil conservation, rural fire district, substance abuse and the district court.

The commissioners much also decide on how to divide the health services budget.

The money, which comes from the special county sales tax, is used to fund hospice, county health, ambulance service, mental health, mental retardation, doctor recruitment and hospital equipment.

The commissioners meet in the commissioner room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, on Broadway Avenue south of Eighth Street.

Queen crowned at park

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

About 200 people gathered in Chambers Park to see the sunflower queen and princess crowned and to enjoy the entertainment of the talent show as part of Goodland’s annual Sunflower Festival on Saturday.

Sunflower Queen was Shayla Matthews, 10, daughter of Jo Ann Matthews of Goodland. The only candidate for queen, she raised \$439 for Pioneer Park despite having no competitor. Shayla was crowned by last year’s queen, Page Seeger.

The princess crowned was Adison Avelar, 2, daughter of Poncho and Tara Avelar of Goodland. She was crowned by last year’s princess, Chelsea Schroller with help from her dad, Scott Schroller, general manager of event co-sponsor Wal-Mart, and her mother.

Other princess candidates were Amber Chaffman, 3 1/2, daughter of Yette Walden of Goodland; Bryclin Alstrom, 3, daughter of Amos and Toni Alstrom of Scott City, and granddaughter of Eddie and Terri Anderson of Goodland; Kelcie DeHoyas, 2, daughter of Ricardo and Mary DeHoyas of Goodland; and Kennedy Dinkel, 2, daughter of Bobbie Jo and Tim Dinkel of Goodland.

The queen competition was open to girls ages 6-10, and the princess competition to girls ages 2-5. Winners were chosen based on who raised the most money for Pioneer Park. The total raised by the six girls was \$1,031, the most money ever raised by the Sunflower Princess/Queen competition, said Jo Simmons, festival coordinator for the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

City Commissioner Dean Blume was on hand to accept a check for the money raised by the candidates for the park. He praised the girls for their fund-raising efforts and enthusiasm.

“I want to thank all the girls who raised this money,” he said. “They’ve shown a spirit and interest in what the city is doing.”

The competition has been for the last five years, Simmons said, and has raised money for such causes as the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter, a boy needing cancer treatment, the carousal at the home-owned carnival and the kids’ pool at Steever Water Park.

Following the crownings, Sabrina Twombly introduced a talent show that kept the crowd entertained for the afternoon. Twombly arranged the show, which included performances by her, Alyssa Mason, Tammy Terry, Amanda Hoffman, Daniel Blake, Megan McCall, Erinn Hardy, Darin Richardson and Michael Smith.

Twombly and Hardy performed duets, and Richardson was in charge of the sound for the program. The trailer used for a stage was provided by the Goodland Development Corp., she said.

See QUEEN, Page 4