

weather
report

58°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:32 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:33 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:31 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 54 degrees
- Humidity 72 percent
- Sky cloudy and overcast
- Winds southwest 17-23 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.25 inches and steady
- Record High 80° (1941)
- Record Low -3° (1955)

Last 24 Hours*

High	68°
Low	37°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly cloudy, low 30s, winds south 10-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly cloudy, 30 percent chance of rain, high 60s, low 40s, winds south 5-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Sunday and Monday: cloudy and colder, 40 percent chance of rain, high 50s, low 30s.

(National Weather Service)

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

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.58 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.54
Corn — \$1.99 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.83
Loan deficiency payment — 16¢
Milo — \$1.69 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.79 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.82
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.10
Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.25 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.41
Confection current — inquire
Pinto beans — \$19 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon
wireLate news
from the
Associated
Press

1 p.m.

Terror chief
may be dead

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. warplanes struck positions near the Taliban's two principal remaining strongholds today, the first day of Ramadan.

In Washington, U.S. officials said Osama bin Laden's military chief was believed to have been killed in an American airstrike.

The military chief, Mohammed Atef, was No. 3 to bin Laden, and his daughter was married to bin Laden's son. U.S. officials suspect him of involvement in the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon as well as the bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

The latest bombardment of Kandahar in the south and Kunduz in the north came despite earlier calls from some Muslim nations — including key ally Pakistan — for restraint during Islam's holy month.

Water plan 'best idea for economy'

Drafters believe
we can conserve

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

A new state plan to lengthen the useful life of the Ogallala Aquifer has taken some heat, but a Goodland banker and the manager of the regional water office in Colby say it's the best way to conserve water without ruining our economy.

Larry McCants, president of the First National Bank, and Wayne Bossert, manager of Groundwater Management District No. 4, were members of two committees formed by the Kansas Water Office to find a solution to water level declines in the aquifer — the main water source

for western Kansas and much of the High Plains.

McCants is one of 15 people on the aquifer management committee, a group of western Kansans who work with water and were responsible for devising the proposal. Bossert is on a 16-member technical committee, which reviewed groundwater data and fed information to the management committee.



Larry McCants



Wayne Bossert

After six months of meetings, the committees presented a voluntary, incentive-based plan to the Kansas Water Authority last week. The authority approved the plan, but it will have to be scrutinized by lawmakers and the public before it's added to the 2004 state Water Plan.

Debate over the conservation program, which drafters call "flexible" and "general," started immediately.

Critics of the proposal — which relies on financial and technical rewards instead of rules to motivate farmers to use less water — say it won't do much to cut groundwater depletion because it was written by the same irrigators who need the aquifer to make a living.

Bob Hooper, chairman of the Solomon Basin Advisory Committee, said the irrigators who helped develop the plan can't be trusted because they need the water like an alcoholic needs a drink. "What we have here is an addiction," he said.

"There are always promises to quit...All these guys are addicted and trying to deal objectively with the issue."

Some opponents say the only solution is to order "zero depletion," or the point where there is as much water going into the aquifer as is being pulled out.

Living in an agriculture-dependent area where not much water seeps back into the aquifer, McCants said that's not the answer.

"It would be a disaster in western Kansas," he said. "It would disappear overnight. We would all have to pack up our tents and leave."

Increased awareness and higher fuel costs have already cut water use considerably, McCants said, adding that he doesn't think farmers would respond to regulations.

"Kansans will do most of anything you ask

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Holiday events
stuff weekend

Fairs, Santa visit, parade planned

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

What do two craft fairs, Santa and Mrs. Claus, a parade and free movies have in common?

They are all part of the Holiday Opening celebration in Goodland this weekend, that's what.

The Nu Phi Mu and We Did It craft fairs both are being held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Santa and Mrs. Claus will make their first appearance in Goodland during the annual Holiday Parade, which begins at 4 p.m. Saturday on Main Avenue, and free movies will be shown at the Sherman Theatre at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The We Did It craft fair will be held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars while the Nu Phi Mu craft fair is at the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

There will be about 30 crafters at the Veterans Hall, organizer Judy Stroup said, and about 85 percent of them have been the same each year. The crafters

come from Colorado and Kansas, she said, with some from Goodland, Colby, Tribune, Hoxie, Bird City, Grainfield and Monument.

The crafters, Stroup said, will bring woods, homemade baby books, paintings, candles, shirts, ceramics and "junk art," a type of metal sculpture that involves welding pieces of junk together to make animals or other objects.

In its 24th year, the Nu Phi Mu craft fair will bring in 69 crafters, organizer Carrie Peter said. They will bring woodworking, dried floral wreaths, wooden Christmas decorations, Christmas ornaments, jewelry and paintings, she said.

Admission is free at both craft fairs. The We Did It fair will have kettle corn for sale while the Nu Phi Mu fair will have a lunch counter and has baby-sitting available.

The Goodland Ambassadors are

See HOLIDAY, Page 7

Students prepare
to get technical

Doug Wagoner (above, left), a junior at Quinter High School, and Kyle Metcalf, a senior at Quinter, looked at pictures showing the process of rebuilding a 1937 Chevy Coupe and a 2000 Chevy Silverado at the Northwest Kansas Technical College's tech expo on Friday. Luke Linin (right, far right in photo), a second-year auto body student, explained to the students how he rebuilt the vehicles. Linin, who plans to go into auto body or custom work, said the coupe took three years and the pickup only six weeks. Between 400 and 450 high school students, parents and other guests from around northwest Kansas visited the college campus on Thursday and Friday for the annual expo.

Photos by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News



Trash bill increase on city agenda

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland City Commission will vote on an ordinance assessing a solid waste tipping fee for the city at its regular meeting Monday, a move which would increase monthly trash bills for homes and businesses.

The city fee is needed to pay a tipping fee established by Sherman County commissioners for the new landfill. The county set the \$35-per-ton fee to encourage people to cut down the amount of trash sent to the landfill. Commissioners plan to cut the county's \$150-per-year solid waste fee assessed on property tax bills in the future.

The commission will try to figure out what to do about replacing the street lights on K-27 and will hear estimates on the cost of a street striper at the meeting, which begins at 5 p.m. at the City Administration Building.

City Manager Ron Pickman told the commission at the Nov. 5 meeting that the contractor working on K-27 had damaged the bases after light poles on

the highway were moved during construction this summer.

The commissioners had talked about putting the poles back in the original bases to save money rather than starting over with new bases. That will not be possible, Pickman said, as the bases have been damaged.

He gave the commission an estimate of \$21,113 plus \$5,000 for four weeks of labor to replace the street lights. The commissioners suggested lighting only the east side of intersections along K-27 rather than the whole street to save money.

Public Works Director Ed Wolak said he would look into some options and bring back estimates at the next meeting.

At the Nov. 5 meeting, Commissioner Curtis Hurd said he had talked to County Commissioner Kevin Rasure about having the city and county purchase a street striping machine together.

The county is looking at paying around \$80,000 for someone to stripe

U.S. 24, he said, and thought it may be cheaper to purchase a striping machine. The city also has streets that need to be striped, he said, and may benefit from sharing the purchase with the county.

In other business:

- The commission will approve an agreement with the county covering the joint recreation department and discuss an agreement with the county for recycling.

- Schyler Goodwin will talk to the commissioners about the grant writer program that has been proposed to bring money to the city, county and school board, with all three sharing the cost.

- The commission will appoint representatives to the city/county recreation advisory board.

- The commission will consider an occupational use permit for Pamela Galindo to operate a daycare at 521 W. 15th Street.

- The city manager will talk to the commission about an invitation from Utilicorp for a joint city/county dinner.

Elementary schools
celebrate book week

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

Students at North, Central and West Elementary schools and Grant Junior High are participating in the 82nd observance of National Children's Book Week.

The week, sponsored by the Children's Book Council, runs from Monday through Sunday. Educators, librarians, booksellers and families have celebrated book week during the week before Thanksgiving since 1919.

Students at Central and North had special activities all week. They drew posters illustrating parts of the book *Stone Fox* by John Gardiner for a contest. Michael Ledesma won the contest at North and Dane Frazier won at Central.

Monday, they made miniature sleds like Little Willy rode in his race in Gardiner's book "Stone Fox." The activity was called "Slide into Reading."

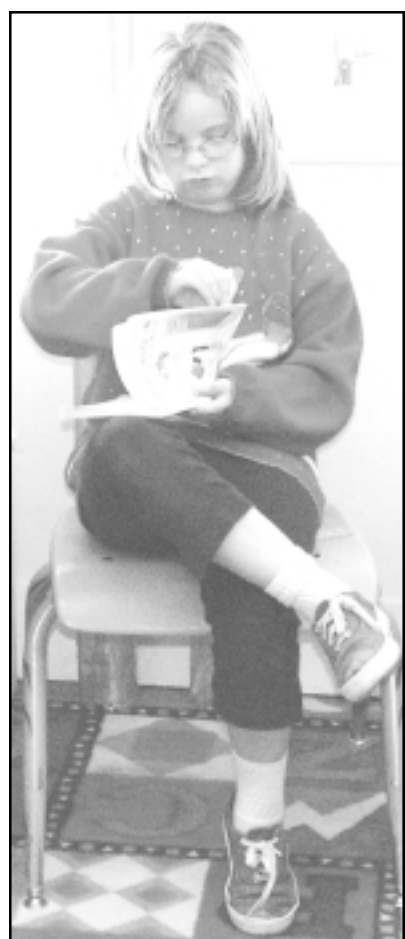
Tuesday, the kids participated in "Get Drawn into Reading," which involved drawing a picture of their favorite dogs because in "Stone Fox," Little Willy's dog Searchlight was an important character.

Wednesday's activity was "Dig up a Good Book." Grandfather and Willy made a living potato farming in "Stone Fox." The cooks had a potato bar for lunch.

Gardiner himself talked at the two schools Wednesday, encouraging the students to write. Everyone has a story to tell, he said, and sometimes the best stories are about a loss or failure.

Anyone who has ever experienced difficult times has a struggle to write about, he said, with a surprise ending. That's because in real life, he said, endings are not predictable.

Thursday's activity was "Have a Pow Wow Reading." Since the charac-



Cappi Thomas sat down to read a book that she chose as part of the Reading is FUNDamental program at Central Elementary on Thursday. Third graders at the school each got a free book as part of the program.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Daily News

ter Stone Fox was an Indian, fourth graders read Indian stories to third graders.

Today's activity is "Hey! Hey!"

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