

weather report

59°

noon

Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 7:46 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:39 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:47 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 60 degrees
- Humidity 60 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds south at 10 mph
- Barometer 29.83 inches and falling
- Record High today 96° (1934)
- Record Low today 25° (1917)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 70°
- Low Thursday 42°
- Precipitation —
- This month —
- Year to date 5.65
- Above normal 1.9 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, high near 72, low around 50.

Extended Forecast

Saturday through Tuesday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, high near the low 70s, lows around 50. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 71.

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$4.55 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.44
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Corn — \$3.75 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.49
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Milo — \$7 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$6.54 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.44
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - NuSun crop — \$16.25
 - Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowgirls run at Oberlin

Kaylee Billinger ran the 400-meter race at the Decatur Community Invitational track meet Tuesday. She finished sixth in 1 minute, 7.51 seconds. See story, photo on Page 11.

Burlington to open veteran's clinic

By Tom Betz

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A Veterans Affairs outreach clinic will be opening in Burlington, not Goodland or Yuma, Colo., government officials announced Tuesday.

The Denver regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs said a contract for a community outreach clinic has been awarded to the Burlington hospital. It should be open the clinic by October.

Ken Baum, former Goodland American Legion commander, and one of the leaders in the effort to get the clinic here, said the decision was terrible news, but at least Burlington was closer than going to Yuma. Burlington is 35 miles away while Yuma is 112 miles.



Jolly



Moran

"I was afraid it was politics," Baum said. "I feel we did the best we could to get it here. We offered them everything they wanted."

"It is better than not having one. I figured if we did not get it, the decision would be politics to keep it in Colorado. It is disappointing it is not going to be here. We will have to

work on something to bring here." Baum said he was surprised the clinic would not be open until the fall.

"It's gotta be politics if they are not going to open until October," he said. "We would have been able to open it for them in under two months."

Baum said the decision means he has to go to Denver to the Veterans hospital in July rather than to a clinic here.

"We're surprised and naturally disappointed that our proposal was not chosen," said Jay Jolly, administrator at Goodland Regional Medical Center. "We believe our proposal provided the best overall solution based on location, facilities, on-site

services, health care infrastructure, community support and price."

Hospitals in Burlington, Yuma, and Goodland were asked to submit proposals for the clinic. A team from the regional office visited each site in early April.

The three expected a decision by the end of April.

"We are glad to see the VA taking a long overdue step to provide primary health-care services to the veterans in this region," Jolly said. "Goodland Regional Medical Center has been working with area veterans and our congressional delegation for over five years to bring attention to this need and persuade the Veterans health care system to address it."

"Special thanks are due to Sherman County veterans organization, Congressman Jerry Moran, who serves on the Veterans Health Subcommittee in Congress, and to Sen. Pat Roberts for their support and advocacy on behalf of veterans healthcare in rural America."

"If not for their efforts, the veterans of northwestern Kansas and northeastern Colorado would still be facing long and expensive trips for the most basic of services, and many would not receive those services as a result."

Congressman Moran said Thursday he was disappointed the clinic would not be in Goodland, but was

See CLINIC, Page 9

Traffic problems ease a bit on 17th Street

By Tom Betz

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Beginning Wednesday afternoon, traffic should again be able to turn left and go south across the railroad tracks at 18th and Cherry.

Darin Neufeld, engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates handling the project for the city, said the contractor has opened the east end of the street to allow people to cross the railroad tracks going south.

He said the one-way signs have been moved to the north so people can drive around and come down Arcade Avenue to 18th and then west to Cherry. There, drivers can turn left at the stop sign to cross the tracks.

He said it will probably be about six weeks before the other half of the street will be opened.

Midland Contractors are working on the intersection at 17th and Main, he said, with most of the storm drain work completed. He said two big manholes and cleanouts will be poured out in the center where the lines from the north and the west join together.

Neufeld said the curb and gutter work on the south side is nearly complete, and that the new storm drains should help cut down on the high water in the area. He said while crews were doing the work along 17th, several smaller connecting lines had been enlarged, and that should help with storm flows.

He said APAC Paving of Hays is expecting to start work on Caldwell Avenue in June, and is planning to have it repaved in seven weeks. He said that may mean the street is closed during the Freedom Fest over the Fourth of July, but depending on the progress, there may be a way to allow people into the fairgrounds parking lot to the south of the speedway.

Sherman County commissioners opened bids for repaving Eighth Street on Thursday, and Jerol DeBoer, owner of Penco Engineering of Plainville, said it appeared that Venture Corp. had the lowest bid over APAC by about \$1,000. The commissioners are reviewing the bids, and will make a decision at their meeting on Tuesday.

APAC won the contract for a mill and asphalt overlay on old U.S. 24, and is expected to begin work on that project in June.



Curb and gutter work on 17th Street has nearly reached Main as workers smoothed and finished a section in front of the Antique Warehouse on Tuesday. Work continues on the intersection at Main and 17th, which is to be completed by the end of the month. To ease traffic a portion of the street near the railroad crossing has been opened to allow two-way traffic.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

K-27 Paving to begin on Monday



Workers leveled a section of concrete Tuesday afternoon as part of a ditch liner being constructed about three miles south of town on K-27. Michael Terry, construction engineer for the state Department of Transportation out of Atwood, said the ditch liner was designed to carry the runoff water and prevent erosion from the

east. He said it was the largest ditch liner he has ever seen, but that after the new highway is opened the old road will be taken out and the area leveled to handle the water, which should allow the water to soak into the ground he said.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

The \$14.5 million rebuilding of K-27 that began last year south of Goodland has resumed this spring, with grading nearly done and paving expected to begin Monday.

Subcontractors are preparing the roadbed on a new location about 100 feet east of the old road.

Dirt work for a temporary roadway, called a shoo-fly, south of Goodland is in the works, said Michael Terry, construction engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation Area 2 office in Atwood. People will need to be cautious near this work.

"On the north end of the 13-mile project, just south of town, we will have some heavy equipment, including scrapers, which will be working near the existing roadway," he said. "They will be hauling materials, so drivers should use extra precaution when traveling through the construction zone. The scrapers could need to cross the roadway in order to move the materials back and forth, so we'd like the public to be aware of this."

Terry said a subcontractor, Sporer Land Development, of Oakley, may need to have flaggers protect some moves during this short phase of the construction on the north end.

Another subcontractor, Brown and Brown Inc. of Salina, has finished moving the piles of old millings south of town that came from a project on I-70 last spring. Crews mixed dirt with millings and fly ash to create a firm, six-inch roadbed.

Once that has had time to cure, Terry said, paving should begin. The

Deputies stationed at schools for security

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts and several deputies spent the day Thursday at the Goodland schools as a precautionary measure.

Sheriff Butts said he had been contacted by the school district after the Kansas Bureau of Investigation issued a threat warning Wednesday morning.

"I felt it was a good thing to have a deputy at the school in the morning, at lunch and in the afternoon," Butts said. "I spent the day at Central and it was a great way to get to know the kids."

"I am pleased the KBI was able to resolve the situation, and that it did not lead to any violence."

Goodland Superintendent Shelly Angelos was unavailable for comment, but the schools were aware of the threat and having the deputies in their buildings.

Kyle G. Smith, Deputy Director of the KBI, said in a message late Wednesday evening that the situation had been taken

See SCHOOLS, Page 9

See K-27, Page 9