

weather report

73°

noon

Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 7:55 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:30 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:56 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 69 degrees
- Humidity 42 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds south at 10 mph
- Barometer 30.12 inches and falling

- Record High today 98° (1996)
- Record Low today 29° (1930)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 73°
- Low Thursday 42°
- Precipitation —
- This month .02
- Year to date 5.67
- Above normal .43 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high near 82, low around 52.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Partly cloudy, high near 84, low around 55. Sunday: Partly cloudy, high near 84, low around 55. Monday through Tuesday: A 25 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, high near 79, low around 52. Wednesday: Partly cloudy, high near 73.

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

Team members spend day helping

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

Two members of the Sherman Community Emergency Response Team who trained last year got a call to Greensburg over the weekend to help with the cleanup and man the emergency operations center.

Richard and Amy Breininger said they joined the team about a year ago and took a weekend of training at Haysville last year. He said their first action was in the snowstorms in December and January.

Richard Breininger said Judy McKee, Sherman County emergency management assistant and leader of the emergency response team, called Friday to say they should stand by for a call.

"We got the call late Saturday morning to get a team down to Greensburg," Breininger said. "McKee wanted to go, but there was a medical emergency with her daughter..."

He said the couple drove down to Greensburg, arriving about 4:30 p.m. (Mountain Time). He said it was farther than they thought, about 240 miles by car.

Breininger said the deepest impression of the trip was coming over the last hill to the west and seeing the enormity of the damage.

"We... could see the whole city," he said. "We both said 'Oh my God.'"

"The pictures do not do justice to the amount of damage across the city. It was amazing to see all the trees stripped and cars tossed around and everything seems empty and



Breininger



People in Greensburg haven't lost their sense of humor, even though a tornado blew away most of their town, as the "for sale, open floor plan" sign showed when Richard Breininger of Goodland was there to help over the weekend. Photo by Richard Breininger

destroyed." He said police stopped them at the edge of the city.

"We had badges from Sherman County to identify ourselves," he said, "and told the police who we were going to check in with at the

command center. They let us through."

The couple drove to the command center, set up around the courthouse, one of the few buildings not flattened by the storm.

"The police told us we would not

have any trouble finding the courthouse because it was the only building standing downtown," he said. "They were right. It was amazing to see the courthouse standing in the middle of the destruction."

They checked in at the command

center and got a map of the area around the courthouse, he said. They were assigned to a yurt, an eight-sided tent.

"They gave us a brief orientation

See TEAM, Page 7a

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$4.55 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.43
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Corn — \$3.63 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.49
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Milo — \$3.33 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$6.96 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.92
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - NuSun crop — \$16.30
 - 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



Paving is underway on the south end of the 14-mile K-27 highway project south of town, and crews from Western Engineering, the prime contractor, were near the end of the east half of the first four-mile stretch on Tuesday afternoon. A "shuttle buggy" holds about 30 tons of asphalt — about one semitrailer load — and using a conveyor belt, moves the asphalt to the laydown machine to keep an even layer of about three inches of pavement. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Paving begins on K-27 south of town

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

The first layer of asphalt is going down on a five-mile stretch of the new K-27 alignment from south of the Smoky Hill River bridge to the Wallace County line.

Tuesday afternoon, a paving machine from Western Engineering, the prime contractor, was laying about three inches of asphalt at mile marker 157, less than a mile from the south county line.

Calvin Davidson, project engineer for Western, said the first layer, or "lift," would get the dirt base covered. After the first swatch reached the county line, he said, the machine will be worked back to the north to get the first lift on the five-mile section.

He said once the first lift on the south is done, he said, the crew will pave the nine miles north of the

bridge to the south edge of Goodland.

Michael Terry, construction engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation in Atwood, said a "shoo-fly" detour has been built on the south end of the job.

Once the first lift is done, he said, the contractor can tear out the old highway and tie the new pavement into the existing road at the county line.

Davidson said the first lift is one of five that will be put on the highway, which will have a little over 12 inches of pavement when done.

"They really build highways to last out here," he said.

To keep the paving machine moving, Davidson said, they are using a "shuttle buggy" to unload the trucks and move asphalt to the machine. He said the buggy can hold a semitrailer load of asphalt, about 30 tons.

As the lay-down machine was nearing the south end of the project Tuesday, at times the buggy would be waiting for a truck, bringing the paving to a halt.

Davidson said his crew, from North Platte, usually doesn't need the shuttle buggy for projects they do in Nebraska.

Terry said the depth of the asphalt is normal for a new highway project in Kansas. He said the first three lifts are about three inches each and the fourth is an intermediate layer of about 2.5 inches with a slightly different mixture. He said the final surface lift is about 1.5 inches with a finer mixture to give the road a smooth surface.

"When the highway is done, most people don't realize they are driving on that much asphalt," he said.

A shoo-fly at the north end is not ready for paving, Terry said, and the

grading contractor, Sporer Land Development of Oakley, has more work to do.

Once the north shoo-fly is paved, traffic will be detoured to allow the contractor to tear out the old highway section and tie the new pavement to the I-70 interchange at the south edge of town.

Paving will continue throughout the summer, Terry said, and should be wrapped up by fall. Up to 156,600 tons of asphalt mix will be applied to the new roadway.

Terry, who is completing his third year with the state, said he is glad he has been able to come home to work in engineering in northwest Kansas after graduating from Kansas State University three years ago. He said another engineer from Atwood, Matthew Wittington, is working on the K-27 project. He graduated from K-State two years ago.

Student's quote corrected

A story on Page 1 of the Tuesday, May 1, issue of *The Goodland Star-News*. Teen asks friends why they drink, quoted Goodland High School student Jake Kling as saying when he asked other students why they drink, they said "It's fun, they drink to have a good time, bond and have sex, make memories and finally, 'I don't know.'" What he said, Kling said, was they drink "to have a good time, bond and relax, make memories and finally, 'I don't know.'" □□□□□

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

High school, tech college graduations this week

Goodland High School's commencement will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse with Bill Havice, a Clemson University professor and Goodland alumnus, giving the 66 graduates a pep talk for the future.

Northwest Kansas Technical College will graduate 151 students at 1:30 p.m. today at Max Jones Fieldhouse. State Sen. Janis K. Lee, a Kensington Democrat and longtime leader in the Kansas Senate, will speak.



Cowgirls beat Pratt

Cowgirls shortstop senior Whitney Archer tagged out Pratt's Lindsey Forshee in the top of the second inning in the first round of the Class 4A Regionals on Monday. The Cowgirls won 6-0, but lost Wednesday to Thomas More Prep-Marian. See story, photo on Page 8a.