

weather report

89°



noon
Thursday Today

- Sunset, 8:17 p.m.
- Sunrise, 5:27 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:16 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 79 degrees
- Humidity 21 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds southeast at 10 mph
- Barometer 30.28 inches and steady
- Record High today 106° (1973)
- Record Low today 48° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

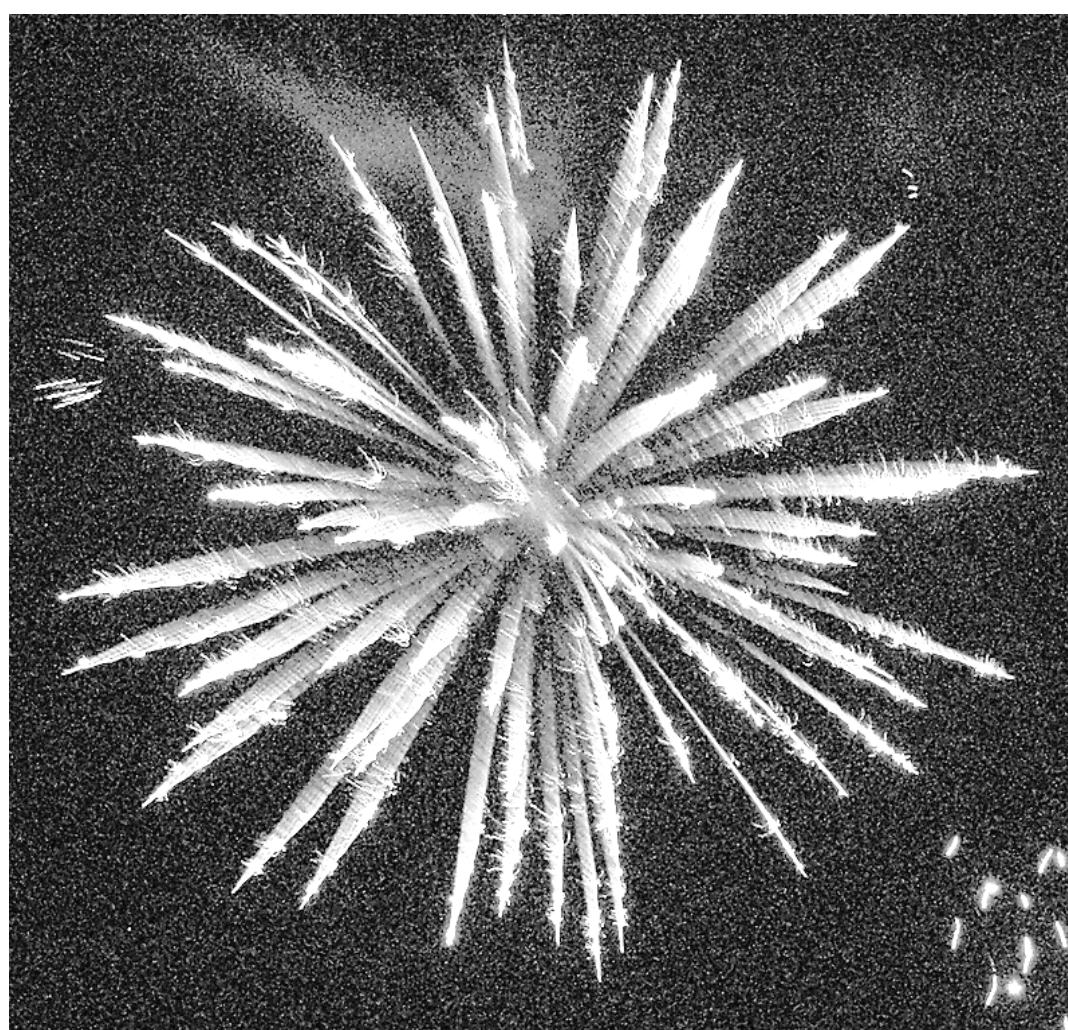
- High Wednesday 89°
- Low Thursday 54°
- Precipitation —
- This month trace
- Year to date 7.44
- Below normal 3.44 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, high near 92, low around 59.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Sunny and hot, high near 99, low around 63. Sunday: Sunny and hot, high near 98, low around 64. Monday: Partly cloudy, high near 92, low around 62. Tuesday: Partly cloudy, high near 86, low around 61. Wednesday: Partly cloudy, high near 86.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Flashes of color and light filled the sky over the Sherman County fairgrounds Wednesday for the annual Fourth of July celebration. Joe Diaz's fireworks company from Denver produced the show, which lasted about 20 minutes. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Crowds enjoy big July 4th celebration

By Tom Betz

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Mother Nature cooled things off a bit and kept the rains away to give the crowds a great evening to enjoy the 2007 celebration of the nation's birthday on Wednesday.

Long lines of parents and kids lined up at the carnival ticket booth when it opened at 6 p.m. to get their all-ride wrist bands and the 4-H Ambassadors did a brisk business selling hamburgers and hot dogs.

Goodland Rotary Club members sliced watermelons for the crowd until all the pieces were gone. Rotary Club President Dick Liess said Wal-Mart donated the melons.

Young skateboarders set up jumps and ramps inside the Agriculture Building and demonstrated their skills to let people see plans for a skate park planned for Steever Park northwest of the power plant.

Kim Bohme, a member of the Shine On Sherman County youth action team, said the kids have been raising money for the first part of the park. She said

they earned more than \$2,400 in the past month, but need \$30,000 for the project.

The band Blue Healers kept the bleachers filled with their classic rock music up to the last few minutes before the fireworks show at 9:30 p.m.

Vendors were set up to raise money for the upcoming Relay for Life program Aug. 10, the major fund raiser here for the American Cancer Society.

Carnival rides had long lines as families and kids took turns. Those that had been rebuilt in the past few months, including the Scrambler and Tilt-A-Whirl, appeared to work smoothly.

People got a chance to check out the new carnival building south of the fairgrounds, which will house the carnival prize booth and provide storage and a work area for the rides between fairs.

The fireworks show, produced by Joe Diaz of Denver, lasted about 20 minutes. The ground display included an American Flag that burst into light on a chute gate in the rodeo arena.

Around of applause and cheers capped the show,

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Kids of all ages waited in line to take their turn at riding the Ferris Wheel at the home-owned carnival at the Sherman County Fairgrounds. The rides were open as part of the Freedom Fest. Photo By Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$5.20 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.25
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Corn — \$3.25 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.02
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Milo — \$2.90 bushel
- Soybeans — \$7.67 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.39
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- NuSun crop — \$17.65
- Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scouler Company, 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



Workers from Sporer Land Development of Oakley poured the north half of the intersection at Cherry Avenue and 18th Street on Tuesday, then came back on Wednesday to pour the south half. Jerry Nemechek, engineering technician for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, inspecting the work for the city, said the intersection should be ready after curing for a week. Nemechek said the last sections near the railroad crossing should be poured next week. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Traffic returns to large section of 17th Street

By Tom Betz

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Driving down 17th Street east of Main became easier Wednesday, with the barricades removed and both lanes open all the way to the alley east of Caldwell Avenue.

Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, who is supervising the project for the city, told city commissioners on Monday the 17th Street project is down to the last few pieces, and should be done in the next two weeks. He said Sporer Land Develop-

ment would pour the intersection at 18th and Cherry on Tuesday and Wednesday, and next week pour the straight section from the railroad crossing to Cherry.

The last piece will be the Cherry intersection Neufeld said.

"We hope to have it all open by fair time," he said.

The commissioners approved a change order for \$36,925 for extra work done on the north side of the street.

"Budgetwise, we are still good, and are below the total expected," Neufeld said.

He said the extra work done by Midland Construction of Great Bend included changes in water lines and storm sewer lines along the north side of 17th from the railroad crossing to Main. He said additional manholes they had to put in at Main and by Hank's Cafe were a major part of the cost.

Neufeld said he has not received all the city department costs and will put that together for a report at the next meeting, but was sure the project was below budget.

The commissioners also approved a request for payment from

the sales tax fund to Sporer for \$203,581 and to Evans, Bierly for \$13,810.

Neufeld said the base work is nearly done on North Caldwell, and the contractor is doing the flyash this week to get it ready for paving. He said the firm, APAC Shears of Hays, plans to do the first lift of asphalt on Monday, July 16.

He said there may be a problem this weekend with the races at the Sherman County Speedway because the drivers will not be able to reach the fairground from the north or south on Caldwell.

He said there will be some extra signs to let the racing people know to turn at First and then north on Main to avoid most of the dips.

He said APAC is going to put down a tack spray once the flyash work is done, and the contractor will be blocking the road with equipment to discourage vehicles from driving on the new base before the asphalt is laid.

"With the tack spray, it will look black," Neufeld said, "but it won't be drivable."

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Race night on Saturday

Ricky Erickson of Peyton, Colo., worked on his modified race car before the June 16, races at the Sherman County Speedway. He finished 12th that night. Races will be held Saturday night. See photo, story on Page 12.

