

weather report

63°
noon
Thursday



Today

- Sunset, 6:59 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 6:27 a.m.
- Sunset, 6:58 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 63 degrees
- Humidity 78 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds north 16-24 mph
- Barometer 30.06 inches and rising
- Record High today 100° (1931)
- Record Low today 36° (1974)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	84°
Low Wednesday	56°
Precipitation	none
This month	1.05
Year to date	14.22
Below normal	2.61 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers, a high near 67, winds out of the east at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 55. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 78, winds out of the west at 5 mph and a low around 49.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 70 and a low around 44. Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 75 and a low around 49. Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 80 and a low around 49.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$6.71 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.58
- Corn — \$4.99 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.91
- Milo — \$4.31 bushel
- Soybeans — \$10.51 bushel
Posted county price — \$11.29
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$21.20 cwt.
- Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)
(Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean.
These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowgirls win at home

Senior Chelsie Gausman took a swing at the Goodland Invitational Golf Tournament Tuesday at Sugar Hills Golf Club. Gausman was the top golfer in the tournament, and the Goodland Cowgirls team won.

Flags lowered for Patriots Day



American flags flew at half-mast on Patriots Day, Thursday, in memory of the more than 2,700 people who died in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. While people stopped for moments of silence to remember those events seven years ago, a crew from Grasser Construction and Paving of Stratton, Colo., worked to finish an asphalt overlay of the Western State Bank parking lot. Grasser Construction has been the company working on the city street improvement projects around town.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Reading scores miss the mark

By Pat Schiefen

pjschief@nwkansas.com

Goodland schools did not meet the annual yearly progress target in reading for the second year, in the federal government's No Child Left Behind, Superintendent Shelly Angelos reported at the school board meeting on Monday.

She said the district is on "improvement" for not meeting the proficiency levels in reading. This is the second year in a row the district did not meet the targets in reading. The district met the targets in math.

Angelos said the English language learners subgroup within the district did not meet the goal in reading. She said the district's average was above the target but the English language learners subgroup was not. Subgroups within the district include all students, free and reduced meal students, students with disabilities, English language learners, Hispanic and English. She said a student can belong to more than one group.

She said one of the first things a district must do is form a district planning committee to be made up of a general educator, superintendent, site council member, special education teacher, Title I teacher, English Language Learners teacher and parent.

A letter to the parents of all students will be mailed out informing them of the status of the district and suggestions for parents of how to help. Superintendent Angelos said she was already working on the letter.

"We have to do a better job in test preparation for the sub groups who have problems," she said.

She said she called some districts who have been successful in meeting the annual yearly progress target and they said making sure the material that is on the test is taught and thorough test preparation is what they did. The tests being referred to

are the state achievement tests given to all students from third to eighth grade. In high school students can take the test twice.

Angelos said formative assessments will let them know where students need help to perform. Under No Child Left Behind all students must be proficient by the year 2014. In the school year of 2007-2008 75.6 percent of students must be proficient in reading for kindergarten through eighth and 72 percent for high school and 72 percent for the district. In math 73.4 percent of kindergartners through eighth graders must be proficient and 64.6 percent in high school and 64.6 percent for the district.

The 2008-2009 targets are in 70.7 percent in reading for kindergarten through eighth grade and 77.8 percent in math. The high school targets are 76.7 percent in reading and 70.5 in math. The targets for the overall district is 76.7 percent in reading and 70.5 in math.

Eventually, if a school does not meet the proficiency levels, the school could lose its federal money.

Board member Amy Sederstrom suggested that for the board's second meeting of each month the teachers and administrators from one building at a time let the board know what strategies were being used to improve scores.

In previous years, the board went to each of the schools and they gave a presentation for the board. She thought the presentations could be done at the Administration Building. Sederstrom and board member John Hendrich thought that could be done at the administration building. Board members Andrew House and Dick Short said they liked going to the schools. Board member Jane Philbrick said she didn't mind traveling to the other schools.

On Monday, Sept. 22, West Elementary School will give its presentation.

Time gets short for spending joint road money

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

The deadline for getting all the special road money spent is next week, and the Sherman County commissioners talked about more options on Tuesday with plans to hold a special meeting on Friday afternoon to approve the details and send out the checks before the Sept. 22 deadline.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the city and county will be looking at the total amount of money spent on the joint road projects, and next week the county will have to make sure the spending target is met so the county will not have to pay an estimated \$180,000 in interest penalty to the Internal Revenue Service under the arbitrage regulations.

The money was from the special bond approved by voters in March 2006, and is to be repaid by the one cent sales tax that has been in effect for more than two years she said.

In August, the county found out they have more than \$1 million to spend by the target date, and Commissioner Mitch Tiede said a large portion of that can be paid to the state to pre-pay the extension of the concrete paving project on

County Road 14 south of old U.S. 24.

Another option the commissioners have been exploring is pre-paying for rock to be used in the future to chip seal the new roads, and especially old U.S. 24 across the county.

Curt Way, public works manager, said he had talked to the quarry salesman, and estimates it will cost about \$100,000 to buy the rock for the whole project.

He said the problem is it will cost that much and possible twice as much to pay for delivering the rock. He said it will cost probably \$22 to \$24 a ton for trucking the 9,000 tons of rock the project will take.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, who is handling the Road 14 project from old U.S. 24 north to County Road 65, said the county could overpay the state on that project, and said the county could use the overpayment to pay for the trucking.

Rasure said bond attorney Kevin Cowan of Gilmore and Bell of Wichita, had agreed the county could use any money refunded after the projects have been completed to pay for

maintenance on the project roads.

Way said he could ask the quarry sales person about how to do it in a pre-pay situation. He said the quarry can only take about 20,000 tons out per year, and he did not think they would want to do all 9,000 tons at one time.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the county could get about 3,000 tons a year for three years and would be in good shape by the time the roads need to be chip sealed.

"Have that guy come and talk to us," Tiede said.

Way said he would see if the sales person could come on Tuesday, or the commissioners could call him on the phone.

"You have talked to him and he was OK with it," Tiede said.

Way said he talked to the salesman and the quarry plant manager.

Tiede said they can ask about pre-paying for all 9,000 tons if the quarry people can do that.

Rumpel said the city is planning to pre-pay the engineering and inspection costs to EBH for their projects.

The city commissioners are expected to go over a list of proposed projects at their meeting

on Monday to spend the estimated \$400,000 that is the city's share of the money.

Rasure brought up the seeding on Road 65, and asked about paying the road and bridge department for doing the dirt work for that.

Rumpel said she had talked to Cowan about that, and there may be a problem because the county road and bridge cannot contract out their work.

The county commissioners will review the options again at their meeting on Tuesday and at the special meeting at 1 p.m. on Friday.

The commissioners are waiting until Friday to see what the bids are on the Road 14 project which were to be opened on Wednesday.

When the figures are added up on Friday, the county has to have all the money and interest spent down to the 95 percent level, which would leave about \$200,000 to be spent in the next year.

Rumpel said that Cowan said any of the pre-paid funds that might be refunded in the future cannot be put in accounts where the money would collect any interest, and this money would have to be spent on maintenance projects within the next year.

Talent show needs more entries

If you dream of being a star, have a talent you'd like to show off for friends and neighbors or just want to work on your confidence and stage presence, the Flatlander Talent Competition is for you.

Entries are being accepted in three categories: pre-teen (ages 6-12), teen (13-17) and adult (18 and up). Prizes in all categories will be first-place \$100, second place \$50 and third place \$25.

A variety of entertainers are sought for the competition, said Sharon Corcoran, a Flatlander Committee member, such as singing,

musical solos or bands, dance, juggling, comedy or any other audience-friendly entertainment. The committee reserves the right to restrict the type of entertainment presented, though, she said, to maintain a family-friendly atmosphere at the Flatlander Fall Festival.

A panel of judges will choose the top three in each category, Corcoran said, and their decision will be final. The first, second and third place winners will perform on Sunday at the Flatlanders Picnic in the Park, and all awards will be handed out after Sunday's performances.

A "crowd favorite" will be chosen Sunday, she said, and the winner out of the top nine (three from each category) will receive an additional \$50 prize.

Applications can be picked up at The Goodland Star-News office, 1205 Main, and must be returned to Corcoran at the Star-News no later than 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19, along with the \$25 application fee.

Public address system, electric piano, microphones, amplifiers and stage will be provided.

For information call Corcoran at (785) 899-2338.

Flatlanders needs people

Can you make phone calls? Visit business owners? Stuff envelopes? Then the Flatlander Fall Festival Committee is asking for your help.

Lincoln Wilson, committee chair and member of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau board, asked the bureau for suggestions on how to get people involved in planning the festival.

The committee is looking for man-power or woman-power, he said, to help with anything, from small tasks to planning events,

any help is welcome.

"Maybe as a board," he said, "we can do something to promote others being involved, something that may have been tried in the past that worked."

Wilson encouraged members of the board to help with the planning. The festival will be from Friday through Sunday, Sept. 26-28, he said, and in the meantime, the committee is meeting at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday in the Harvesters Inn restaurant at the Howard Johnson Hotel.

Livin' is easy in a small town.

Try Goodland.

Brought to you today by:

102.5 FM KKCI
Best of the 70s, 80s, & 90s

KLOE 730 am
Full Service Radio

KWGB
97.9

