

Harvest!



Sunlight streamed through a bank of clouds and backlit a combine cutting wheat Friday evening on a Norman House field north of the railroad track and west of County Road 18. The wheat harvest was in full swing Friday with trucks lined up at every elevator, and some operators said they waited in line an hour to dump the wheat. Melinda Daily, Sunflower Extension agent in Wallace County said she knew the trucks were rolling over the weekend as she had been helping her husband. She said

it was estimated 80 percent of the wheat has been cut in Wallace county and about 60 percent in Sherman County. Reports have been the wheat is averaging about 50 bushels an acre with some higher. Rain showers have delayed some cutting, but the National Weather Service is predicting a dry, hot day today. A few rain showers are in the forecast for Wednesday and Thursday.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

City takes advantage of federal stimulus money

By Tom Betz

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Having projects ready and planning ahead paid off for the Goodland in the past year with the city receiving nearly \$6 million in grant money for construction.

The biggest project is the central collection of the water system and treatment plant that is estimated to cost \$5,766,895 with about \$2 million coming from the federal American Recover and Reinvestment Act. The project is underway, and expected to be completed by the first of next year or sooner.

City commissioners decided in December the best way for the city to pay for the water project was to borrow against money the city has in reserves, and will pay the money back at a cheaper rate than what it would cost the city to borrow the money from the state. Borrowing the city's own money would save

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more than \$1 million in interest, and reduce the amount water rates will have to be raised to pay the loan back to the city.

The Goodland water project was the only one in the northwest part of the state to be approved for the federal money through the state department of health and environment, said Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evan, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates.

Neufeld said last February the city had received a notice of grant award from the Federal Aviation Administration for \$404,133 to do work at Renner Field. He said this will

pay for the first phase of the replacement of asphalt on the crosswind runway with concrete at the taxiway intersection.

He said the city would pay 5 percent of the first portion of the airport project (\$8,511) with the rest of the money coming from the FAA. The project was bid in May with APAC of Hays being the lowest bidder and the project was underway by June and finished in October.

At the same time the city was notified the Kansas Department of Transportation had approved \$715,000 to do the second phase of the K-27 project with the project to be ready to bid by December.

Neufeld said the city would combine this with phase one of \$750,000 previously approved. He said with the second phase the work would replace the asphalt on K-27 north from the I-70 interchange to the entrance to

Walmart leaving the third phase to be done in the future.

Commissioners Josh Dechant and John Garcia made calls to the Kansas Department of Transportation in Topeka in the past few weeks to help get the third phase of the K-27 project moved up to bid in August. Plans are to have the whole K-27 project from the I-70 interchange north to the K-27 and Business U.S. 24 intersection completed this year. The phase three project will be a 75 percent federal money and 25 percent city match.

The first two phases of the K-27 project have reached the halfway mark as Smoky Hills has pour the east two lanes and is expected to reverse the detour the end of this week or first of next week and begin work on the west lanes.

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Cooling off to help relay fight cancer

Youngsters of all ages were enjoying Steever Water Park Friday evening as the \$1 entrance fee was being collected to go to the Relay for Life charity program. The Relay for Life will held Aug. 13, and plans are to hold the overnight event at the high school track.

Photo by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News



Commissioners question council about future plans

By Tom Betz

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Members of the Sherman County Economic Development Council met with the Sherman County commissioners Monday morning to dispel some rumors and talk about the upcoming property tax election on Aug. 3.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he was under the impression the council was trying to hire a director before the election results were known.

"What happens if the people do not sup-

port the mill levy and you have a contract with someone," Thomas asked. "Under the resolution creating the council the county commissioners are the final say because the person is a county employee."

"We have no intention of having a contract before the election," said Council Chairman Walt Linthacum.

Council member Mike Hamilton said he thought the worry was his fault as he had told Helen Dobbs, office manager, he hoped to have the interviews completed so the council

could consider who to hire. He said it was not his intention to do anything more than give a proposed timeline for getting the interviews completed.

Thomas asked what the council has been telling those who have been interviewed.

Hamilton said he has been telling the candidates the council has a mill levy election coming up.

"Do you think you have the salary and benefits in the budget," Thomas asked.

"I think we would have the money," Ham-

ilton said.

Thomas asked if the council was considering paying moving expenses.

Hamilton said it was something he had mentioned as a possibility, but no determination has been made by the council.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said she has been asked about the council plans and there are big numbers floating around the community. She said she has heard the council is

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weather report

85°

noon
Monday

Today

• Sunset, 8:14 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:32 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:13 p.m.

Middy Conditions

• Soil temperature 74 degrees

• Humidity 35 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds west 8-16 mph

• Barometer 29.86 inches

and rising

• Record High today 108° (1934)

• Record Low today 43° (1990)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 91°

Low Sunday 58°

Precipitation trace

This month 1.99

Year to date 12.72

Above Normal 1.11 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny and hot with a high near 99, winds calm switching to the south southeast at 5 mph and a low around 68. Wednesday: Mostly sunny and hot with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon, a high near 98 and a low around 62.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, a high near 89 and a low around 65. Friday: Mostly sunny and hot.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.12 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.09

Corn — \$3.22 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.49

Milo — \$2.93 bushel

Soybeans — \$9.04 bushel

Posted county price — \$9.42

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$15.25 cwt.

Confection — \$28/\$15 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 and views from your Goodland Star-News



Nebraska team wins

Goodland Outlaw Kevin Amthor was called out at home as he tried to score in the game against Borders. North Platte won the Levi Hayden tournament. See story, photo on Page 11.

