

weather report

43°



noon
Thursday
Today

• Sunset, 4:56 p.m.
Friday
• Sunrise, 7:01 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:56 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 33 degrees
• Humidity 36 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds northwest 8 mph
• Barometer 30.30 inches and falling
• Record High today 73° (1967)
• Record Low today -10° (1966)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 50°
Low Wednesday 18°
Precipitation None

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high near 50, low around 24, winds west 9 mph. Friday: mostly sunny, high near 59, low near 23, winds west 6-9 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: mostly sunny, high near 59, low around 22, winds south southwest 10 mph changing to east northeast. Sunday: partly cloudy with a chance of snow, high around 46, low around 10. Monday: mostly cloudy with a slight chance of snow, high around 26, low near 6.

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

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.67 bushel
New Crop — \$3.50 bushel
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.63 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.47
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.49 bushel
Soybeans — \$7.78 bushel
Posted county price — \$7.83
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$11.20 cwt.
NuSun — \$11.45 cwt.
Confection — \$19/\$6 cwt.
Pinto beans — Withdrawn
(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



New floor helps dancers

Holly Wilkening and Mara Kling danced Tuesday afternoon on the new dance floor at the Goodland Activities Center. The new floor, completed Jan. 8, allows tap lessons in the same room. See Photo on Page 11.

Future city system needs reviewed

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Future needs for the city water, sewer systems and the city streets were discussed at Monday's city commission meeting.

Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, was a visitor to the city meeting and said he wanted to give the commissioners an idea of future projects the city needs to consider in upcoming years.

"I know it is a little early for your budget process," Neufeld said, "but I wanted you to have time to look at these and to have an idea of the condition of the basic city systems."

Neufeld said the water system was not in overall bad shape, but that there was a continuing need to look at places where there are a number of water leaks. He said some of the problems downtown would be improved when there are separate water mains on both sides of the street. Presently there is one water main and it is on the east side of Main.

"The plans are to allow for a separate main on the west side, and we will bury the lines when we replace the intersections," he said.

The storm drainage system is not in bad shape he said, and the problem area downtown should be solved with the rebuild of the intersections at 11th and 12th. The next area is First Street east of Caldwell, and the other area is on 19th Street east of Cherry.

"We need to look at the plans for the sanitary sewer and make a decision about what way to go," he said. "The plant is still operating, but it is getting costly to repair."

"We know there are leaks in the sewer lines, but don't know where there is any major problem.



Park crew members Phil Erickson and Eric Smith were busy Tuesday and Wednesday scraping down the edges of Gulick Park as

part of an improvement program which may include addition of a sprinkler system. Photo by Greg Stover / The Goodland Star-News

"The lift stations are in need of upgrading, and two are at capacity. Some of these are at their end of life and the two on 19th are at capacity and need both upgrading and expansion."

On the city streets Neufeld said the city has requested a geometric improvement grant to improve Business 24 from the east exit (19) to Cherry, but he has not heard anything on this.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked if this would make it four lanes at Cherry

to provide a turning lane, but Neufeld said it would bring it to three lanes to provide a turning lane.

He said there are several spots on the city streets where there are serious problems. He said one of those is Caldwell north of Toelkes to the bridge north of the airport. The intersection at Eighth and Caldwell and the west end of Eighth about a block and a half east of K-27.

He said an overlay will not help the Caldwell problem either the section to the north or the intersection

at Eighth.

Another area is 17th Street from Railroad to Main.

He mentioned problems with the alleys behind the Main street businesses from Eighth to 13th, and that 25th Street from Presto to the street behind Wal-Mart is getting a lot of traffic and probably needs attention.

Neufeld said the city might consider a bond for some of these projects because the rates continue to be very low.

City Manager Ron Pickman said

there are other city areas where something will have to be done.

"Things keep breaking down," he said, "and they are not cheap parts."

At the sewer treatment plant they are having to replace a part that is about \$10,000, and there have been several other things like this. Pickman said they are about to get one of the power plant engines back in operation, and will have to begin work on another one.

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Caruso railroad crossing to be improved

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

As part of an ongoing effort a representative from Kyle Railroad met with the Sherman County commissioners Tuesday to ask for the county assistance to improve the railroad crossing at Caruso which is four miles west of Goodland.

Mike Garrett of Kyle said the plan is to raise the rails a couple of inches and to install a concrete crossing slab similar to those installed in Goodland at Cattletrail and Cherry.

Garrett said the concrete crossing is being stored in Goodland, but the plan is to install it in March or April, and he was asking the county for help in replacing the old asphalt approaches. He suggested the county could build concrete approaches about 40 feet long which would help keep the crossing in good shape.

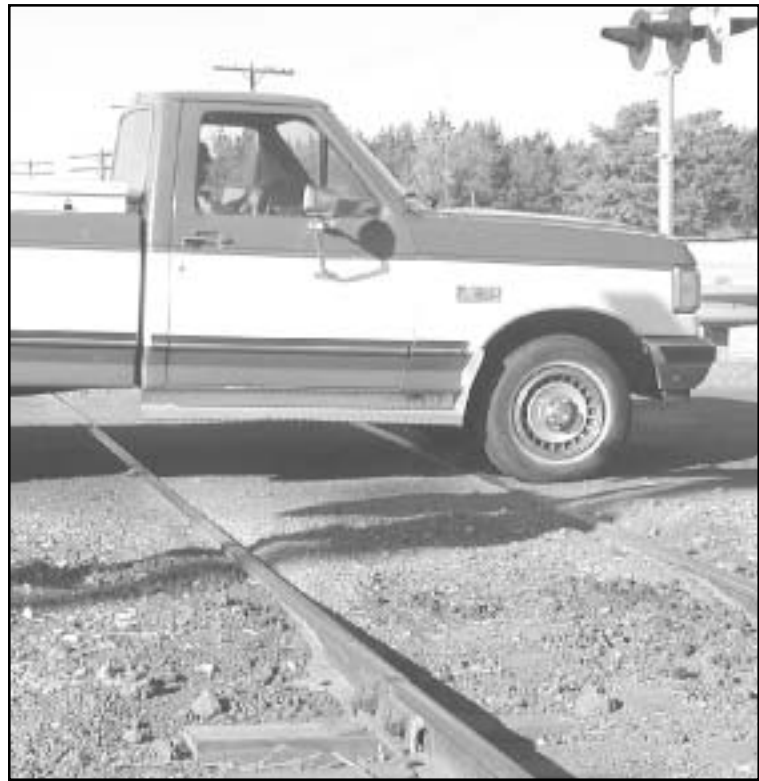
Curt Way, public works director, said he had talked to an engineer about the project and they suggested putting in a 32 foot by 40 foot approach on each side and that it would need to be 10 inches deep.

Way said he estimated it will take about 48 yards of concrete for each approach and that the cost of each side would be about \$5,000.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he felt the crossing would benefit the railroad more than the county, and asked Garrett if Kyle could help pay for one side of the approach.

Garrett said he would ask, and Way said he would check with the Kansas Department of Transportation to see if there is any money available to help with this project.

Garrett said they would have to close the road for about a week to replace the crossing.



The railroad crossing at Caruso is in need of replacement as this pickup showed Wednesday morning. Mike Garrett of Kyle Railroad talked to the Sherman County commissioners Tuesday about plans to replace the crossing in March or April.

Photo by Greg Stover / The Goodland Star-News

Way said he thought his road and bridge crew could help with the concrete work if the railroad could help tear out the old asphalt.

Way said there would be some cost for a saw to cut the asphalt on either side, but that would not be a large cost.

Tiede asked about the crossings at Kanorado and Garrett agreed those were in need of replacement as well, but did not say they were next on the list.

Way asked about the crossing east of Edson as another that needs to be replaced and Garrett said he would look at that for the future.

In other business the commissioners:

• Held a closed door session with Sheriff Doug Whitson on a personnel matter. No action was taken after the closed door session.

• Alex West approached the commissioners about the metal pile at the landfill. Way said he knew the

price of metal was up, and would take a look at this. West said he bought a new loader and wants to stay up with the metal pile. The commissioners agreed they would like to keep the business local, and Way said he would get back to West about this.

• Approved a release with Press Oil Investments for the seismic survey and oil lease of land at Caruso. The county received \$7,720 from Press Oil for the survey cost and the lease of the property at 22 cents an acre.

• Agreed to reduce the rent of the caretaker house at Smoky Gardens from \$125 a month to \$96 a month. Bob McClure, who is the caretaker had asked if this could be done rather than giving him a raise which might affect his Social Security payments.

• Approved paying Daryl West the

\$100 a month for handling the sewer district work through January.

• Discussed the issues that came up at the city/county joint meeting on Monday night, and Rasure said he would contact the Kansas Counties Association about ways the county can address the concerns.

The main ones raised at the meeting were about regulating types of businesses that could locate in the county, and a way to get advanced notification when people plan to build anything within two miles of the airport that might interfere with the federal height restrictions.

• Kenny Sanderson said he had moved 95 tons of concrete at Smoky Gardens to build the base of at least one of the piers, and that Sporer was to haul more concrete down to the lake this week.

Police follow leads, suggest locked doors

The number of reported burglaries in Goodland took a sharp rise a few days before Christmas and continues at a higher than usual pace.

Five burglaries were reported on Dec. 22 and four more reported over the next seven days. Eight more burglaries have already been reported between Jan. 1 and 16.

Police Chief Ray Smees said his department is working on the cases and are following up on various leads.

Burglaries have been reported at locations throughout the city, private and commercial, resulting in

estimated losses between \$15 and \$3,000. In many cases damage to property was reported, sometimes resulting in a greater loss for victims than the value of what was taken.

Smees said people should be more vigilant and call dispatch if they see suspicious activity in their neighborhoods and be more security minded by ensuring they lock their doors and cars.

A special meeting of Goodland's Crimestoppers will be held today at 10 a.m. on the second floor of the city administration building.

Taste of Home Cooking School to be at Max Jones in April

You've heard the expression "everything old will become new again" and that's just what will happen when Taste of Home Cooking School comes to Max Jones Fieldhouse on April 13.

We are planning a session on "Back to Basics" cooking said Margaret McCutcheon a home economist with the Cooking School.

Basic what, you wonder? "We are talking about basic cook-

ing skills — the classic cooking techniques your grandmother passed onto your mother and she, in turn, hoped to pass onto you," McCutcheon said. "If your menus consist of carry out foods and heat-serve entrees you might now regret that you disregarded Mom's 'lessons.' So here's your opportunity to see how easy cooking can be."

Come and join McCutcheon and

learn the finer points of good cooking.

Whether you need to brush up on marinating meats, tempering chocolate or phyllo dough techniques, this presentation will have something for everyone.

"People say they appreciate the cooking tips our home economists offer during the cooking demonstration," said Sandy Bloom, executive director of Taste of Home Cooking

Schools.

"We are sure the ABC's of home cooking will become a valuable lesson for audiences this season."

Everyone who attends will receive a primer for successful cooking, a free copy of the Taste of Home Recipe Collection. This full-colored cookbook contains about 150 unpretentious, family-pleasing recipes.

The Goodland Star-News is eager to host this tribute to traditional

cooking techniques.

"This program has the 'recipe' for success — helpful tips, an entertaining home economist, reliable recipes and lots of prizes," said Sheila Smith.

"Get your tickets early because you won't want to miss out."

Watch for details in the coming weeks.

Plan to get "Back to Basics" with the Taste of Home Cooking School