

weather report

39°

noon Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 7:52 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:33 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:53 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 70 degrees
- Humidity 79 percent
- Sky cloudy with light slight
- Winds north 18 mph.
- Barometer 30.17 inches and falling
- Record High today 94° (1941)
- Record Low today 27° (1953)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 58°
- Low Wednesday 41°
- Precipitation .22
- This month .22
- Year to date 4.56

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high near 67, low near 44, winds south 12-28 mph. Saturday: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high near 77, low around 45, winds south 7-29 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy, high near 83, low around 42. Monday: partly cloudy, high near 79, low around 47. Tuesday: partly cloudy, high around 77, low around 51. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.52 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.44
- New crop — \$3.52 bushel
- Corn — \$2.82 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.78
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$2.56 bushel
- Soybeans — \$9.28 bushel
- Posted county price — \$9.52
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$6.75 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$11.50 cwt.
- NuSun — \$11.75 cwt.
- Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$15
- (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



Band plays on despite wind

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Clothes pins were the prized possession for Goodland High School band members as they tried to keep the music on their stands in a strong south wind Monday night at Steever Park.

The band hosted its annual "Music in the Park" hamburger feed and concert, with over 200 people attending to eat and listen to the music.

People arrived with their chairs and arrayed in front of the stage, which used to be the kiddie pool at the old city swimming pool.

Clouds threatened from the south, but the band was able to complete the program and awards ceremony.

There was a box full of clothes pins, and some of the band members had to use a dozen or more to hold their music in place in the teeth of a 20 mph wind. Some of the music stands in the percussion section had to be held up or had extra weight added to the base to hold them upright.

Tremor Kizer, band instructor, opened the program with a number he called "Instant Concert." He said there were 32 different songs included in the selection, and that if anyone could name all 32, he would let them shave his head.

That got a laugh from both the crowd and the band members, because Kizer is bald.

The second selection was the "Grand Serenade" under the direction of Deandra Schields, the other band instructor. She said the piece was written for woodwinds and percussion, and at several points in the music, the woodwinds were playing notes with their mouth pieces, and the percussion used about every variety of cymbal, chime, gong and drum possible.

Schields said it was meant to be a fun piece. She said she had given the band the music two weeks ago.

The third piece the band played was "Yorkshire Ballad," and the final selection was "Haven Dance." The band played both at the state

competition where they received a 1 rating.

Following the concert, Kizer and Schields handed out letters and awards to the band members.

The jazz band played "Four," "Come Rain or Come Shine," "Just the Two of Us" and ended with "Sweet Georgia Brown."

Music in the Park is the final event of the year for the band.

Kelsi Ihrig (right) had to hold onto her music as a stiff south wind ripped at the clothes pins she had used to try to hold it down, while Tysen Lofland tuned the timpani drums before a Music in the Park concert Monday at Steever Park. Teacher Tremor Kizer (below, left) lead the high school band in the "Instant Concert" while teacher Deandra Schields (second left) played a piccolo.

Photos by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News



Pioneer Park waits for final state approval

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

When construction for Pioneer Park begins now depends on how fast the Kansas Department of Transportation will approve the latest changes made in the projects plans.

The department returned the plans to Goodland in March for revision. The project engineer, Darin Neufeld, of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, said he sent the plans back to Topeka on Tuesday.

The department is the last hurdle for the plans, which have already been approved by the Kansas Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Division of Water Resources of the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Kansas State Historical Society. Federal approval came from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Once the plans are returned to Goodland, a request for bids on the construction will be sent out. The contract will be for the entire

project, Neufeld said, requiring the bidder to arrange for any subcontracting, if needed.

City Manager Ron Pickman said it will take about 30 days for all the bids to be received, after which city officials along with Neufeld will review them.

Neufeld said construction could begin within days after the contract is awarded but there are too many variables involved to make any definite prediction.

The park will include about four and a half acres of land on the northwest corner of the intersection of Cherry Avenue and Business U.S. 24, across Cherry from the Van Gogh painting.

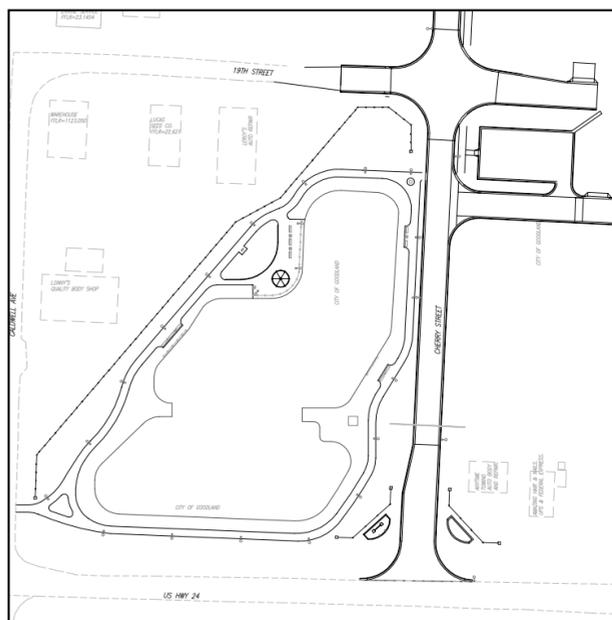
The park will feature a pavilion, information kiosk, phone booth, benches, and lights. There will be a walking trail following the outline of the park about a quarter mile long. The trail will lead to 18th Street and when combined with a sidewalk there which will lead to Steever Park, will offer a total walking trail

of about a half mile.

Pickman said the project was first proposed in 1998 as a water runoff pool combined with a hike and bike trail and about a year later expanded into plans for a park. The original plans called for a lagoon in the park but because of the drought the past several years and the need to save money, it was eliminated and replaced by a field of buffalo grass.

Neufeld said eliminating the lagoon saved between \$160,000 and \$175,000, and when combined with the cost of the accessories, that it would have been required to maintain it, the savings neared \$250,000.

The Rev. Gene Tromble said the park will attract people to Goodland by offering travelers on I-70 an alternative rest stop to Burlington and Colby, especially for those who have already experienced the Old Town, the Cooper Barn and other attractions. Tromble said the park will offer a relaxing atmosphere which could result in a greater chance for repeat visits.



Drawing of Pioner Park Plan submitted to the state.

Graduation is Saturday

Seventy-four students will be leaping for joy and crying their good-byes Saturday as they complete 13 years of school and make plans for their futures.

The class of 2004 will graduate from Goodland High School at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Nedra Elbl, a 1966 Goodland High School graduate, will be the commencement speaker. She is the daughter of Les and Betty Sutton of Salina.

Elbl received a Bachelor of Science degree in family and child development, a Bachelor

of Science in elementary education and a Master of Science degree in curriculum and instruction from Kansas State University.

She was the Salina Teacher of the Year last year and was a Kansas Region I runner-up for Kansas Teacher of the Year that year.

Elbl is a member of the Kansas Exemplary Educators Network and teaches second grade at Coronado Elementary School. She is the secretary of the Salina-National Education Association and is on the contract negotiations team.

West principal will be leaving

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

West Elementary Principal Jerry Burkett is leaving at the end of the school year to take a job as grade school principal in his home town of Burns, Wyo.

The Goodland School Board unanimously voted to accept Burkett's resignation on Monday.

Burkett has been the principal at West since the 1998-1999 school year. Before that, he was an elementary teacher in South Platte, Neb., for 14 years.

"It was a tough decision when the position was offered to me in my home town," Burkett said Thursday.

"It took a lot of thinking with my family. It was a hard decision.

"I hate to leave the people here in Goodland, but it is an opportunity I need to pursue. It is where my family lives, and my wife's family has moved to Greeley (Colo.), which will be closer."

Superintendent Marvin Selby said the search for a new principal would start immediately. People will be asked to submit applications by June 1, when the screening process begins. He added that applications will still be accepted after that until the job is filled.

Selby said the state Legislature closed its session without passing

any new measures for education. He said unless a special session is called, next year's school budget will be the same per student as this year's.

The superintendent said a projected drop of 35 students in the district next year could cost the budget \$122,000. He said the district had three options on enrollment figures to use for the budget: the current school year, the last year or an average of the last three years.

Selby told the board Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said she would call a special session if three state senators

Tennis team hosts tourney

Freshman Josh Cech hit a serve against an opponent from Colby last Friday at Steever Park during the Goodland Invitational tennis tournament. See photos and story on Page 10.