

weather report

61°

noon Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 7:37 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:05 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:35 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 67 degrees
- Humidity 47 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds calm
- Barometer 30.21 inches and rising
- Record High today 104° (1987)
- Record Low today 47° (1950)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	78°
Low Wednesday	68°
Precipitation	none
This month	1.02
Year to date	13.91
Normal	15.51

The Topside Forecast

Today: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening, high near 78, low near 53, winds calm becoming south 5 m.p.h. Saturday: partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high around 82, low around 57, winds breezy southwest 9-31 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers, high 84, low 59. Monday: chance of showers, high 82, low 61. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Kids theater stages 'Stuart Little'

By Kathryn Gurfinkel

The Goodland Star-News

Fluffing a few lines, unsure of their actions, the 15-kid cast of the play "Stuart Little" by E.B. White went through another practice last Friday.

"Try to *act* this time" play co-director Jessica Cole said. "I know it seems silly when it's just us."

With only two weeks left, the practice in the dimly lit high school auditorium looks a little unfinished, but Cole noted that the actors have just put down their scripts for the first time.

Although they may not remember all the words, they do know the story and follow its ups and downs.

"They are so talented," she said. "They just surprise me ever year."

The play is put on by Little City Productions; show time is at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, with a matinee the following day at 2 p.m.

For the past four years, Little City, in affiliation with the Summer Arts Institute of Goodland's Carnegie Arts Center, has been putting on plays. Kids who entering the third grade and older are recruited through the schools with flyers and sign up sheets at the end of the year. The cast this year includes only six new group members.

The junior thespians can participate in a workshop put on by Cole and Tina Goodwin, co-director of the play and director of the arts center. Cole said they learn acting skills through working on the play.

"We teach as we go," she said. "It's everything from staging to props. The kids do everything but direct."

She said they start with blocking positions and work their way through running the curtains and putting together a set.

This company has been practicing "Stuart Little" twice a week since June. Cole said the work is not easy, with each of the members taking on at least two parts and some handling more. Hazen Deeds plays Stuart, the main character, and Cole



Mikail Freeman (right) picked up his tool belt last Friday while playing the telephone repairman in a practice for the Little City Productions play, "Stuart Little" by E. B. White. Later in the practice, junior actor Hazen Deeds (above), playing the title role as Stuart the mouse, exchanges a few lines with Andrew Shores, playing Snowball the cat. Show time for the play is at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, with a matinee on Sunday at 2 p.m.

Photos by Kathryn Gurfinkel/The Goodland Star-News

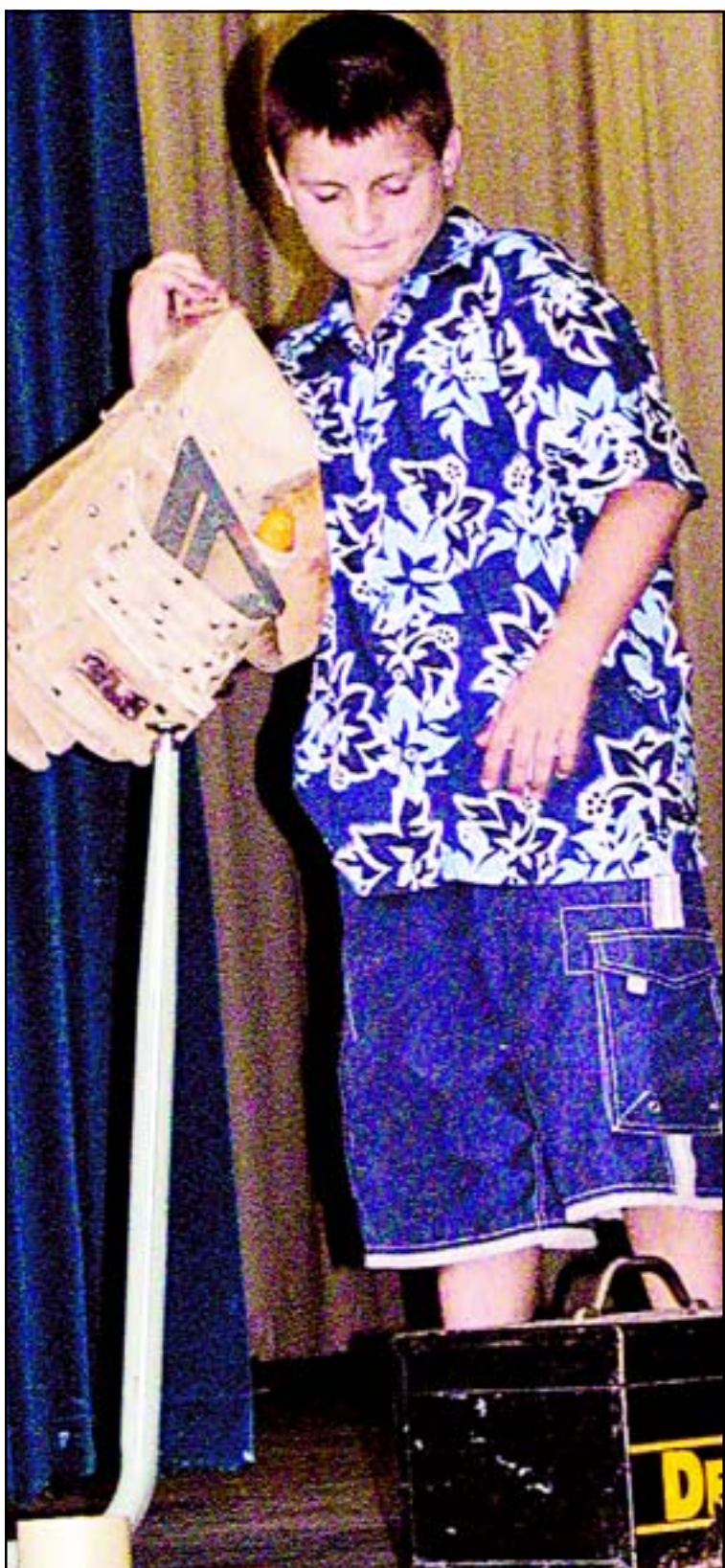
said he has a lot of lines to remember.

"We want to build self confidence for these kids," she said.

The young actors participate in the program for free and the show is free to the public. Cole said they take

donations to help with next year's play, but they get most of their budget from a grant which pays for rights to the play, scripts and props.

"Our goal, really, is for kids to get more of the dramatic arts," Cole said.



Main mile to get new 'welcome' flags

By Kathryn Gurfinkel

The Goodland Star-News

Main Avenue may soon be decked out in colorful welcome flags for special occasions, as the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau voted Tuesday to pay for one-third of cost for the decorations.

The flags have the word "welcome" written in black over a red, white and blue striped background. The waving welcomes will be mounted two per light pole on 43 poles that line the street downtown.

David Branda, owner of the Sher-

man Theatre and an advisory member of the board, already has purchased flags for the 1200 block of Main and flew them for the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

After two flags were stolen during the fair, he said he started pulling them down at night. While looking for replacements, he found several deals that dramatically cut the cost of the project.

Instead of the \$15 poles he originally envisioned for the flags, he said he found a deal that cut the cost in half. He also discovered when he

ordered four flags at a time, he saved almost \$2 per flag.

The savings cut the estimated cost of adding flags to Main down to \$1,300.

Donna Swager, chairman of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber board thought the flags were a good idea and would be willing to contribute a third of the cost.

"(The flags) do look really nice," said Swager. "It was a great idea."

Before they agreed to buy the flags, the visitors' board decided that to

decrease the risk of theft they would look into security measures. The flags poles can be set into already existing brackets on the light poles.

"It's very low tech," said Branda.

Board members agreed to either add a screw to secure the flag poles or raise the brackets to make reaching the flags more difficult. They agreed to clear the project through the city before erecting the decorations.

The flags would be put out as a special decoration during festivals and city events. Members agreed that if the flags look good and the

project goes well, they will look into adding more throughout the city.

Branda said he will work with the board to try to get the flags up in time for the Flatlander Fall Festival on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 25 and 26.

"I think this is a great idea," said Ryan Hagerman, a board member. "It will add to the community."

Although the price has been cut to a roughly \$435 for one-third of the project, the Sherman County Economic Development Council agreed to pay \$600 toward the flag project at their July meeting.

Veterans' open forum planned for Friday

Those who use the Veterans Affairs health-care system or might in the future, caregivers and the public are invited to an open forum at 9 a.m. next Friday at the Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 824 Main.

Congressman Jerry Moran planned the forum to give veterans in northwest Kansas a chance to discuss delivery of benefits and health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Moran and Goodland officials have been talking about establishing a Veterans Affairs outreach clinic in the Tri-State area, since veterans here often have to drive to Hays, Wichita or Denver for care.

Dr. Lawrence Biro, new director of the Veterans Affairs Denver region, which includes six northwest Kansas counties, will be at the forum.

"As the age and number of our veterans increase, so will their need for benefits and health care services from the Veterans Affairs," Congressman Moran said. "This forum will provide veterans an opportunity

to discuss their needs and the challenges they face with the regional Veterans Affairs director, who is responsible for their care.

"Our country owes a tremendous debt to our veterans. By hearing directly from them, we can do a better job of providing veterans with the highest-quality of care possible."

This is the third forum on veterans Moran has held in his 1st Congressional District; the first two were in Salina and Clay Center.

The Goodland Regional Medical Center and the Sherman County Economic Development Council have been working for the past two years to encourage the Veterans Affairs to locate a veteran clinic in this area to serve the veterans in eastern Colorado, western Kansas and southwestern Nebraska.

Members of Moran's staff will be on hand along with caseworkers from Veterans Affairs to handle any problems that veterans or their families may have.

All area veterans, as well as the public at large, are encouraged to attend.

Cowboys hit the field



Goodland High Cowboys prepared to hit the blocking sled Thursday morning during their first day of football practice in pads. The team's first practice started at 12:01 a.m. Monday. The Cowboys open their season on the road on Friday, Sept. 3, against the Hoxie Indians.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.79 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.84
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.34 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.95
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.85 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.66 bushel
Posted county price — \$0.00
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$4.75 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$0.15 cwt.
NuSun — \$10.40 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
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

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Mustangs open practice

The Lady Mustangs practiced the proper position for hitting and serving the volleyball Thursday morning at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Photos on Page 9.