

**weather report**

77°

noon Monday

**Today**

• Sunset, 8:01 p.m.

**Wednesday**

• Sunrise, 5:26 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:01 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

• Soil temperature 72 degrees

• Humidity, 48 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds, south 14-22 mph

• Barometer 29.94 inches

and falling

• Record High today 95° (1953)

• Record Low today 34° (2002)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High Sunday 81°

Low Sunday 50°

Precipitation —

This month 1.15

Year to date 3.86

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Partly cloudy becoming mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of afternoon thunderstorms. High lower 80s. East winds 10-15, shifting to northeast in afternoon. Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Some may be severe with damaging winds and large hail. Low upper 50s.

**Extended Forecast**

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. High lower 70s. Low in upper 40s. Thursday: Partly cloudy, high mid 70s, low upper 40s. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**

Wheat — \$3.11 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.81

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$0.00 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.87

Loan deficiency pmt. — 08¢

Milo — \$1.59 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.67 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.82

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.70 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$10.73

Nusun — \$10.70

Confection — ask.

Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)

(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



**Cowgirls place 10th**

Sophomore Stephanie Sheldon took sixth in a three-way tie in the pole vault, clearing 8 feet, 6 inches, in the regional track meet at Colby Friday. The Cowgirls finished 10th. Photos, story on Page 11.

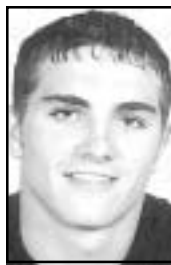
## Diplomas handed to 61 graduates



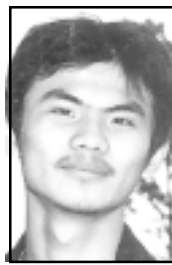
Bauman



Knudson



Raymer



Wang

Jill Corcoran and Lacey Ridder (top) played clarinets as the band played "Pirates of the Caribbean" at the Goodland High School graduation Saturday. Aubrea Winter, student council president, exchanged flags with Juan Velasco, a foreign exchange student from Colombia.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran  
The Goodland Star-News

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Stifling heat in the Max Jones Fieldhouse on Saturday didn't seem to dampen the mood of 61 graduates celebrating the end of their years at Goodland High School.

The graduates stood twice and applauded for their parents and for everyone who gave them support.

And their speaker, a 1959 Goodland graduate, surprised them when he pulled out black-and-gold pom-poms and sang part of the fight song.

The president of the Sherman County Alumni Association welcomed the graduates to the group. The valedictorian and salutatorian said their thanks and good-byes, and foreign exchange students exchanged flags with the Student Council president.

Some were teary-eyed, most were sweating, but all saw the importance of the ceremony as the finale of one chapter of life and the beginning of something new.

Valedictorian Richard Bauman said he had brainstormed ideas for his speech because he wanted to leave his classmates with some good advice. While brainstorming, he said, he realized he is not a man of many words.

He said he hoped his talk provided a good example: Let your actions talk for you, he said, because your actions really do speak louder than words. Bauman said Judge David Knudson, a 1959 graduate who gave the commencement address, had taken his idea when he asked the students to stand and applaud to thank their parents earlier. Bauman asked them to again thank their parents and everyone who helped them.

Salutatorian Derrick Raymer said he did research on the Internet and found that a commencement is when a speaker tells hundreds of people all dressed in the same outfit that individuality is the key to success.

Raymer thanked his parents, Steve and Debra Raymer, his sister, Stevie Lee, for helping him through difficult times; his older brother Donald for his example; his younger sister Samantha for looking up to him and being a reason for him to think twice about what he does; and his younger brother Dawson for being a huge inspiration and joy.

He thanked the teachers and coaches and thanked the band and director Tremon Kizer for making

basketball games more fun. And he thanked Dale Schields, "the voice of the Max."

Raymer recounted memories of playing football on the sidelines of Cowboy games as a kid and things he learned in class.

He mentioned the rough start the football team and students had when coach Tony Diehl was arrested a week before the opening game in August for setting his house on fire.

"Senior year did not start the way we wanted it to," Raymer said, "but the football team united and didn't let it ruin the season."

Then the season ended with a tragedy, Raymer said, referring to Michael Klinge, a freshman at Goodland High killed in a vehicle wreck Saturday, Oct. 24.

"Live each day to the fullest," Raymer said. "We never know when it's our time to go."

Exchange students Simon Wang of China and Juan Velasco of Columbia exchanged flags with Student Council President Aubrea Winter. When Velasco got behind the microphone, he said, "No English. Thank you very much," and stepped away. But he was kidding. Velasco thanked those who helped explain things to him he didn't understand, including football.

Judge Knudson sang part of the fight song, then admitted he hadn't been chosen as the speaker for his singing ability. And he said it was not for his academic achievements, because he got a lot of C's in high school. He said he was selected because of his life experiences and because the school budget wouldn't pay "for someone of real distinction."

Knudson earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1963 from the University of Kansas. He went on to Washburn University to earn a law degree in 1966.

He practiced law in Salina from 1967 to 1981, when he became district judge.

Knudson held the seat in the 28th Judicial District, serving Ottawa and Saline counties, from 1981 to 1995.

In 1995, he was named to the Kansas Court of Appeals, where he worked until he retired in July 2003. He has been a senior judge of the court since.

He said the graduates probably

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## County wheat crop needs some moisture

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Moisture — sprinkles, heavy rain, even drops of dew — is what Sherman County farmers are hoping, wishing and praying for to keep the wheat afloat this spring.

"The wheat crop is really under stress," said county Extension Agent Dana Belshe. "We need it to rain."

"We really need a rain just to help this wheat along," said Jeanne Falk, K-State agronomist for Sherman, Cheyenne and Wallace counties. "It's really stressing now."

Alan Townsend, who farms five miles west and nine south of town, said he didn't harvest any wheat last year but hopes things turn better dif-

### Rain gauge

Rainfall in inches as of Friday.

	Actual	Normal
May	1.15	2.02
April	2.12	1.51
March	0.25	1.20
February	0.25	0.44
January	0.09	0.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.86</b>	<b>5.6</b>

ferent this year.

"Last year we were completely done by this time," he said, adding that his wheat looks OK so far, but needs rain.

"It doesn't discriminate," he said.

"It affects everyone."

Although moisture is all the crop

needs, Belshe said it might be too late for some fields already. Some crops, he said, have dried out to the point of no return.

"What started off in the fall as one of the best stands in years," Belshe said, "will be a mediocre crop at best."

Heat and wind this week have sucked moisture from the crop, he said.

"You don't lose as much moisture if you're cooler," he said. "It just really hurts the wheat crop."

Because of the drought stress, Falk said, the plants are starting to roll up their leaves to conserve moisture. She said they lose tillers, or extra stalks, in an attempt to salvage what they can. The crops start to

look sickly, she said, and leaves start to die.

"We needed rain two weeks ago," said Townsend. "We're right to the edge now."

Logan Johnson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service here, said rainfall is 1.74 inches below normal so far this year.

"We are rapidly drying out this month," he said.

Relief doesn't seem to be within sight, either, with only a slight chance of isolated thunderstorms next week.

"It's just gonna be hit and miss," he said, adding that the pattern right now looks like summer.

Looking further ahead at June, July and August, Johnson said, the

forecast is for an equal chance of above or below normal rainfall.

Falk said right now wheat plants are at the heading and flowering stage.

"This is the point that makes yields," she said.

Belshe said some of the wheat is still doing OK under the circumstances, but in dire need of moisture.

"We've already been hurt," Falk said, "but rain will help."

Belshe said the problem starts with a lack of moisture in the root zone and above. The bigger the plants get, he added, the more water they need.

He said the lack of moisture is

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## Pioneer Park construction began Monday

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Years of planning and waiting are over. Construction of Pioneer Park began Monday, and should be completed in the next five months.

City Manager Ron Pickman and Darin Neufeld, project engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, told the City Commission on Monday the contractor, Miller Construction, has signed all the papers and work was to begin on Monday.

Neufeld said some dirt had been moved last week to clean out the silt from the main collection pond. He said contractor Mitch Tiede had cleaned the main pond, and will be doing the major part of the dirt work for the park.

### Art center requests \$2,000 from city

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

About 15 members of the Goodland Arts Council packed a City Commission meeting Monday to ask the city to continue the Carnegie Arts Center's budget for next year at \$2,000.

Center Director Tina Goodwin told the commissioners the arts agency is involved in the county's

tourism efforts, and has entertained many visitors over the past year.

She said the center continues its youth, through the year, including an after-school program and a Summer Arts Institute that drew nearly 200 kids last July. She said the center anticipates that many or

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Neufeld was asked how deep the new pond would be, and if there would be enough dirt to fill in around the Van Gogh painting to the east of the park site.

He said most of the dirt from the

pond will be used to build up the area around the outside of the park, but that if any dirt remains it will be placed on the area around the sunflower painting.

"There may not be as much extra

dirt as was expected," Neufeld said, "but from the Sunflower USA viewpoint it was not worth adding dirt to the area until the park work was completed. I know that if there is not enough dirt from the park project to

complete the landscaping around the painting, the Sunflower USA group will bring additional fill in to complete the landscaping."

Neufeld asked the commission to choose a brick color for the fence to be built on the west side of the park, and for the sections that will be behind the signs on both sides of Cherry Ave. The commission members had light brown and darker red samples to compare with the red brick that will be used in other parts of the park.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked Commissioner Annette Fairbanks, and she said she favored the darker red. Billinger agreed, and Commis-

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