

The Goodland Star-News

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Goodland, Kansas 67735

MIDWEEK
Tuesday, May 31
2005

75¢

weather report

57°

noon Tuesday



Today

- Sunset, 8:06 p.m.

Wednesday

- Sunrise, 5:52 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:07 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 55 degrees
- Humidity 69 percent
- Sky overcast
- Winds north 10 mph.
- Barometer 30.04 inches and rising
- Record High today 104° (2002)
- Record Low today 38° (1964)

Last 24 Hours*

High Monday	52°
Low Monday	45°
Precipitation	.80
This month	2.81
Year to date	5.52
Normal	6.92

The Topside Forecast

Today: Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before noon, high near 64, low around 50, winds north northwest 9-32 mph. Wednesday: Partly cloudy and breezy, high near 77, low near 52, winds south southwest 9-31 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly cloudy and breezy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings compiled at midnight

Pool remains closed

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Cool weather over Memorial Day would have chilled the opening of Steever Water Park, even without the holes and piles of dirt, but the park will be closed at least through the week as crews get new drain lines in.

Problems have cropped up — including that the splash pool won't hold water — even as workers tried to fix construction faults covered by a mediation agreement. Investigation has turned up the wrong grade of pipe, installed without apparent approval, in the deep drains.

The City Commission met at 8 a.m. Tuesday to consider repair options, then approved a plan to replace the deep drain lines and install a new manhole and pump to help solve the drainage problems.

The mediation agreement was reached after about a year to repair the kiddie pool and drain lines that ran under that pool. The kiddie pool has been removed, and the agreement is to determine how to replace the drain lines so a new kiddie pool can be installed. The problem at the splash pool was discovered after the mediation had been reached, and a separate solution was suggested.

"We're ready to go to work," said Joe Glassman of Glassman Construction, one of the contractors on the water park when it was built four years ago. "We would like to do everything while we are at it."

"We made a promise in mediation that when it was done, you would have a good project, and we would

See WATER PARK, Page 10



In remembrance of their service

Monday morning was rainy and cool as Arlo Hansen placed American flags on the graves of veterans buried in Goodland Cemetery. About 15 volunteers showed up at 5:30 a.m. on Memorial Day to help place more than 740 flags on veterans graves. Volunteers returned at 4 p.m. to help pick the flags up.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

City manager reflects on 10 years on the job

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

On his last day, Goodland's city manager for the past 10 years looked back on the successes he's seen and the challenges facing the city.

Ron Pickman came to Goodland about 12 years ago as the police chief, but for the past 10 years he has been the city manager. Friday was his last day on the job, and his retirement becomes final in June.

Friday afternoon, Ron and his wife Donna packed up their car and headed for their new home in Colorado City, near Pueblo.

"I wanted mountains and golf," Pickman said, "and I got the best of both worlds."



Pickman

He and his wife had been looking around the Pueblo area for a retirement house when they saw one in Colorado City.

"It was perfect," he said, "and had everything my wife wanted. It was a great find, and close enough to Pueblo, where her mother lives."

"It is close enough to the mountains, close enough to the city and close enough to good golfing."

He said the last month of work has been busy. In the past week, he worked with Tom Armour, the interim city manager hired by the commission, and City Clerk Mary Volk, on the upcoming budget.

"There are some tough decisions that need to be made this year,"

Pickman said. "Last year, there were tough decisions, and there are more this year."

Last year, he said, the commission raised water fees by \$1 a month, raised the sewer fees and raised the property tax by over 5 mills to balance the budget and provide a reserve. Later, an increase in county valuation reduced the tax bite to less than 3 mills.

One of the last problems Pickman was dealing with was repairs at Steever Water Park. The main pool is fine, he said but when they filled the slide pool, it was not holding water. Excavation and inspection showed one of the main drain lines had fractured.

"It is a beautiful facility in appearance," he said, "but the problems are what you can't see underground."

"We replaced the old pool because it had such a history of being a problem to the community. This is the only real chance to get it done right, and after the mediation, this will add to the complications."

Pickman said accomplishments he is proud of include:

- The new water tower and the water lines that were replaced.
- The brick intersection project, which has replaced the intersections at Sixth, Seventh and Eighth and Main. The bricks at 11th and 12th will be replaced this summer or next year, and the city is awaiting confirmation that a third phase grant has been approved to rebuild intersections at Ninth, 10th and 13th.
- The city has received \$11 million in state and federal grants over the past 12 years.

"I am really proud of the improvements we have made at the airport," Pickman said. "We are completing the new runway lighting, and the crosswind runway had never been lit before."

"I think part of it is the private development that has happened within the airport with the building of several business hangars. This is a great asset for the city."

A majority of the grants — \$6.1 million — have come to the airport over the past 12 years.

He said he was glad to see the Cherry Street project being completed, and relieved that Pioneer Park would be completed later this year. The Cherry Street project was through the state Department of

See PICKMAN, Page 10

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.04 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.03
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.96 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.90
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.59 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.99 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.15
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.70 cwt.
NuSun — \$10.70 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Confection — Ask
Pinto beans — \$25
(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



'Electrified' man recovers

Jim Backes uses a motorized scooter to get around since being "electrified" last month. Bandages on his feet cover sores the size of quarters and half dollars that are half an inch deep. Story, photo on Page 3.

Kids enjoy day at the farm

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

West Elementary students had plenty to say as they toured a real farm Tuesday.

"Cool!"

"They're like stuffed animals, only their heads move."

"Woah!"

The comments produced more than a few smiles among teachers, volunteers and Farm Bureau members guiding the tour.

Greg and Amy Sederstrom opened up their farm to the students for West Elementary's second annual Agriculture Day for elementary students.

"I hope they get an appreciation for agriculture," said Greg, "a knowledge of what agriculture is."

As a long line of buses deposited kids, some got their first up-close look at a farm.

"Neat!"

"Wow!"

The day was a mixture of learning and fun, as students saw live animals and real crops.

One station gave them a chance to take a spin on a tractor. Every student had a turn going up and down Road 16 in front of the Sederstroms' house.

"I wanted to ride the green one," said Desmond Purvis, a Head Start student at West.

When his teacher, Nona Mason, asked

where he went on the tractor, though, he wasn't really sure.

"Nowhere," he said.

Another student said the tractor can drive and steer itself and has air conditioning.

Students touched big buckets full of sunflower seeds, corn, soybeans, milo, wheat and oats at one station.

At the sunflower station, volunteers taught students the difference between confectionery seeds, those for eating, and oil seeds. Students learned that to make oil, the seeds are crushed, shell and all.

The soybean station featured soy products like candles, lotions, soy nuts and a mason jar filled with biodiesel, fuel made from soybeans. Students played with the small, round beans, dunking their hands deep into the bin.

Kids picked up small handfuls of corn and dropped them as they heard that corn is used in soda, corn tortillas, cereal and ethanol for motor fuel.

A bin filled with little kernels of wheat was surrounded by bread, pasta, crackers and freshly cut wheat plants.

Volunteers told students that milo is used as bird seed and in ethanol.

Kids ran their hands through a bin of oats and said oatmeal cookies were their favorite

See FARM, Page 10



Elizabeth Fulcher, a West Elementary student, dug her hands into a bucket of oil sunflower seeds as the students toured the Sederstroms' farm for Ag Day last week.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

Field dig starting Saturday

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Efforts to prove that man was in North America over 12,000 years ago — specifically the High Plains — will take center stage for the next two weeks at a series of digs near Kanorado.

Archeologists, anthropologists and volunteers will excavate and record at three sites along Middle Beaver Creek, near I-70.

The sites are where Dr. Rolfe Mandel, an archaeological geologist with the Kansas Geological Survey; Steven Holen of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science; and archaeologist Jack Hofman of the University of Kansas anthropology department, have worked over the past few years. They found mammoth and camel bones in Sherman County last summer.

"This location has the potential for shedding new light on the timing of human entry into the Western Hemisphere," said Mandel. "This could be the oldest site of human activity on the Great Plains."

Carbon-14 dating completed in February shows the bones are between 12,200 and 12,300 years old, Mandel said, which could mean humans lived on the Great Plains 1,300 years earlier than previously thought.

Mandel said if excavations this summer verify the finding of the stone tool, it would make the archaeological site among the oldest in the Western Hemisphere.

"It would be one of the most important sites in North America," he said.

See DIG, Page 9