

**weather report**

**93°**

noon Monday



**Today**

- Sunset, 7:59 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 5:48 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:58 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 78 degrees
- Humidity 26 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds southwest 14 mph.
- Barometer 30.10 inches and falling
- Record High today 108° (1938)
- Record Low today 50° (1927)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High Sunday	100°
Low Sunday	60°
Precipitation	none
This month	1.47
Year to date	9.75
Normal	13.88

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Mostly sunny and hot, high near 100, low near 67, winds south southwest 8-15 mph. Wednesday: Mostly sunny and hot with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high around 98, low around 62, winds southwest 8-10 mph.

**Extended Forecast**

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high around 83, low around 57. Friday: Partly cloudy, high around 86, low 61.

(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.  
\* Readings compiled at midnight.

**local markets**

**Noon**

- Wheat — \$3.01 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$3.03
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
  - Corn — \$2.01 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$1.98
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
  - Milo — \$1.64 bushel
  - Soybeans — \$5.91 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$6.20
  - 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



**East wins Shrine Bowl**

Goodland's Brock Lohr (right) moved in to disrupt a play by the East Squad's offense during Saturday's Shrine Bowl in Manhattan. The East beat the West 17-10 in the 32nd annual game. Photo, story on Page 12.

## District fair action begins

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

If you wanted to catch the most candy ever thrown in a half hour, the place was to be on Main Ave. Saturday evening for the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair parade.

Businesses, clubs, politicians and beauty queens were out in force to entertain and stir up spirit for the fair. 4-H clubs promoted the fair theme, "A Wheelin' Squeelin' Good Time with pigs galore on their floats."

Leading things off with sirens and lights were the Goodland Police Department, the Sherman County Sheriff's Department, Sherman County Emergency Medical Services and the Goodland and the rural fire departments.

A "Redneck Squealin' Ranch," complete with pieces of a broken-down truck and outhouses, rolled down the street. The Red Hat Society's red and purple were displayed by the Good Samaritan Center's Chatter Hatters, and the Boy Scouts, Rotary and the Veterans of Foreign Wars had floats.

Combines, tractors and farm implements in a variety of colors made their way down the street. Goodland Greenline was out in force with the John Deere green, but a large red Case-IH tractor didn't get lost in the crowd. An old McCormick Farmall and several older John Deeres made their way into the lineup.

Following the parade, onlookers could get a break from the heat with free ice cream at the fairgrounds. An upbeat gospel concert by Darin Richardson followed. He performed with help from Richard Bauman, Robin Rains, Noel Ramirez and Ben Coats, youth pastor at Calvary Gospel Church.

Fair events this week include Professional Bull Riders at 7 p.m. tonight, the Ranch Rodeo 7 p.m. Wednesday and the Howdy Rowdy Rodeo for kids 6 p.m. Thursday.

Friday's events include the 4-H Appreciation Barbecue at 4:30 p.m.,

the 4-H Livestock Sale at 5:30 p.m. and the Demolition Derby at 7 p.m.

Saturday's events include an Antique Tractor Pull at 11 a.m., the Tri-State Royal Show of Area Champions at 1 p.m. and a Tractor Pull at 7 p.m.

The Home Owned Carnival will open on the Midway at 6 p.m. each evening.

Rod Miller (right) dressed as a mother and took his children, Cheyenne and Colter Miller, along with the "baby's" laundry, on a ride down Main in the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair parade. The bicycle pushing a wheelchair earned first place in the "other" category. Members of the Country Clovers 4-H Club (below) had a "Wheelin' Squeelin' Good Time" on their float.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran  
The Goodland Star-News



## County explores sales-tax ideas for roads

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A bond attorney from Wichita talked about options for a sales tax to pay for a joint city-county road project with the Sherman County commissioners on Wednesday.

Kevin Cowan with the firm Gilmore and Bell, which the commissioners have hired to handle several county bond projects, said he was pleased to see the city and county doing the roads as a joint project. He said it would be easier to have the city increase its current sales tax than to get approval from the Legislature to do a countywide increase.

The city and county commissioners have met a couple of times to discuss the project, and at a session in late May agreed the total would be about \$11 million. The commissioners agreed the best way to pay for the bill was to pass a one-cent sales tax, estimating it would take about 10 years to pay off the project.

Cowan it will be more difficult to

use a countywide sales tax because that would take special legislation in Topeka to allow the county to ask the voters to approve a countywide tax issue.

"I agree it would be easier for the county to finance things," Cowan said. "The city has more difficulty financing projects out of the city limits. The laws give the county more authority to do roads, but it is not as clear for the city to do unless these are connecting links."

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said all the roads being considered are major connecting links with the city.

Cowan said he had looked at the sales tax the county did in 1999 to do repairs and chip sealing on the main road across the county.

"You had special legislation for the last one," he said, "but the Department of Revenue is trying to reduce these because the sales tax has gotten so nonuniform it has gotten outside their limitations."

He said a lot of sale tax increases have been done through home rule

powers of cities and counties.

"The charter cities have set their own amounts," he said. "Revenue did not want to collect this, but the cities' response was to have the sales tax collected directly by each city. The state decided to work with the cities."

"A bill was introduced to make the sales tax uniform, but it was not passed. There is some concern about going to Topeka for special legislation."

"I won't try to out guess the legislators," said Commissioner Kevin Rasure. "I'm sure they get lots of pressure from their people about changing the sales tax."

"It might be difficult to get through," Cowan said, "but that does not mean that it can't be done."

The other option is for the city to ask its citizens to approve the sales tax and pledge the revenue to pay for the whole project, Cowan said.

He said if the county were to get a sales tax approved by the Legislature and then get voter approval,

there would be the question of splitting up the revenue under the state formula. He said the city would have to do an agreement pledging its part of the revenue for the road project.

When the county went to the state for the one-quarter cent sales tax to do repairs on the main east-west paved road (old U.S. 24), he said, they had letters from Goodland and Kanorado waving their share of the revenue.

"You want to do a pure revenue bond payable from the sales tax revenues," Cowan said. "You would have to show there will be enough revenue to pay the bonds to eliminate the possibility of a property tax increase."

He said it would be better to stay away from a general obligation bond issue because of the debit limit of the city and county. He said roads and buildings tie up the debt limit of the city, but utilities are not counted.

One option for the bond issue, he said, would be to have a bond reserve and more coverage to make it

more flexible and to give the city and county about a 10 percent cushion to pay the bonds. He said that would be more secure and build up a surplus to help pay at the end.

"With a project this size," he said, "it might make more sense to do a bond insurance program and have it rated. It does become more complicated."

Rasure asked what the interest rate might be on \$11 million.

"If we did it today, it would not be more than about 4 percent," Cowan replied. "That would be an average over the 10 years."

"We could pay the bonds off early?" Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked.

"Yes," Cowan said, "but there is a way for the investor to be sure you are not going to pay it off in one year. You could set up an account to save the excess money to be able to do an early call on the bonds after several years."

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## K-27 gets \$5 million in new highway bill

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts said Friday morning the new federal highway bill had been approved, with \$5 million set aside to rebuild K-27 south of Goodland to the county line.

"I wanted you to know we got \$94 million for projects in Kansas," Sen. Roberts said in an early-morning phone call. "That includes \$5 million for K-27 in Sherman County."

"I was glad to get the highway bill passed, and it will help the people in western Kansas. I wanted you to



Sen. Roberts

know we got that money for rebuilding K-27."

Roberts had a list of more than \$94 million in federal money for the state's highway and transit systems.

He said the money will bring new jobs to the state and create safer roads.

The bill increases highway spending after a gap of 22 months since the expiration of the old bill. Congress

has extended the old law two times while it tried to reach an agreement on the new bill.

"The Highway Bill is an investment in the way of life for every Kansan," Roberts said. "Not only does it improve roads and bridges, it adds to the transportation safety and the general economy of our state."

The U.S. Department of Transportation says every \$1 billion invested in federal transportation dollars creates 47,500 jobs. These dollars alone will create over 95,000 jobs in Kansas, Roberts said.

The senator said he hoped the energy bill would be passed on Friday (and it was later in the day).

"I hope we get it done today," he said. "I have a rehearsal for my daughter's wedding tonight. The wedding is tomorrow."

He said the energy bill will be a great step forward, and the ethanol provision will help Kansas farmers.

The highway bill incorporates legislation, originally cosponsored by Sen. Roberts, that designates U.S. 54 from Wichita to El Paso as a high-priority corridor. The designation will help speed development,

including expanding the road to four lanes, he said.

The federal highway program has been particularly successful because of the return on the investment it provides, the senator said. Under the current law, Kansas receives an average of \$321 million a year. The new bill will raise that to \$383 million a year for the next four years. Kansas' apportionment under the new federal highway bill will be \$1.69 billion in all.

The bill contains \$12 million

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