

The Goodland Star-News

MIDWEEK

**Tuesday, May 2
2006**

75¢

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Twelve Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

64°

noon Monday



Today

• Sunset, 7:40 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:46 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:41 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 55 degrees

• Humidity 41 percent

• Sky partly cloudy

• Winds northwest at 6 mph

• Barometer 30.04 inches

and falling

• Record High today 94° (1965)

• Record Low today 23° (1967)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 71°

Low Monday 35°

Precipitation —

This month .56

Year to date 3.14

Below normal .44 of an in.

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, high around 84. West wind around 15 mph, gusts up to 35 mph. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Low near 40. North wind 5 to 10 mph, increasing to 20 and 25 mph, gusts as high as 35 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Cloudy, high near 65, low near 37. Thursday: Cloudy, high near 57, low 34. Friday: Cloudy, high near 65, low near 37.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Steam train rolls across plains



Union Pacific locomotive No. 844 (above) steamed toward an overpass on U.S. 40 west of Sharon Springs on Friday. The rail yard (below) was full in Sharon Springs. The historic steam train was shunted onto the elevator track and ended up facing a newer diesel locomotive pulling coal cars.

Photos by Steve Haynes/The Goodland Star-News

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

White-haired grandpas showed kids one of the trains that hauled passengers when they were young when the age of the steam locomotive arrived in Sharon Springs on Friday.

Union Pacific engine No. 844, the last steam locomotive built for the railroad and the only steam engine on a major line that has never been retired, was on day 2 of a 35-day, 10-state tour, and people lined up to watch as the historic engine pulled nine cars into town.

Because of an accident in Nebraska on Thursday, the rail yard in Sharon Springs was filled with trains. The crew responsible for supervising the historic equipment carefully backed the train up to a switch, and shifted it onto the grain-loading track alongside the elevators.

The clearance was close and the crew carefully and slowly walked the train along the track until it was safely clear on the east side of K-27.

Once the train had come to a stop, people lined up to check out the souvenir car and get a chance to look at the antique Union Pacific rail cars, remnants of the Streamliner fleet of the 1950s and '60s.

No. 844 got up steam about 8 a.m. Saturday morning and headed east for the next stop in Salina.

Train enthusiasts — known as chasers — took photos of the engine and crew as they prepared to pull out of the Sharon Springs rail yard, and then raced down U.S. 40 to find places to take pictures as the train rolled down the line.

A handful of hearty train chasers lined the overpass west of Wallace, where the Union Pacific line switches from the south side of U.S. 40 to the north. While waiting for the train, two of the men found out they were both from Ohio, and traded stories about other chases. Another man came from Wichita, and he drove out to chase the train to Salina.

Once the train pulled out of Sharon Springs, the number of people on the overpass grew quickly as other train chasers drove up and found their spots to take photos as the train came steaming down the line.

When the train went under the overpass, chasers ran across the bridge to shoot it going east, then ran to their cars to get ahead of the train for their next shot.

Cars and pickups dotted along the route where people had set up to get their special shots of the historic train. There were only a few when the train crossed the Smoky River trestle about two miles east

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local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.99 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.86

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.12 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.07

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$0.00 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.09 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.12

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5.55 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$7.75 cwt.

NuSun crop — \$8.75 cwt.

Confection — Call

Pinto beans — \$17 (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
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Relays run under clouds

Freshman Fernando Martinez ran the anchor leg of the Cowboys' 4x100 relay at the Tri-State Relays on Friday. Skies were cloudy but rain stayed away for the first time in three years. See story, photos on Page 12.



County may reconsider job

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County commissioners met with an engineer for a Goodland firm at their last meeting of the month Friday, and talked about possible changes in design work for the upcoming joint road project.

Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, asked how his firm could prepare engineering proposals for the county.

Neufeld's firm, which has an office here, has not done any work for the county. Commissioners voted last Tuesday to have a Plainville firm, Penco Engineering, design the county's share of the \$12 million joint project, though 40-45 people had come to back Neufeld's big.

The engineer said he wanted feedback so they could structure their proposals better. He

said he had not seen a trend in the buying patterns of the county, adding that the ways counties pick their engineers varies from one to another.

"It was not my intention to cause conflict," Neufeld said. "Road 14 concerns me most because we are heavily involved in the design work so there is no back up in traffic on Road 14. If it is not done right, it will come back on me."

County Road 14 runs in front of the Northern Sun processing plant and the new Goodland Energy Center.

He said work on Road 14 needs to be coordinated with Northern Sun and the Energy Center. There are new and old drainage issues, he said. The center will sit on top of a hill and the road runs down the hill to the sunflower plant.

Construction starts next week on the coal-fired power plant. Some of the holes for the foundation have been dug.

"Maybe we need to rethink the deal on Road 14," said Commissioner Mitch Tiede. "Everybody needs to be on the same page."

Neufeld said the energy center was putting down the rock base for internal roads but not pouring the concrete until the construction is done.

"We may want to reconsider Road 14," said Chairman Kevin Rasure.

Rasure said representatives of Penco, the company the commissioners approved to design the county roads, would be at the May 9 commission meeting to talk about scheduling a contract and working with the city. Neufeld's firm has been hired to do the city's share of the projects.

Principal, coach hired

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School Board hired a principal for West Elementary School and a new high school football coach last week.

The board hired Verna Milnes from Wiley, Colo., as principal at West Elementary, and Jonathan Dansel of Eldorado as head football coach, at its meeting Monday, April 24.

Later, the board honored students who had earned awards in state and national competition.

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