

weather report

83°

noon Monday

Today

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:26 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 78 degrees
- Humidity 50 percent
- Sky Sunny
- Winds north at 10 mph
- Barometer 30.18 inches and steady

• Record High today 108° (1964)

• Record Low today 42° (1915)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	88°
Low Monday	64°
Precipitation	.01
This month	.21
Year to date	11.82
Above normal	1.26 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high near 84, low near 60, and 20 percent chance showers and thunderstorms

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, high near 83, low near 60. Thursday: Partly cloudy, high near 86, low near 62. Friday: Mostly sunny, high near 88, low near 64. Saturday: Partly cloudy, high near 94, low near 65. Sunday: Partly cloudy, high near 93.

(National Weather Service)

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* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.61 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.68
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.04 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.01
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.81 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.01 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.17
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.35 cwt.
NuSun crop — \$10.35
Confection — Call
Pinto beans — \$15.50 (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



Elks K-18 wins 18-3

Keegan Smith, Goodland Elks K-18 catcher, touched base as the Oberlin pitcher threw to first and D. Soderlund tried to tag him out Thursday. The team won 18-3 in four innings. Photo, story on Page 8.

Park beautiful new city entrance



Lukas Wolak, a city utility worker, checked the wiring for one of the new lights that are the finishing touch to Pioneer Park. Dennis Fyfe, another city utility worker, helped install the lights around the walking path.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

A 60-year project completed in August 2001 and an eight-year project completed this year, along with repaving on Business U.S. 24 the first week of June, have combined to create a beautiful new entrance to Goodland.

The 60-year project finally removed the old wye from Cherry Ave., providing a new, straight street. Eight years of fund raising and planning resulted in a beautiful Pioneer Park and a functional storm runoff pond.

A city commissioner helped organize a clean-up day and volunteers to weed sections of Pioneer Park for the summer, spiffing up the entry. The finishing touch of adding lights to the park may be completed in the next month, although signs are yet to be scheduled. Turning lanes for U.S. 24 at Cherry Ave. are in the works for the next couple of years.

There were some rough spots along the way: Closing Cherry Ave. to take out the old wye and put in a new street made getting downtown a challenge and disrupted businesses along the street. The park's features had to be scaled back to match the money the city had, the park wasn't finished when people hoped and there were questions about why the city needed such a big hole in the ground.

But with the addition of the "Welcome to Goodland" sign, a hike-and-bike trail, sidewalks and landscaping in October 2005 and the gazebo shortly after, the city has a convenient entrance beautified by a park that frames a giant Vincent van Gogh replica across the street.

When flash flooding hit May 31, the park's storm runoff reservoir proved its worth. Thunderstorms dropped a record 2.42 inches of rain on Goodland Wednesday, May 31.

Street flooding was reported in several parts of town, but the runoff pond at Pioneer Park filled with water, protecting homes and businesses along Business U.S. 24. Water from the pond is pumped to a ditch that takes it east of Goodland, and within days of the storm, it was empty.

The Cherry Ave. improvement began in 1969 when a committee formed by Mayor Les Carlton came up with a plan and then did a study to determine the feasibility of a project to straighten Cherry, building a new entrance to downtown Goodland. The City Commission voted against the plan 3-2, citing the expense, said Royal Reid, a member of the committee.

The project took shape again in 1998, when the commission decided it was time to remove the old wye. Construction on street changes began in 2001. What became the park project was proposed in 1998 as a runoff pool combined with a hike-and-bike trail. About a year later, that expanded into plans for a park.

The giant replica of a Vincent van Gogh

painting by Canadian artist Cameron Cross was erected next to Cherry in June 2001. Tourists now picnic under the painting and take pictures.

Grass was planted around the painting in the summer of 2005. Brick work near the painting was planned by Sunflowers USA, the group that raised money for the painting. It will soon be done by the Goodland Rotary Club, which added a spotlight illuminating the big oil at night in June 2004 as part of the club's project marking the 100th anniversary of Rotary International. Power is furnished by the city.

The brick work, a viewing area and benches will be part of Rotary's Centennial Project as well. The club has gathered three pallets of bricks from the Main Ave. intersections, said Vice President Dick Liess; the curbing is laid, and the club will use the bricks for a path to a viewing area. There is a blank lot by American Family Insurance, he said, that will be used as a viewing area. Rotary will put rock on it and use the bricks for a path leading to it. The club will also put in a couple of benches and a plaque, he said.

Plans for the park had to be approved by the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the state Division of Water Resources and the state Historical Society. Federal approval came from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The project cost \$481,074, and the city had money from several sources: a federal grant (\$100,000), interest (\$17,218), state Department of Transportation funds (\$110,252) for the hike and bike trail, Pioneer Park donations (\$2,549), leftover money from an aerial photo project (\$10,000), a Crimestoppers donation (\$10,000) and a Department of Transportation grant (\$210,000) for storm runoff mitigation. That left a shortfall of \$3,084 which the city made up.

To squeeze the park into that budget, the city had to eliminate a pond and drinking fountain, reduce the landscaping trees and shrubs by half and eliminating a sprinkler system (though it kept a drip system for the trees and shrubs). The seed mix was changed to native buffalo grass, with no extra cost, to keep down the need for sprinklers.

The Goodland Kiwanis Club bought a gazebo for \$5,000 and donated it along with \$5,000 to pay for the labor to put it up.

The City Commission voted in January to have the city electric department install the lights for \$17,400. Seventy-five percent of the lights and labor was paid for by federal grant money through the state Department of Transportation.

Road design work on schedule

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Survey work has been completed on County Road 14, Sherman County commissioners heard Friday, and surveying on old U.S. 24 should begin after the July 4 holiday.

The one-cent sales tax which Sherman County voters approved in March and to pay for the joint city-county road projects, went into effect on Saturday.

Darin Neufeld, engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, who is handling the city streets and County Road 14 in the project, reported his progress Friday.

He said his crew finished survey work on County Road 14 two weeks ago, and he has received the electronic files to begin the design work. He said the next step is to do core drilling and meet with property owners before sending the design into the state Department of Transportation to set up a field check.

On the city streets, Neufeld said, the design work has been nearly completed on the intersections at Eighth and Caldwell and Armory Road and Caldwell. He plans to request bids on July 15, open them on Aug. 15, and have construction begin by Sept. 15.

He said the survey has been completed on Caldwell from Eighth north to Airport Road. The survey is nearly completed on 17th from Main to the railroad crossing at Cherry, and the section of Eighth from Cattletrail east to D' Lao Drive will be done after the July 4 holiday to complete the city survey work.

On Road 14, Neufeld said, state Department of Transportation officials have said as soon as the field check documents get to them, they

Banks compete to finance grader

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County commissioners reviewed three interest bids Friday from Goodland banks to finance \$100,000 for a new motor grader, and chose the lowest.

Curt Way, public works manager, brought in bids he had received from three of the four Goodland banks. First National Bank's interest rate was 6.31 percent, People's State Bank 6.5 percent and Western State Bank 5.29 percent.

Way said the \$100,000 would be broken into four payments, the first in February. He said Road and Bridge would make a down payment of \$50,462 from the special machinery fund and the department equipment fund.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure made a motion to accept the bid from Western State. Commissioner Mitch Tiede seconded and it passed with Commissioner Chuck Thomas voting in favor.

Way said his landfill crew is ready to begin baling trash as soon as the state approves the liner in the new cell. He said Mark McMullen of American Environmental of Littleton, Colo., has sent the paperwork to the state Department of Health and Environment.

Way said once the state OK is received, the county can begin using the new baler. He said they will place fabric over the liner so they would know where it is so that workers won't dig into the liner by accident.

He said he is looking for a way to haul the compactor out of the landfill. It weighs 60,000 pounds, he said, and the steel wheels could damage the floor of a trailer. He said they probably will put down steel

strips to reduce the damage.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved paying \$1,444 for kitchen remodeling work done at the 4-H building at the fairgrounds.



Rasure

Aaron Duell said the 4-H clubs had put in a new range, counter top, tile floor, ceiling vent and air conditioner. Duell said the Catholic women, who also use the building, bought the air conditioner, and the 4-Hers installed it.

He said the total of the remodeling was \$1,844, but the Ruleton Eager Beavers had donated \$100, and the Sunflower 4-H Club and Mangus family had donated \$50 each. The air conditioner cost \$200, leaving a balance of \$1,444.

Rasure asked County Clerk Janet Rumpel if there was maintenance money available for the fairground. She said the county has \$15,000 left in that fund. The commissioners approved paying the \$1,444.

The commissioners thanked Duell and the 4-Hers for their time and effort.

- Reviewed the three applications received to replace Goodland Rural Fire Chief Kenny Griffith, who resigned June 21. Rasure said he would like to interview the three as soon as possible, and said the commissioners could ask members of the fire board to be present. Thomas and Tiede agreed they would like to have at least one representative from the fire board, and maybe a couple of the rural fire volunteers as well. Rasure said he would try to set it up for Thursday evening.

The fire board has named Alan David, a paramedic for Eagle Med, as acting Goodland rural fire chief. The commissioners approved the appointment.

state Transportation Department's Bureau of Local Projects needs a letter saying that Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates is the engineer on the Road 14 project.

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said County Clerk Janet Rumpel has a copy of the agreement the county signed with Neufeld's firm, and will get a copy sent to Campbell.

Way said a survey crew from Penco Engineering of Plainville will begin work on old U.S. 24 after the holiday.

The plan is to do a mill and overlay on most of old U.S. 24, but Way said there are sections where the project may have to include a full subgrade modification. He said the east part of the road will probably be OK with a mill and overlay because the potholes are mostly surface.

On the west section, the area between Roads 5 and Road 7 will probably take more than the mill and overlay, Way said.

"We need to take some more cores," Way said. "The last ones were done in 1997, but we better look at that again."

Rasure asked if there was a timeline on the project.

"No," Way said, "will get back to you once the Penco crew comes out and begins the survey."

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if the milling would cut below the chip seals the county has done in recent year.

Way said it would have to go below, and would probably take off about three inches before the overlay is done.

The commissioners thanked Neufeld and Way for keeping them up to date on the projects.