

weather report

88°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 8:17 p.m.
- Tomorrow
- Sunrise, 5:22 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 83 degrees
- Humidity 33 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds variable 8 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.12 inches and falling
- Record High 104° (1990+)
- Record Low 42° (1958)

Last 24 Hours*

High	101°
Low	66°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms, low mid 60s, winds east 10-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high lower 90s, low lower 60s, winds northwest 10-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: partly sunny, high lower 90s, low mid 60s. Friday: mostly clear, high lower 90s. Saturday: mostly clear, high lower 90s. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

- Wheat — \$2.93 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.81
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$2.05 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.96
- Loan deficiency payment — 3¢
- Milo — \$1.72 bushel
- Soybeans — \$4.23 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.48
- Loan deficiency payment — 18¢
- Millet — \$4.25 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$10.40 cwt.
- NuSun — \$10.55 cwt.
- Loan deficiency prnt. — 0¢
- Confection current — inquire
- Pinto beans — \$27

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press



1 p.m.

Town spared from wildfire

SHOW LOW, Ariz. — A fire line carved during the night kept one of the West's worst wildfires out of this mountain town today, but the blaze raged on another front miles away, where it had destroyed at least 15 more homes and threatening hundreds of others.

President Bush arrived in the state to see the destruction first hand and meet evacuees.

The number of houses destroyed by the 351,000-acre blaze rose to at least 390 with 15 homes burned when the fire swept into the southwest section of the small town of Heber, 35 miles west of Show Low, fire information officer Ed Perault said.

The western edge of the fire in Arizona was threatening a major power line to Phoenix, but utility officials said if the line is shut down, electricity could be transferred to other routes.

Grocery won't pursue old Alco site

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

The committee hoping to open a community-owned grocery in downtown Goodland has decided renovating the old Alco building at 12th and Main would be too expensive and is looking for cheaper alternatives.

The project isn't dead, members say; it's just going to take more time to develop.

The 17-member committee of farmers and business people has been working for almost a year to start the co-operative, with members say-

ing there's a demand for another grocery in Goodland. Wal-Mart has been the only grocery here since Fleming Foods closed the Jubilee store at 11th and Broadway in September 1999, and Mosburg's IGA on 10th and Center shut down in the spring of 1998.

The committee started by holding three public meetings in November, asking families and business owners to sign pledges to invest a total of \$1.2 million in the store. Members said they felt they had enough support to move forward.

They first planned to sublease the old Jubilee

building from Fleming, which has a 13-year lease on it, but weren't satisfied with the firm's lease proposal. The committee switched its focus to the Alco building, left empty in April when the Duckwall-Alco corporation decided to close down the store.

Steve West, president of Western State Bank and a committee member, said they worked with Affiliated Foods, a co-operative grocery supplier, to develop a floor plan for the new store. He said Affiliated helped them figure out how much it would cost to open the grocery.

West said committee members agreed it would be a bad idea to spend more than \$750,000 to open a store in the old Alco building, then discovered it would cost more than \$1 million. It was more than they were willing to ask people to invest, he said.

"We felt it was not a good investment in a building we are not going to own," West said. "We are trying to be good stewards of the community's money."

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Chamber seeking donors

Group needs \$7,500 for fireworks display

The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce is looking for donations and performers for Freedom Fest 2002, the annual July 4 celebration that features food, entertainment and a fireworks display at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

Jo Simmons, Chamber office manager, said the Chamber needs to raise at least \$7,500 to pay for the display, put on every year by Joe Diaz, a Goodland native who owns a fireworks company in Colorado.

She said Diaz gives the Chamber a discount, and the \$7,500 includes the cost of \$22,000 worth of insurance.

Simmons said donations can be mailed to the Chamber at Box 628, Goodland, or dropped by the office at 104 W. 11th. Chamber board members are calling businesses as a follow-up to a letter sent out last Friday, she said, adding that any businesses owners who haven't been contacted can call the Chamber at (785) 899-7130 for information.

This year, Freedom Fest will include a barbecue, free watermelon feed, carnival rides and live entertainment.

Simmons said Sabrina Twombly and Darin Richardson are handling the entertainment this year and performers can reach Sabrina at (785) 899-4880 during the day or 899-6669 after 5 p.m.

Because of dry conditions and for safety reasons, Simmons said, the Chamber is asking people to attend the fireworks display instead of shooting off their own.

"Joe Diaz has checked the fairgrounds and surrounding areas out," she said, "and has adjusted the angle of the fireworks projection and doesn't feel there will be any problems."

She said police and firefighters will be on hand in case there are.

Businesses that have made donations this year include:

Aten's Department Store, Comfort Inn, Dan Brenner Ford-Mercury, Finley Motors, First National Bank, Fixen TV, Garcia's Furniture, Garrett's Coin Laundry, Hitchcock's Inc., Lonny's Quality Auto Body Inc., KC's Videos, Kear's Liquor, KLOE/KKCI/KWGB, Knott Just Books, KOA Kampground, Koons Funeral Home, Lincare Respiratory Center, Lorie Lynn's Hair Salon, Mag's Pots and Things, Malsom's Welding & Repair, Mann's Jewelry, Mr. Jim's His Shop, Northwest Kansas Abstract & Title, Richardson's Homestead Realty,

Sight & Sound Entertainment, Lyle Smith-New York Life, Snider's Mobile Glass, Stegman's Subway, SunAmerica Securities, the Framing Place, TOPS, the Insurance Agency, Snappy Snack Vending and Coffee Service Co., Topside Office Products, Dr. R.K. Driver and The Goodland Daily News.



Two workers from Kayton Electric out of Holdrege, Neb., worked on the wiring of a traffic signal Monday. The lights are being installed at

the intersection of Business U.S. 24 and K-27.

Photo By Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Road work not hurting shops

Businesses say sales still good

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

Many businesses say they haven't suffered much because of the road construction on Goodland's highways.

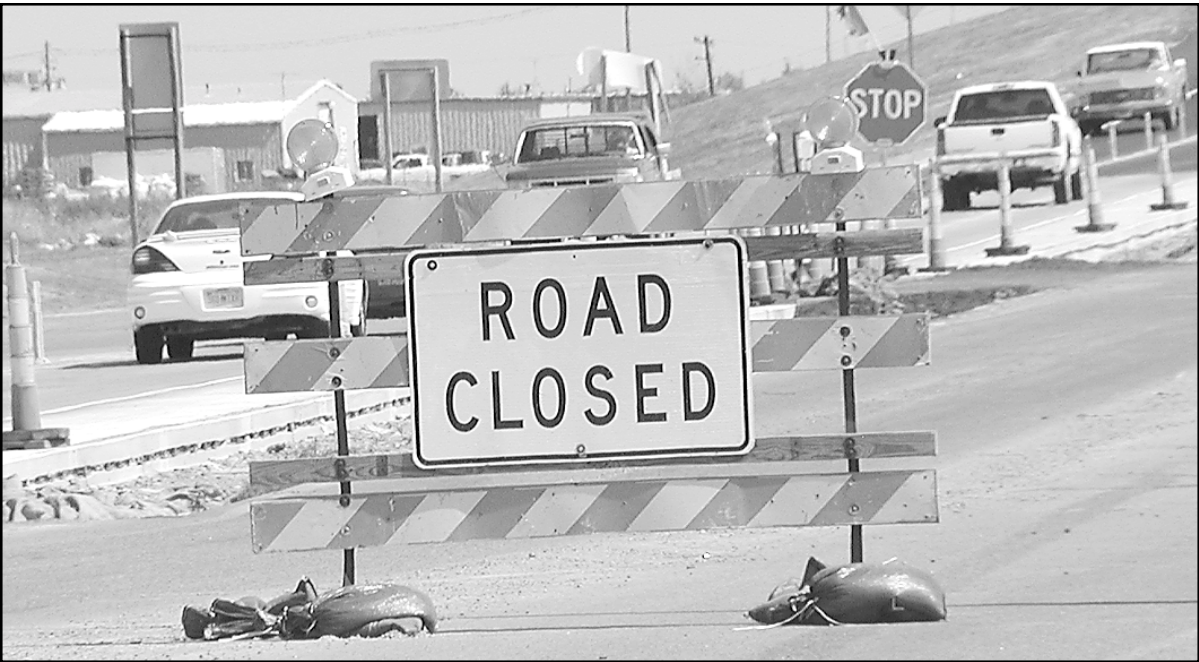
Sharon Harper, owner of Sharon's Taco Place, said she did "almost normal" business Monday. Business U.S. 24 has been shut down in front of her restaurant, she said, but people can still get there through Buffalo Inn's parking lot or the new addition to Wyoming.

"It wasn't nearly as bad as I thought it would be," Harper said.

Goodland Greenline and Frontier Equity both said their sales weren't badly hurt when the west side of the Business U.S. 24-K-27 intersection was closed in March.

Dennis Taylor, petroleum manager at Frontier, said gas sales were down slightly, and convenience store and Freshway sandwich sales dropped, but the business weathered the construction fine.

People had to drive on Market Street, behind Wal-Mart, to get to Frontier.



Road crews put up a "road closed" sign which blocks traffic on the east side of the intersection at U.S. 24 and K-27.

Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

"For the most part," Taylor said, "It hasn't affected us as much as we thought it would. In this kind of economy, people want to support the farmers, so they support the Co-op."

Taylor said business picked up a little on Monday, but he isn't sure if it's because the construction was lifted, or because harvest season is approaching.

Goodland Greenline, a John Deere

dealership, saw no drop in sales at all, said the owner, Ron Lucas.

"The construction was more an inconvenience than anything," Lucas said, adding that people could still get to his business on K-27 by driving through a ditch and over a ramp.

The construction wasn't as gentle to every Goodland business. M&M Sales, located on Old U.S. 24, closed down in April. The road work wasn't

the only factor in the decision to close, said the owners, Mike and Marla Harrison, but it was "the straw that broke the camel's back."

This was the third year in a row there was construction on K-27, Marla said, and many of their customers were bypassing Goodland.

"Road construction hurt us last year," Mike said. "This year it cut us off."

Workers say there's no reason to ignore barricades

When road crews moved from the west side of the intersection at U.S. 24 and K-27 to the east side, many drivers ignored the new signs and barricades.

The west side of the intersection opened on Thursday, and the east side was closed for repairs. Old U.S. 24 west of the intersection was opened up for traffic, and U.S. Business 24 was closed east to the old Gibson's parking lot over the weekend.

Workers have ripped out the old pavement, and the road to the east will be closed until they can replace the pavement. In the meantime, traffic lights have been installed at the intersection, and they'll be put in operation when the paving is done.

Monday morning, Ritchie Paving, the prime contractor of the work, called the police and asked them to stop drivers who were going around the barricades. Andy Hull, construction

superintendent, said there was no reason for the drivers to ignore the "road closed" signs.

"There are still plenty of ways to get wherever you are going," Hull said.

People can get to and from U.S. 24 from K-27 by using a detour through the Gibson's parking lot, he said, and people can get to the Buffalo Inn and Sharon's Taco either on U.S. 24 or through the new section of Wyoming. Short & Son can be reached by

Cattletrail, which is now open from 17th to 19th streets. Nineteenth is paved for about a block before it gets to Wyoming. Businesses on K-27 can be also be reached by getting on the road at 16th or farther north, Hull said, and going over the railroad overpass.

Goodland police, sheriff's officers and state troopers patrolled the highways Monday and today, ready to give tickets to anyone who went around a construction barricade.