

weather report

44°

noon
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 5:54 p.m.
- Sunrise, 5:55 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:55 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 50 degrees
- Humidity 53 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds north at 14 mph
- Barometer 30.28 inches and steady
- Record High today 82° (1908)
- Record Low today -7° (1928)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 66°
- Low Thursday 38°
- Precipitation —
- This month .28
- Year to date 1.26
- Below Normal .13 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high near 61, low around 34.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Partly cloudy, high near 69, low around 36. Sunday: Sunny, high near 73, low around 38. Monday: Mostly sunny, high near 69, low around 38. Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers, partly cloudy, high near 63, low around 37. Wednesday: Partly cloudy, high near 62.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
*Readings taken at 7 a.m..

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$4.37 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.47
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$3.87 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.69
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$3.62 bushel
- Soybeans — \$6.58 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.54
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- NuSun crop — \$16.35
- Pinto beans — \$25 (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



All-league team named

Goodland High senior Whitney Archer went for a shot in the game with Hoxie on Friday, Feb. 16. Archer was named to the Northwest Kansas all-league team. See story, photo on Page 12.

Shows to feature singer, magician

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Events lined up for the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair include a kids tractor pull, magic show, concert, the Howdy Rowdy Rodeo and a demolition derby, the Sherman County Fair Board heard last Tuesday.

The dog show, parade and tractor pull will be Saturday, July 28, said board Chairman Steve Duell. The fair will run Monday, July 30, through Friday, Aug. 3.

He said the bull riders would not be here this year, and there will be no show in the arena Tuesday and Wednesday if the Family Fun Night is Monday.

Amy Sederstrom, a board member of the Sherman County Farm Bureau, said she had a couple of ideas to fill in Tuesday and Wednesday nights.



Heather Shelley

She suggested having a concert with a young singer to bring in a mixed crowd, and either a hypnotist or a magician.

Wednesday, Sederstrom said Heather Shelley, 20, from Scott City, who won the Colgate Country Showdown in January 2005, has been booked for Wednesday evening.

Sederstrom said Shelley, a country singer, has been touring around the state and country. She was named the best new act in country music in 2005.

Shelley recorded "In My Time" about not drinking before age 21 for the Kansas Department of Transportation. She and her band Nitehawk have been touring the state to discourage teen drinking.

Another of Shelley's songs, "It's a Woman Thing," debuted in January in France, and her newest song "Beginning Again" is playing on radio in Switzerland.

The fair board decided to keep the ticket prices down for Shelley's concert, with adults at \$5 and children \$3.

Sederstrom said Rex Getz, who grew up in Hoxie and now lives in

Manhattan, will present "The Amazing Magic of Agriculture" on Tuesday in a free show sponsored by the Farm Bureau. Tuesday will also feature a kids' pedal tractor pull before the magic show.

Family Fun Night will be on Monday, the Howdy Rowdy Rodeo, which is a fun version of a ranch rodeo on Thursday and the Kiwanis demolition derby on Friday.

Sederstrom said the homeowned carnival will run on Saturday, July 28, after the parade and during the tractor-pull, then Monday through Friday nights during the fair.

Fair board members said they thought the concert was a good change, and felt it was good to have a good show every night to draw crowds to the fairgrounds.

Mike Sieck reported said Bank-

west was going to help pay for new scales for the pigs and might have up to \$5,000 to contribute to the fair.

He said the new scales would cost \$3,430, and that both Cochran Farm Supply and Goodland Greenline had bid the same brand and the same price.

The board decided to buy the new scales from Greenline. Sieck said he expected them to be delivered in two to three weeks.

Sieck said proposed changes this year include rearranging the pig building to allow for better loading and catch pens. He said a different load-out might be a future project.

Aubrey Crist, a technology assistant at Bankwest, said Tuesday bank employees plan a couple of work days to help paint fences at the fairgrounds.

County 4-Hers display speech, musical talents

How to make a potholder, differences in art media and piano, vocal and instrumental selections were heard Friday afternoon during 4-H Days and Talent Night held at Goodland High School.

The Sunflower and Country Clovers 4-H clubs presented the events, which started with project talks and demonstrations in the afternoon and talent selections in the evening.

Devin Mangus won a regional blue ribbon for his senior illustrated talk about the different types of art he has done. He showed projects in pottery, oil painting, pencil drawing and pastel chalk. Ellie House demonstrated how to make a potholder and used a sewing machine as part of her demonstration. She showed the steps in the process and turned one inside out to show the final step.

Dana Belshe, agent for the Sunflower Extension District, said those who received regional blue ribbons could go on to the regional project and talent event on Friday, March 30, at Brewster.

Regional blue winners in the junior division for project talks and demonstrations:

Dani Mangus for both a project talk and demonstration. Sarah Johnson for a project talk.

Saige Vandiver for a demonstration. Peyton and Powell Sieck received the alternate regional blue in demonstrations, and could go if one of the others did not go.

Other junior division project talk ribbons include Alexis Berquist, Vandiver, Chandler Pettibone and Jamie Nemechek, who received red ribbons.

Intermediate regional blue winners were Sydney Winston and Mikail Freeman for a project talks. Jason Cowan was the alternate.

Other ribbon winners included Tyler Neufeld with blue ribbon and Garrett Nemechek and Jessica Johnson with red.

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Ellie House sewed a seam on a potholder as part of her junior 4-H demonstration talk Friday at Goodland High School. House demonstrated how to create a potholder, and won a regional blue ribbon. She can advance to the regional competition on Friday, March 30 in Brewster. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

County looks to move bill through Senate

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A state law to allow Sherman County citizens to elect county commissioners at large has been heard in a Senate committee, and commissioners talked Tuesday about how to move the bill to a vote.

The bill would allow an election to decide whether all voters, rather than just those in one district, should vote in commission races. State law does not allow counties to vote at large, so at the suggestion of some citizens, commissioners are asking for a change to effect Sherman County only.

Tuesday, commissioners agreed to ask Sen. Ralph Ostmeier to have the bill sent to the Senate floor for at-large voting without districts as the bill was passed in the House. The county had thought it would have the option of keeping the districts with a countywide vote, but the bill was not written that way.

Ostmeier said Wednesday the Elections and Local Government committee heard the bill March 1 and was waiting for direction from the commissioners to work the bill and send it out for a vote.

"We had no questions in the House," Ostmeier said, "but when

the Senate committee held the hearing, there seemed to be questions.

"I talked to Commissioner Chuck Thomas and said the county needed to be sure we had the right language in the bill and it was what the people wanted.

"The bill has been blessed, and I know Committee Chairman Tim Huleskamp (R-Fowler) is ready to pass it out ... when the Sherman County commissioners are sure they are ready."

Ostmeier said people from other counties raised questions about the bill and what Sherman County was asking.

"They told me it would set a precedent, and wanted to be sure it was not something that was going to affect all the counties in the state," Ostmeier said. "I told them it was only specific to Sherman County."

"The state is waiting on us to know what we need to do," Commissioner Kevin Rasure said Tuesday.

"The state has not determined what the election is going to do," Commissioner Chuck Thomas replied.

"It will be the same as it is now," County Clerk Janet Rumpel said. "It will be countywide for both the pri-

mary and the general election."

"Would it be the two highest vote getters or would candidates file for a seat?" Rasure asked.

Rumpel said her understanding is the people would file for a commission seat, and it would be partisan with Republican and Democrats filing in the primary and facing each other in the general election. She said there could be an independent candidate for each seat.

"Would that be all for at-large on all the commissioners?" asked City Commissioner Josh Dechant.

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Old U.S.24 work to start in May

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Resurfacing old U.S. 24 across Sherman County should begin in May, as long as the contractor can find enough crushed rock, county commissioners heard Tuesday.

Jerol DeBoer, engineer and owner of Penco Engineering of Plainville, which is supervising the jobs, talked about county road projects and presented a construction inspection contract for the old U.S. 24 project.

DeBoer said APAC Paving of Hays said work on the \$4.2 million project could be delayed because the Carter Gravel Co., of Lamar, Colo., is behind in delivering the rock. He said the company won't guarantee the delivery of the aggregate on time,

and that could hold up the paving.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked DeBoer if APAC would consider splitting the project into two phases if the rock does not arrive in time?

DeBoer said he had talked to the firm and they said that might be possible. DeBoer said the contractor has just 70 working days to finish the work.

Tiede said he thought the county could work with APAC if the aggregate doesn't show. Commissioner Kevin Rasure agreed.

Public Works Manager Curt Way said the winter weather brought out some deep potholes on old 24 east of Edson, and they may need to go to a two-inch mill rather than one-inch to get those out.

DeBoer said a quick estimate would be \$5,000 per mile in extra costs, adding that he was surprised at how bad the road has gotten.

DeBoer said the commissioners could wait until their next meeting to approve the inspection agreement. Rasure asked DeBoer about his staffing.

"It is going to be tight," DeBoer said. "I have hired two people now and am working with the state highway people to see what I can do. The problem is the workers may not all be state certified."

"My partner has some medical problems, and I am having to take on his work. I hope he is back by May. I may not get to be out here as often as I wanted."

Rock delivery problem could delay Eighth Street

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Problems getting rock to make asphalt could delay work on Eighth Street west of town and push paving of County Road 16 into next year, the project engineer told Sherman County commissioners on Tuesday.

Jerol DeBoer of Penco Engineering said he would need to know about the aggregate by mid-April to know if that job can be done this year. The contractor, APAC Paving of Hays, is having trouble getting enough crushed rock to make the asphalt for old U.S. 24, he said, and any delays could affect the other two projects.

Curt Way, public works manager, said it might be better to do Eighth and Road 16 as separate jobs.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede noted the plan was to get the bids for

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