

The Goodland Star-News

WEEKEND
Friday, August 31
2007

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Thirty Two Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

\$1

weather report

74°

noon
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 7:21 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:15 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:19 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 75 degrees
- Humidity 61 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds southwest 10 mph
- Barometer 30.32 inches and falling
- Record High today 102° (1985)
- Record Low today 39° (1944)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 74°
Low Thursday 62°
Precipitation trace
This month 3.63
Year to date 12.15
Normal -4.10 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with highs in the upper 80s. Low around 60. Winds out of the south at 10 to 15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Sunny with highs in the upper 80s. Lows in the upper 50s. Winds south 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday through Wednesday:

Mostly clear. Highs in the lower 90s. Lows in the upper 50s.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Council grants available

By Tom Betz

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The first round of housing and downtown business improvement grants went so well the Sherman County Economic Development Council has decided to do another round this year.

The grants, approved at last Tuesday's council meeting at S&T Communications, will help improve the looks of two houses and two downtown businesses.

The housing grant program would provide \$6,000, or \$1,500 each, from council funds to spruce up two houses and two Main Street businesses.

The first round was offered in the spring, and development Director Tiffani McMinn said the council got over 100 applications then.

Attending the meeting by phone from Texas, where she is staying with her mother after surgery, McMinn said she felt it was a good project, and that the council had the money to do a second round.

She said she had revised the guidelines and application form to make it a bit clearer. She said the first round saw some confusion about the details.

One thing she changed was to specify that all supplies for the projects and any contractor be from Sherman County. She said there was some confusion about that in the first round, but said one of the objectives is to be sure as much of the money is spent here.

Asked if people who applied the first time would be included in the new round, McMinn said with the revisions, it would be better to have everyone reapply.

Council member Steve West of Western State Bank said he felt it

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Structure problems close diner

By Sharon Corcoran

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A sign on the door at the Goodland Steakhouse and Diner since Aug. 8 says it will be closed 90 to 120 days due to "structure problems," but the owners don't have much to say about it.

When called Monday afternoon, owner Tom Blair said, "No comment on anything related to the diner until I consult with my partner."

A call to the firm which built the diner, Dinermite, in Atlanta reached David Bernstein, who would not say what his position with the company is.

"I can't give you any information," he said.

He asked what the sign on the door says and if the diner plans to reopen.

"I don't even know where you got this number," he said. "There is nothing I can tell you."

The diner opened in June 2006 after being delayed by a mistake — the diner delivered apparently was not the one ordered — and by the death of a business partner.

The firm, Dinermite Diners of Atlanta, builds ready-made diners that come with grills, coolers and other equipment. The modular buildings ship in sections and the firm assembles them.

Blair's partner in the venture and friend of 28 years drowned in July 21, 2005, and that slowed things down.

The diner was open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner with seating for 120 people.

Blair owned a bar and restaurant in Benkelman, Neb., for four years before opening the business here.



Caldwell gets a new look

Caldwell Avenue from Eighth to Toelkes got a face lift this week as crews from APAC Shears of Hays completed the repaving project with two layers of asphalt on Wednesday. The crews started milling off the old surface (bottom photo) on Monday and finished the paving by Wednesday evening. This is the final phase of a project which resurfaced the road from Eighth Street to the airport entrance.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran and Andrew Liebau/The Goodland Star-News



Director to fly back to town

By Tom Betz

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The Sherman County Economic Development Council agreed last Tuesday to pay to fly Director Tiffani McMinn back to town for a week, but members would like to see her stay.

McMinn, who is on a 90-day contract ending in October, is in Texas helping her mother recover from back surgery. The council has been taking applications to replace her, but many members think she's done a good job and hope to see her back.

The director said there are things coming up in the office and feels she needs to be there in person.

"I want to fly back for a few days," she said.

Council member Harlan House, an area farmer and rancher, said he thought it was a good idea to have McMinn fly back so she could look people in the eye and see that the projects are moving ahead.

Council member Mike Cochran, owner of Cochran Farm Supply, said she should get a one-way ticket. McMinn said she needs to be in

town to get some committees to meet and hold a home-based business workshop she has been organizing.

"I need to go to the organizations who should be helping our county," she said, "and being there would help me get these done."

House made a motion to purchase a buy ticket for McMinn for her to come back for a week.

Council member Gary Slough, regional manager for S&T, said he was concerned about the 90-day contract.

Council Chairman Don Newell, Goodland office manager for S&T, said he felt it was good for McMinn to come back for the week, but said the council did need to talk about the position in a closed session.

McMinn said she would let the council know when she can arrange to come to Goodland in September.

McMinn reported that she has submitted a grant application for the skate park to a foundation, and should know in September about that one.

She said she has another application started, but wants to see what happens with the first one. She is hoping to get the first one to help with the concrete and the second could be used to help buy the park equipment.

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Streets sealing done for now...



The city's annual street-sealing project started Monday with crews laying down a seal coat of heavy oil, followed with a layer of rock. The project was done by Wednesday, and Public Works Manager Rich Simon said the city was pleased with how it went. The streets will get a "fog coat" of oil to help hold the rock in about a month, Simon said.

Photo by Andrew Liebau/The Goodland Star-News

Labor Day to delay newspaper delivery

Labor Day marks the end of summer with a three-day weekend, and all government offices, banks and financial institutions, all schools and many stores will be closed on Monday.

There will be no mail service on Monday and the post office will be closed.

The Goodland City Commission will meet at 5 p.m. on Tuesday instead of Monday, and the Sherman County commissioners will skip a week, and not meet until Tuesday, Sept. 11.

The Goodland Star-News will be closed on Monday, and the Midweek issue will be printed on Tuesday and delivered in the mail on Wednesday, one day later than usual.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$6.51 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.53
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
Corn — \$3.16 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.90
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
Milo — \$2.86.00 bushel
Soybeans — \$7.72 bushel
Posted county price — \$7.47
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
Millett — \$7 hundredweight
Sunflowers
NuSun crop — \$17.90
Confection — Call
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



Volleyball season starts

Coach Jerry McKee talked to part of his Cowgirls junior varsity squad about how to set up a shot during the volleyball Soap Scrimmage on Tuesday. The Cowgirls will open their season at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See photo on Page 12.