

weather report



70°
noon
Monday

Today

- Sunset, 6:19 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 6:52 a.m.
- Sunset, 6:27 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 70 degrees
- Humidity 19 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds northwest 15 mph
- Barometer 30.21 inches and rising
- Record High today 90° (2003)
- Record Low today 23° (2000)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	70°
Low Sunday	37°
Precipitation	none
This month	none
Year to date	13.26
Below Normal	4.44 inches

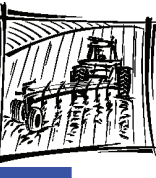
The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 79, a low around 42 and winds out of the south at 5-15 mph. Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 78, a low around 45 and winds calm changing to the east at 5-10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high near 73 and a low around 47. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 75 and a low around 46. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. *Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



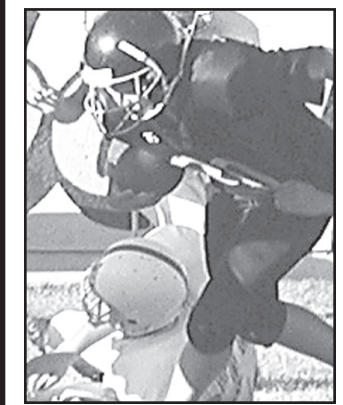
Noon

- Wheat — \$7.90 bushel
- Posted county price — \$8.36
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$2.97 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.97
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$2.81 bushel
- Soybeans — \$7.71 bushel
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today



More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Mustangs beat Oberlin

A Red Devil tried to drag down Caleb Fugleberg (No. 20) as he carried the ball for the Grant Junior High Mustangs during an eighth-grade football game Thursday. The Mustangs won 38-6. See photo on Page 10.

Firm entering wind energy field

By Ramona C. Sanders
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A Goodland-based company is primed to get in on the ground floor of a relatively new energy source — wind-generated electricity.

Sunflower Wind LLC was formed this year by Goodland native Dan Rasure. In addition to Rasure, who is the managing partner, the new company has four officers, seven employees and sites in Goodland, Colby and Phillipsburg.

Sunflower Wind has been in negotiations with the City of Oberlin since March to provide the town's electricity with a proposed wind farm in Decatur County. The farm would have 20 turbines that could generate 50 megawatts of power.

The proposal was tabled for several weeks while the Oberlin City Council continued

negotiations with Sunflower Wind. At issue, according to *The Oberlin Herald*, were existing city contracts with Sunflower Electric Power Corp., a Hays-based cooperative, and the Western Area Power Administration, for federal hydropower. Sunflower Wind is asking to become the city's provider at the end of those contracts in 2011.

The council agreed at a meeting last month to continue negotiations with Sunflower Wind. Rasure said the company sent its latest proposal last week and has yet to hear back.

"We have not been able to come to terms at this point," Rasure said. "We have spent a lot of time and resources and need to get a decision from Oberlin."

Rasure said that the company is restricted from providing wind energy to Goodland because the city has a contract with Renewable

Energy Resources. Goodland city manager Wayne Hill said he is not sure a valid agreement exists between Goodland and Renewable Energy Resources and is looking into the matter.

Sunflower Wind has also been working on several proposals in other locations, according to Rasure.

"We're working on projects all the way from Texas to North Dakota," he said, adding that northwest Kansas is a perfect area for wind energy.

"We're within 700 miles of 90 percent of the U.S. wind market," said Rasure.

A large wind turbine — the propeller-style machines that capture the wind and drives that energy into a generator to produce electricity — can generate 2 1/2 megawatts of electricity, about a quarter of the electricity used by Goodland residents, he said.

To generate that type of volume requires a

wind of 25 mph, he added, while the average wind in northwest Kansas is around 17 mph. However, Rasure said, the wind can be much higher, especially during the daytime. Other energy forms, such as methane gas made from animal waste and hydrogen generated from water electrolysis, would be used to supplement the wind energy.

"We're not going to stop the wind from blowing," Rasure said. "People have asked, 'What if the wind stops blowing in western Kansas?' I always say if the wind stops blowing in western Kansas, we have bigger problems."

He said Sunflower Wind plans to manufacture wind turbines at a facility in Phillipsburg. The company will produce large turbines for utility use and small turbines for residential and commercial use.

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City approves contract for street design

By Tom Betz
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The Goodland City Commission approved a contract last Monday for engineering and inspection of street projects to be paid for with \$2.4 million in bonds issued at the end of September.

The borrowed money will pay for resurfacing several streets; concrete paving on 19th Street from Cheery Ave. east to the Goodland School District bus barn; valley gutter and curb and gutter replacement on many streets, including Main Avenue from Eighth Street to 17th; and rebuilding Main south of 19th to Business U.S. 24.

Darin Neufeld, engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, presented the design contract for the street project. He said he plans to put the larger projects together and go out for bids by the end of the year.

Neufeld said he hopes to get unit-price bids from contractors and then see what can be done for the money available.

He presented a breakout of the estimated design and inspection costs for each project, and said the engineering cost is not to exceed \$75,000 for the design and \$150,000 for inspections.

Neufeld noted that the city replaces some valley gutter — where water flows across a street at an intersection — all the time, with the next one to be at 12th Street and Broadway.

Street Superintendent Phil Erickson said work would begin on that gutter on Tuesday. He said it was a bad one and on the city list, but they wanted to wait until after Flatlander Fall Festival was over. The replacement includes a new fire hydrant on the southeast corner, he said.

Commissioner Josh Dechant asked about getting a bid from APAC Shears, which has been in town to do Caldwell and old U.S. 24, to do the asphalt work.

Neufeld said the company is willing to talk about a bid. He said the firm plans to have a plant back in the area in December or January, and he feels they will be able to do something in the early spring. He said with Venture work-



City worker Justin Lohr gestured to coworkers Tuesday as they began demolishing and replacing the valley gutters at 12th Street and Broadway. The work includes installing a new fire hydrant on the southeast corner of the intersection, Lohr said.

Photo by Ramona C. Sanders/The Goodland Star-News

ing on West Eighth Street, there will be two asphalt plants in the area next year.

He said depending on the winter weather, some of the curb and gutter work could be started before spring.

Mayor Rick Billinger questioned the design and inspection costs Neufeld had presented.

"How much design do we need," Billinger said, "Can't the city guys do it?"

"Tell us if our services are not needed,"

Neufeld said. "We are trying to put enough together to make sure we can get a bid package."

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Concrete extensions planned for Eighth and Caldwell

By Tom Betz
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Plans to extend the concrete around the intersection at Eighth and Caldwell were reviewed by the city staff and engineer as the final part of the special city-county street improvement program.

Darin Neufeld, project engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison

and Associates, said the plan is to do about 60 feet back from each side. Sporer Land Development of Oakley will do the work when the company comes back to pave the piece of Eighth Street between Cattle Trail and D'Lao Drive.

"When did we decide this?" Mayor Rick Billinger asked.

City Manager Wayne Hill said

it was talked about when the plan for the intersection was discussed last year. He said the plan was to do the extra concrete if money was available.

"Why did we put new pavement in," Billinger asked, referring to new asphalt north of the intersection.

Neufeld said the work on the

street to the north was just a mill and overlay, and only took off about an inch of old asphalt. He said they plan to concentrate on the south, east and west sides of the intersection for the extended concrete.

Neufeld said the work would help improve drainage, adding that with the work on Caldwell, the water drainage problem has moved up to

First Street on Caldwell.

Dechant asked Neufeld if there had been any problems with the work on repaving 17th Street.

"Do we have any costs coming up on 17th?" Billinger asked.

Neufeld said there are no problems on 17th, and it is done. He said

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Good crop, high prices keep farmers smiling

By Sharon Corcoran
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Corn farmers have a lot to be happy about, as harvest is underway, elevators report taking in good-quality grain with good test weights, and prices are at a historic high.

Most winter wheat is planted, and sunflower harvest is going well, with prices for those crops high as well.

Corn harvest just got started this week, said Lynn Hoelting, general manager at the Scoular Co., but what has come in so far has been good quality and dry, with 12.5 to 16.5 percent moisture. Corn's moisture content averages at 15.5 percent, he said, and has been up to 18 percent.

Test weights by and large have been pretty good, he said, and most farmers have been pleased with their yields so far. Most are done drilling wheat, he said, but some are still

planting on land where corn was harvested early.

Most everybody has been anticipating a pretty good harvest, said Dana Belshe, agriculture agent for the Sunflower Extension District in Goodland, and the irrigated crops look really good.

Sunflowers have been good quality, Hoelting said, test weights have been heavy and the oil content has been good. In six to eight weeks, he said, everyone should be smiling.

"Sunflowers and corn are going well," he said, "and we have historically high prices. Good yields, good prices, what else could you ask for?"

Wheat exports have been good, Hoelting said; the dollar has been weak, and with a weak dollar, other countries can afford to buy. Besides, he said, there is a perceived shortage of wheat in the world, and that drives the price up.

Whether or not there is an actual shortage is debatable, he said; there may be some shortage, but the market certainly sees one.

The price of wheat has more than doubled from this time a year ago, Hoelting said, and the price of corn is up 50 percent. Normally, he said, prices are higher at harvest, but they have been higher throughout the year, enough to be profitable for farmers.

Sunflowers are historically high for an everyday price, Hoelting said; they have been higher at times, but not consistently.

Prices have been higher this year than in past years, Belshe said; it's supply and demand. Traders are seeing a shortage of wheat, he said, and with poor harvests recently across the rest of Kansas, the supply is not good.

Demand for corn is up to make ethanol for fuel, and that is part of the reason for the high prices, he said, even for wheat. Using corn for ethanol raises the demand for other grains as

well, he said; as there are more uses for those grains, the demand goes up.

Hoelting agreed more uses for the product raises the demand. To what degree ethanol and biodiesel fuel plants affect grain prices depends on what study you read, he said; some place all the increase on that.

With ethanol and corn, you can see a more direct effect, Hoelting said. When you have two industries, cattle and biofuels, competing for the corn, it leads to a stabilizing of price, if not an increase.

With sunflowers, Belshe said, Nu-Sun oil has had an impact. It's a health issue, he said, and there are other reasons to change oils as well.

The weather also is a factor, he said; it all comes down to what traders think they're going to have and what they actually have.

The value of any product, Hoelting added, is what someone is willing to pay for it.