

weather report



86°
 noon
 Monday

Today

Sunset, 8:12 p.m.
Wednesday
 Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.
 Sunset, 8:12 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 69 degrees
- Humidity 86 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds south 11 mph
- Barometer 29.92 inches and falling
- Record High today 101° (2004)
- Record Low today 35° (1915)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	94°
Low Sunday	50°
Precipitation	none
This month	none
Year to date	7.31
Below normal	0.28 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 96, winds out of the southwest at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 56. Wednesday: Sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 84, winds out of the north at 10 to 15 mph switching to the east and a low around 55.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 70 and a low around 56. Friday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms and a high near 80.

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

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$8.19 bushel
 Posted county price — \$8.13
 Corn — \$6.91 bushel
 Posted county price — \$7.31
 Milo — \$6.65 bushel
 Soybeans — \$12.68 bushel
 Posted county price — \$13.43
 Millet — \$5 hundredweight
 Sunflowers
 Oil current crop — \$32.60 cwt.
 Confection — no bid
 Pinto beans — \$28 (new crop)
 (Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Master of Ceremonies Curtis Duncan asked each of the cancer survivors to introduce themselves at the beginning of the survivor lap of the 12th Annual Relay for Life held Friday night at the Goodland High School track. The survivors in purple shirts walked the first lap, and were joined about halfway through by their caregivers and family. The special event raised nearly \$25,000 for the American Cancer Society fight against cancer and some of the money will be used locally to support those who are fighting cancer and to provide a scholarship.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

12th Annual Relay for Life held

A big sigh of relief was given by the organizers and participants of the 12th Annual Relay for Life on Friday evening at the Goodland High School track. Everyone watched the dark blue clouds with lightening come from the southwest go east of Goodland and continue with a light show and a beautiful rainbow. Goodland only had a few sprinkles.

The relay raised close to \$25,000 to help fund the American Cancer Society's goal to provide services to people fighting cancer and to fund research so more people survive their battle with cancer and keep searching for cures.

Services accessed locally were gas cards to help with gas costs for people to get to treatment, a college scholarship for a Goodland High School senior, mentors for people going through treatment and information available on the society's helpline (800) 227-2345 and website RelayForLife.org.

The organizing committee and the 10 relay teams showed up early to set up their campsites, set the stage up and set up the tables with purple shirts for cancer survivors to pick up. There were tables set up to buy last minute luminaries and write bids down on baskets brought by the teams at the silent auction. Some of the baskets contained games, movies and snacks; items connected with the American Cancer Society logo including a daffodil bear and even a bucket with car care items.

The Kennedy and Coe team had a special way for walkers to keep track of their laps with a lanyard and for each lap the walker added a bead and for every fourth lap a different colored bead to show they

had completed a mile. By the end of the walk several had added a lot of beads. *Goodland Star-News* team members Betty Morris had more than 11 miles and Stacy Brashear had completed 12 miles. Kennedy and Coe team member Caroline Pettibone was near her goal of 12 miles as the sun came up on Saturday.

Volunteers and relayers pitched in to set up the almost 600 luminaries. The luminaries circled the track. Prior to the opening ceremony Demi Mitchek and Elizabeth Fulcher sang for the crowd. Curtis Duncan of KLOE, KKCI and KWGB, was the master of ceremonies.

The opening prayer was by Rev. Shelly Petz of the Goodland United Methodist Church, commented on the rainbow that could be seen stretching across the sky.

Boy Scout Troop 142 presented the colors and Peggy Berls sang the National Anthem. Goodland Mayor John Garcia welcomed everyone to the event after which he read the Proclamation.

Hero of Hope Deb Winter of Medicine Lodge talked about her journey with breast cancer through diagnosis to survival. She sported pink hair which she used to start a conversation with people on the American Cancer Society. Winter also sported all types of items with pink ribbons on them.

She talked about when she was diagnosed with cancer that she hardly knew anyone who had had cancer or had family who had had cancer. Now everyone she knows has a friend or relative that has had cancer. She said one of three women will have cancer at some point and

See RELAY, Page 6



Two of the young kids who were at the Relay for Life checked out the luminaria around the track before the opening ceremony. Later in the evening the people helped turn on the little lights inside each sack for the more than 600 stretched around the high school track.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Colorado company threatens lawsuit over county decision not to do phase two

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansan.com

Sherman County commissioners have been threatened with a possible lawsuit by a Colorado firm responsible for a chip seal project done on old U.S. 24 in August.

Part of the money slated for the more than \$900,000 project came from the road sales tax bond approved almost four years ago. \$587,547 has been paid to Rocky Mountain Chipseal of Jefferson, Colo., on the project to date, but county commissioners and Sherman County taxpayers are questioning whether they have gotten their money's worth.

Doubts began to surface in March when commissioners received two letters and a number of phone calls from Sherman County citizens who had windshields damaged by loose rocks flying up from the chip-sealed surface on old U.S. 24 that runs through the county for 32 miles.

Even before problems with the surfacing arose, there were questions about billing.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad asked Rick Peters, president and owner of Rocky Mountain Chipseal, to come to a meeting on Nov. 8, to explain billing information as she could not get it to add up. She said she had asked the county auditors from VonFeldt, Bauer and VonFeldt of Larned to explain the figures and a letter from Richard VonFeldt said he was unable to explain the figures, which appeared to show an overpayment by the county of more than \$41,000.

Peters tried to explain the billing to Strnad, and said the cost had varied because of a change in the oil price that added \$.18 cents to the \$2.05 per gallon price in the original proposal. Later in the meeting with the commissioners Peters said the difference in the figures was part of the overhead for his business, and was part of the total cost of \$1.45 per square yard. According to the figures submitted by Peters, the project was \$6,420 over budget and that was a loss to his company.

Additionally, Peters claimed, the project

was about 18,000 square yards smaller than the original project proposal for 498,667 square yards. His company did 480,208 square yards. No one in the conversation so far has explained the discrepancy between the projected figures and the actual project.

What soon developed as commissioners probed the project figures, however, was that there was some oil missing from the rock that was laid down.

At the meeting with Peters, Strnad asked about the shot rate being lowered at the time of the project from .042 down to .025 gallons of oil per square yard. Shot rate is the amount of oil to be layered with rock to form a bond with the surface of the road.

Peters said the shot rate reduction was done at the request of then Public Works Manager Curt Way, and he said Commissioner Chuck Thomas was on scene when the discussion took place.

Nothing was reflected in the commissioner minutes that such a reduction was authorized,

and Strnad said a single commissioner does not have the authority to make those kinds of decisions.

Consensus of opinion seems to be that the lowered shot rate has contributed to the problems with loose rock on the road. Investigating who created the problem and what to do to solve it has opened an even bigger can of worms.

Windshield damage gets commissioners cause to review project

The election in November changed the makeup of the commission, and newly-elected Commissioner Larry Enfield began looking at the problem with the chip seal rock coming off the road and causing damage to vehicles. After the letters in March the commissioners again asked Peters of Rocky Mountain Chipseal to come back and explain what was happening.

At an April 12 meeting Enfield told

See LAWSUIT, Page 6



Girls learn softball skills

Patrick Cochran showed the girls at the softball camp how he wanted them to throw the ball to the person at second base. It was part of a two-day camp held Saturday and Sunday. See story, photos on Page 10.

