


weather report



79°
10:30 a.m.
Monday

Today
• Sunset, 7:59 p.m.

Saturday
• Sunrise, 5:47 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:58 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil temperature 77 degrees
• Humidity 51 percent
• Sky mostly sunny
• Winds southeast 9 mph
• Barometer 30.16 inches and rising
• Record High today 105° (2002)
• Record Low today 43° (1925)

Last 24 Hours*
High Sunday 98°
Low Sunday 66°
Precipitation 0.01
This month 1.23
Year to date 6.64
Below normal 6.34 inches

The Topside Forecast
Today: Mostly sunny and hot with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 10 a.m., with a high near 98, winds out of the east at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 66. Wednesday: Partly sunny and hot with a high near 100, a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, winds calm switching out of the southwest at 5 mph and a low around 66.

Extended Forecast
Thursday: Most sunny and hot with a high near 98 and a low around 70. Friday: Mostly sunny and hot with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.
(National Weather Service)



Fair parade draws crowd

Local citizens of all ages lined up on Broadway this weekend for the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair Parade. The parade included the usual cast of characters such as the Ruleton Eager Beavers 4-H Club (above), kids tossing candy from atop a Case IH tractor (left) and Goodland Police Sherman County Sheriff's Department and Kansas Highway Patrol cars (below).

Photos by Kevin Bottrell and Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News



Judicial candidate withdraws

Colby lawyer Todd Stramel announced last week that he will withdraw as a candidate for 15th District Court judge in the Republican primary election.

"It's just not the right time," Stramel said.

His name will still appear on the ballot in the 15th District – which includes Sherman County – because the withdrawal deadline has passed.

"Because the deadline to officially withdraw passed more than a month ago," Stramel said in his statement, "my name will still appear on the ballot. Nevertheless, I ask that you instead support Glenn Schiffner for re-election."

"He has served this district for 20 years and deserves to continue for another term."

Stramel said he cares about his clients and advocating for their causes, so he decided it wasn't the right time to walk away from their cases.

He has been a lawyer since 1996 and was a prosecutor for the district attorney in Wichita for a year after receiving his law degree.

Stramel worked for a private law

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firm in Hays for four years before opening his practice in Colby in the fall of 2000.

"About a year ago, I decided to run for the position when I found out that Judge Schiffner wasn't going to run for re-election," Stramel told the *Colby Free Press* in June. "Then he changed his mind. I've since talked to him and has been assured that he won't hold anything against me."

Stramel said he may consider seeking the judge position for the 15th Judicial District when Schiffner does decide to retire, but it will be based on what is best for his clients and for his family.

"Until then, I look forward to continuing to serve you as an advocate," he said. "Your support for my election was truly overwhelming, and I cannot express how appreciative I am."

School board votes for expanded work on high school track

By Pat Schiefen

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The Goodland School Board has decided to spend about \$231,000 more than they had planned to renovate the high school track after Track Renovations – the company currently working on resurfacing the track – found numerous pot-holes.

Previously the board had voted to spend \$144,000 to renovate the track but that would not include the work needed on the pot holes.

After two executive sessions and further discussion the board decided to go with a track flex poly sand surface. The surface would allow the asphalt base to breathe and water

would not be trapped inside.

During the discussion the board was shown several choices with one being a new process that the company would monitor for five years and if problems arose they would fix them. It would cost \$375,370.


Superintendent Bill Biermann said the district has the money for the project. Board President Gary Slough said that after looking at the track on their tour he was embarrassed and wanted to fix it right.

Board member Mike Cochran said that it would be a 20 year investment.

Board member Gennifer House

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local markets



10:30 a.m.
Wheat — \$8.47 bushel
Posted county price — \$8.34
Corn — \$8.24 bushel
Posted county price — \$7.89
Milo — \$7.75 bushel
Soybeans — \$16.09 bushel
Posted county price — \$16.34
Millet — \$14 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$25.25 cwt.
Confection — no bid
Pinto beans — \$28
(Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

Applause, cheers for Van Gogh

By Tom Betz

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A big cheer could be heard the morning of July 23 when the crane lowered the refurbished Van Gogh reproduction back onto the 80-foot easel completing the relaunch portion of the project.

Canadian artist Cameron Cross had spent more than two weeks in Goodland working on cleaning, repairing and repainting the giant painting he had first done in the spring of 2001. The painting and easel were erected on June 19, 2001, as a special project of the Sunflower USA non-profit corporation.

Cross smiled and said it was awesome to see the painting replaced on the easel. He said it had been quite

a project to repair and repaint the Three Sunflowers in a Vase, and hoped it will last longer than the 11 years of the first effort.


To help protect the painting Cross added a clear coat sealer. He said it was good to be able to work on the painting on the ground, and he felt he used more vibrant colors in the repainting while trying to remain true to the original painting by Vincent van Gogh.

"This is bolder with fewer details," he said. "That will help with the fading over time."


The hot summer forced Cross to work early in the mornings and come back in the evenings to avoid the

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inside today




More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Outlaws win two at tourney

The Goodland Outlaws American Legion Baseball team got two early wins at the Division AA Zone Tournament held here last week.

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Incumbent looking for first full term in House

By Sam Dieter

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State Rep. Rick Billinger has a lot of unfinished business from his first and only term in the Kansas State Legislature.

The farmer and retired small businessman had been on the Goodland City Commission for about 20 years, when the seat in his district opened up.

"When Jim Morrison passed away," he said, "numerous people contacted me and encouraged me to fill my name in."

Billinger served one term before the federal court's redistricting plan put him in competition with fellow representative Ward Cassidy for the same house seat.

He and Cassidy will run against each other in the Republican primary on Aug. 7 in a district which includes Cheyenne, Decatur, Rawlins, Sherman and Wallace counties, along with a portion of Thomas County that includes Colby.

"He hates this as much as I do," Billinger said. "Ward and I have been friends for 30 or more years; on Aug. 8 when this is over, we're still going to be friends."

Still, Billinger said that he felt he was qualified for the job.

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"I think I've got the background and the experience," Billinger said. "I ran a small business for 30 years. I understand what it takes to run a business, I understand what it takes to run a budget."

Billinger used his experience during his first term as a representative, when looking at the state budget.

"In my last five years on the city commission, we had lowered the mill levy each year, and when I went to Topeka, the state had a \$500 million deficit," Billinger said.

He added that by the end of his last term, "we were able to fix that situation and end up with a \$100 million surplus, and we didn't raise any taxes."

Increases in state revenues and tax cuts, he said, allowed him and other members of the legislature to put \$48 million of state money towards schools. They had to settle

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Making a donation



One of the many donors sat comfortably while giving blood the American Red Cross on Thursday at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News