

## Weather Corner



### Seasonal temperatures forecast

**Tonight...**Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of light snow in the evening. Lows around 9. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Thursday...**Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly sunny. Highs in the mid 30s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Thursday night...Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows around 17. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Friday...**Mostly sunny. Breezy. Highs in the upper 30s. Northwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Friday night...Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly clear. Lows around 18.

**Saturday and Saturday night...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Lows around 15.

**Sunday and Sunday night...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 30s. Lows around 18.

**Monday through Tuesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. Lows in the lower 20s.

Tuesday's low, high: -2, 22; 5 inches snow  
Monday's low, high: 16, 38; 3 inches snow

## Goodland police train for tasers

By Tom Betz  
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"Taser, taser, taser," Corporal Greg Kroskey said loudly before pulling the trigger and sending the two electrodes toward the back of Police Chief Ray Smee during a training exercise last Tuesday morning.

Smee was supported on either side by Wallace County Sheriff Larry Townsend and officer Jim Gillespie who kept the chief from falling forward and gently helped him down to his knees after the five second burst of electrical current ended.

"What did it feel like," was the question.

"Feels like electricity," Smee said. "Your muscles just tighten up and you have no control."

Smee said he felt back to normal in five to 10 seconds after the "hit" was over, and only had some minor soreness where the two electrodes had punched through the skin.

"I felt tired when they turned it off because it had tied up all the muscles in my body," he said. "I felt better in 10 to 15 seconds."

Cpl. Kroskey and officer Gillespie helped remove the two probes from Smee's back and made sure there was no bleeding.

The Taser technology has been used in law enforcement around the country for about nine years, but Smee said he was not sold on the non-lethal weapon when City Manager Wayne Hill asked him about them last year.

"When the city manager approached me I was not sold on them," Smee said. "I had been talking to other chiefs and some



Goodland Police Department Corporal Greg Kroskey holds a taser as part of a training exercise. Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

were for it and some were not. Some of my officers felt we ought to get them, and the city manager said they had them in Guymon, Okla., where he had been before.

"I had a Master Taser instructor come out and put on a demonstration last year, and talked to him at length after that session. I made up my mind to put them in the budget and purchase them this year."

Smee said to get ready he sent Cpl. Kroskey to a certified instructor training program in Brighton, Colo., and Smee was the first to get a "hit" in the first training session held last Tuesday.

"We had the first training session last week and one was held Tuesday," Smee said. "All of our officers have taken a hit to know what it feels like. Even City Manager Wayne Hill took a hit."

Smee said the department purchased five of the Tasers at a cost

of about \$900 each, and there will always be one in each car. He said whoever is in that car they will have a taser, and they will hand it off to the next officer, or it will be locked up in the trunk so it is always with the car.

The taser looks sort of like a square gun with small yellow doors on the front and a laser sight to "paint" the target the officer is aiming at.

Kroskey said the two probes will spread out about eight degrees with the top one going straight and the second one out at an eight degree angle.

Once the two probes hit the target the five seconds of 50,000 volts immobilizes the person. For training all the hits were taken in the back by the officers, but Smee admits that would probably not be the case if an officer has to use the weapon in his duties.

## Deer carcasses not allowed in landfill

Oberlin Herald

The Decatur County commissioners decided last Tuesday not to allow the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to put deer remains in the county landfill after it does a special hunt to test deer in the area for chronic wasting disease.

Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, said he talked with Ken Pal from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, who said the county could deny the request. Mr. Stallman said Mr. Pal urged the county to cooperate with the wildlife program.

The wildlife department asked

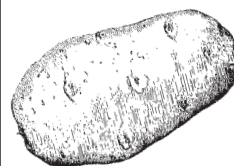
to use the county landfill building to test the deer carcasses and then dump the deer in landfill. The department plans to test more deer after three shot in the past hunting season tested positive for the disease.

The commissioners suggested they use a Department of Wildlife and Parks building at the Prairie Dog State Park, west of Norton, which isn't very far away.

Mr. Stallman said Mr. Pal told him there isn't enough history on the disease to say whether it can be passed on to humans. Bob Mathews, with the department at the Pratt office, said there isn't a comment from the department.

## Baked Potato Bar

with all the trimmings, drink & dessert



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**Fri., Feb. 8**

**4:30 to 7 p.m.**

**QHS Cafeteria**

**\$5.00 a person**

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**The Talent Initiative Inc. is looking for contractors interested in construction of a 2 story, approximately 20,000 s.f., metal building for the Multi-Purpose Activity Center (MAC).**

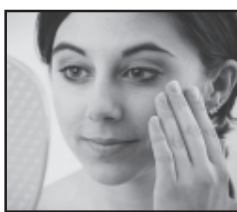
**Interested contractors please submit a letter of interest and qualifications to: PO BOX 46, COLBY, KS 67701 BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008**

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