

weather report

35°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:31 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:27 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:32 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 32 degrees
• Humidity 100 percent
• Sky foggy
• Winds south 21-26
• Barometer 29.69 inches and falling
• Record High 75° (1936)
• Record Low -11° (1960)

Last 24 Hours*

High 55°
Low 32°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 40 percent chance of rain, low 30-35, south wind 20-30 mph. Tomorrow: Cloudy, 70 percent chance of rain turning to snow, high 35, low 20, northwest 30-40 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: dry, high 35-45. Monday: dry, high 40s, low 15-25. Tuesday: chance for snow, high 25-35, low 10-20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.68 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.65
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$1.91 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.88
Loan deficiency payment — 11¢
Milo — \$3.08 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.94 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.94
Loan deficiency payment — 96¢
Millet — \$6.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.20 cwt.
Loan deficiency prnt. — \$3.59
Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$14 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Did Clinton trade pardons?

NEW YORK — The U.S. attorney's office is investigating whether former President Clinton commuted the sentences of four convicted swindlers in exchange for votes for his wife's Senate campaign from their community, The Associated Press learned today.

The Hasidic community, New Square in Rockland County, voted overwhelmingly for Hillary Rodham Clinton when she won her Senate seat in November.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White and the FBI, in a joint statement last week, announced they were opening a probe into presidential pardons.

A source familiar with the case, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the AP today that the probe into the New Square votes was launched this month. The office is also investigating the pardon of fugitive financier Marc Rich.

Road closing could block customers

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The state plans to rebuild a big section of K-27 in Sherman County this year, closing the highway for 8 months and detouring traffic 30 miles to the east. City officials fear the project will block tourists and business owners say it will cost them customers.

State officials say without repairs the section — stretching from the intersection of K-27 and Business U.S. 24 north to the Cheyenne County line — will fall apart by summer's end, and closing the road is necessary because of the project's scope. The state plans to start work in early April, opening the road by the end of November.

The owners of businesses along K-27 say the project will cost them money by forcing customers to drive to Colby, where they will buy food, stay in a hotel room and spend money. They say the rebuilding of another section of K-27 — between Interstate 70 and the Business U.S. 24 intersection — this past summer caused some businesses to lose more than 30 percent in revenues. That project went more than three months past deadline and still isn't completely finished.

With other major road construction projects planned around Goodland this summer, city officials say tourists could be shut out from nearly all directions.

The state is planning this spring to repair a third section of K-27 from Interstate 70 south to the Wallace County line, but will not close the road. The city plans to start the Cherry Street project — where a new, straight road will be built connecting Cherry Street and Business U.S. 24 — this spring, and the county wants to repair a portion of Old U.S. 24 east of Goodland this summer.

"We don't want to close access to Goodland from all directions," City Manager Ron Pickman said, noting that he wants to coordinate the projects with state and county officials.

Chris McDiffett, district engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation, said he understands not having the road open will be a hassle, but added that there are good reasons for closing K-27.

He said the state is taking steps to make sure the highway work is finished as soon as possible.

The road, McDiffett said, will be open to motorists who live along that

Motorists have choice of routes

Goodland motorists who want to get to and from Cheyenne County while K-27 is closed for 8 months this year have two choices.

They can take the official state detour — required to be over paved roads — 30 miles east on Interstate 70 to K-25 in Colby, north to U.S. 36 and back 30 miles west. Or they can take the "local access" route along gravel roads in Sherman County.

Curt Way, the county road and bridge supervisor, said the route from St. Francis starts on county road 80, which crosses over into Sherman County. He said 80 leads to county road 14, which curves into county road 72. After a mile, he said, 72 turns into county road 15, which leads to county road 65 — Eighth Street in Goodland.

Chris McDiffett, district engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation, said the county has repaired the county roads to prepare them for heavier traffic.

He said the state paid for part of the repairs to roads that will be used more in Sherman and Cheyenne counties.

section of K-27, but will be closed to everyone else for about 8 months while crews take out old material, remove hills, build up low areas, reconstruct a bridge, put in new drains and repave.

McDiffett said it would be impractical and dangerous to have traffic moving through the construction area, adding that it would also take more time. He said large machines will be moving around tons of dirt to make the road flatter.

"If you're taking 8 feet of dirt off a hill," he said, "well, it's hard to do with cars driving by. And there will be huge

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Students get patriotic

Students at West Elementary celebrated George Washington's birthday Thursday with a patriotic program. A crowd listened as the young people sang about the Constitution, a list of freedoms and the American Presidents. Special guests included area veterans, Jason Showalter, a high school student who won a patriotic speech contest, and George Washington, teacher Linda Lucas (left). The students had been learned about the Presidents and the Constitution in February. Teachers involved are First grade — Pat Thompson, Deb Bantam, Lucas, Janet Davis and Lynette McClean; Second grade — Sandy Jamison, Pat Pickett, Kara Smith, Jan Wilson and Susan McCall. Music teacher Birkley Barnes helped with singing.

Photos by Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

Three candidates vie for school board seat

The primary election for the Brewster School Board will be held in Thomas County on Tuesday, with three candidates vying for position No. 5 on the board.

Thomas County Election Officer Tracey Perkins said primaries in local races are required when more than two candidates are running for an open seat.

There will be no primary election in Goodland because there are not enough candidates running for one position.

In Brewster, three candidates are vying for position No. 5 — Kathy Long, Shane Benham and Tony Horinek. The top two vote-earners will have their names on the April ballot.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Brewster City Hall.

Brewster School Board

Kathy Long said she is running for the Brewster School Board because it is time for some changes in district policy.

The 40-year-old mother of three has lived in Brewster for four years. Asked what she wanted to accomplish, she said, "Somebody on the board needs to be looking out for the



Kathy Long T. Horinek

Long is the administrative assistant in the Health Sciences Program at Colby Community College and has three boys, Josh 18, Jess, 16 and Jake, 14. Jess and Jake are enrolled in Brewster schools.

She said she has no specific agenda or items to press, but feels "there needs to be a change in policy."

Tony Horinek, 40, said he is running for the school board seat to help foster optimism and teamwork.

A Thomas County farmer, he and his wife Anita have two sons. Clint is a senior, and Aaron is a 7th grader. "I am running for the school board because of encouragement from oth-

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Officials hear update on elevator

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Paul Rainbolt, administrator of the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center, met with the Sherman County commissioners Tuesday to update them on the nursing home's elevator project.

Rainbolt told the commissioners at the regular meeting that the project is estimated to cost between \$118,000 to \$120,000 and the elevator will be situated on the southeast corner of the building. The architect on the project is Strait and Associates of Colby.

He said the contractor bid proposals are to go out March 1 and be back to them by April 1. The county has given \$40,000 to the nursing home for the

elevator.

Rainbolt asked the commissioners for additional money to make updates at the nursing home. He asked for \$1,500 to replace an area code dialer for an alarm system. He said the dialer that Eaglelife Services of Emporia has won't work anymore and they need it to keep the alarm systems working.

Rainbolt asked for \$1,554 for an automatic door opener to be installed on a door which residents are taken out in a reclining chair when going to the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

He said there is a problem when they try to get the residents out. He said they would hook the new door up to the alarm system and the nursing home

would pay for that expense.

He also asked for about \$4,500 from the county to help pay for a new 20-by-30-foot steel building to store lawn mowing and snow removal equipment. He said the nursing home plans to remodel their dining room and kitchen area to accommodate residents at meal time and the garage area which currently stores this equipment will become part of the dining room.

Frankenfeld said he would like to have the commissioners go up and look at what the nursing home wants to do.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he would feel more comfortable looking

See COUNTY, Page 8

District may let religion in school

The Goodland School Board on Monday will discuss changing district policy to allow religious events on school property and consider letting a group hang advertising banners during sports' games.

The board will hold a 7 a.m. session instead of the usual night meeting so members and administrators can attend the 4A sub-state basketball tournament in Hays.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said members will discuss changing the 1995 policy that says events held for

religious purposes are prohibited on property owned by the district.

The district has heard complaints about the policy, Selby said, and in the past year religious groups have asked to gather on school property.

He said the Supreme Court has ruled that the district can't discriminate against any person based on gender, race or religion.

The superintendent said the Goodland Activities Association, a student-run group, wants to hang advertising banners in schools' gymnasiums during

athletic events. The association would sell space to Goodland businesses, he said, noting that many districts are allowing it.

The board may have misgivings, Selby said, about the type of businesses that would advertise, including bars in Goodland that serve alcohol. He said the district doesn't want to advertise those businesses at a high school game.

Members will also review next school year's calendar, which Selby said has changed little from this year's calendar.