

**weather report**

64°

at noon



**Today**

• Sunset, 4:34 p.m.

**Tomorrow**

• Sunrise, 6:29 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:33 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

• Soil Temperature 42 degrees

• Humidity 17 percent

• Sky mostly cloudy

• Winds variable 5 m.p.h.

• Barometer 29.97 inches

and falling

• Record High 79° (1999)

• Record Low 1° (1959)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High 55°

Low 27°

Precipitation none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: partly cloudy with 20 percent chance of light snow or rain, low

lower 30s, winds north 10 m.p.h. Tomorrow:

partly sunny, high mid 50s, low upper 20s,

winds north 5-10 m.p.h.

**Extended Forecast**

Friday: partly cloudy with 20 percent chance of rain, high upper 40s,

low near 30. Saturday: mostly clear, high mid 50s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**

Wheat — \$3.92 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.75

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$2.57 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.21

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Milo — \$2.24 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.16 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.03

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Millet — \$14.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$12.40 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Confection current — \$17/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$16

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

**afternoon wire**

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

**U.S. waiting on Iraqi move**

WASHINGTON — Bush administration officials are keeping their options open as a deadline approaches for Iraq to declare whether it will comply with U.N. disarmament demands.

Some of President Bush's advisers would consider refusal by Saddam Hussein to accept the terms adopted last by the U.N. Security Council as a trigger for military action.

But Secretary of State Colin Powell said Tuesday he did not want to prejudge what the United Nations or the United States might do if Saddam turns down the Security Council.

With attention focused on Baghdad, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan was calling on Bush today.

"We are looking forward to receiving a letter from the Iraqis by the 15th (Friday)," Annan said

## Bin Laden threatens more attacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush said today he'll leave it to the experts to determine whether Osama bin Laden recorded a threatening new audiotape, but "whoever put the tape out has put the world on notice yet again that we're at war."

Bush said he was taking the tape "very seriously," as U.S. counterterrorism officials said they believe the recording is probably authentic. They're treating it as new evidence that the long-sought terrorist leader is alive, a U.S. official familiar with the tape said today.

Bush bristled when asked if bin Laden should

have been captured sooner by U.S. and coalition forces.

"We're making great progress on the war on terrorism," he told reporters after a Cabinet meeting. "Slowly but surely, we're dismantling the terrorist network. Slowly but surely, we're achieving our objectives."

A U.S. official had said earlier that counterterrorism officials believed the new audiotape attributed to bin Laden is probably authentic.

"It's probably his voice," said the official, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "It can-

not be said with absolute certainty."

Bush, earlier today, told congressional leaders the audiotape was "timely," suggesting that bin Laden is alive, said House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

Though bin Laden tops the Pentagon's wanted list in the war on terror, officials there tried to play down the tape's importance, saying it won't change how they operate.

Bush spoke as intelligence officials tried to determine the authenticity of the tape, though early indications suggested that it was legitimate.

Bush told the Democratic and Republican leaders of the House and Senate that the initial analysis was not definitive, Hastert said. A senior White House official said Bush had been told by advisers that the voice sounded like bin Laden, but that studies were still under way today to determine its authenticity.

Bush himself told reporters, "We'll take the warning very seriously," even before knowing for sure whether bin Laden made the tape.

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## Director tries to get feel for business situation

Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

She hasn't met everyone, but Carolyn Applegate, new director for Sherman County Economic Development Council, said at a meeting at the Goodland Elks Lodge Tuesday she is getting around the county and introducing herself.

Over 30 people attended the session which was to introduce Applegate to people and give her a chance to talk about what she sees for the future.

"I believe it is important to meet the business people, and to listen to them talk about their vision for the future and where they have been," Applegate said.

She said she calls it "Walking Main Street," but it really means she is stopping in stores all over the city to meet business people. She said there are over 400 businesses in the city, and expects it to take her some time to get to them.

"I believe the first step is to keep the businesses we have," she said. "We need to see if there are things our current people need that we can help with."

"People from the outside see businesses leaving and it makes them feel like it is not a good place to move to," Applegate said. "We have good business people, and it is important to do what we can to keep them going."

Applegate said one way to help is using the resources that are available, including the micro-loan revolving loan program. Sherman County received money from the state in February to start a program, but she said no loans have been written so far.

"This is a use-it-or-lose-it program," she said. "We are going to try to get this going, because we have to have the money spent by August. These are no big loans. They have a maximum of \$15,000, but they can be used for many things."

"I want people to know that my office at 1208 Main is the place to come if you have an idea for a business, need to expand your business, or know of someone who wants to open a business in Goodland."

"I have a fax machine and a phone with an answering machine to catch calls when I am out. The phone number is 899-3743 and the fax is 899-3744."

Applegate said when recruiting new business, the infrastructure — utilities,



Carolyn Applegate (above, standing), new Sherman County Economic Development director, was introduced at a meeting Tuesday night at the Goodland Elks lodge. She talked to the audience about what she sees

for the county's future and her background. After the meeting, Applegate visited with City Commissioner Chuck Lutters (below) about new business ideas. Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Daily News

streets, transportation and the like — has to be in place first. She said Goodland is in a fabulous situation.

"You have trains, planes and automobiles," she said. "You have a fabulous airport which is the envy of many small towns around the area. The rail system is in good condition and we need to be sure they have a healthy economy."

"When you think about how things move in and out of here, it is by truck and lots by rail."

"I was glad to see there is an industrial park, but it has not had anything new in 25 years. The park has improved water lines, but we need to be sure the sewer lines and fiber optic access is in place."

Leakage was another subject Applegate brought up, people who are going out of town to buy things that can be found here.

"We need to stop the leakage," she said. "We need to reeducate our people to shop at home first."

She conceded there are times when you have to go out of town, but she said people need to think about looking to

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## Bank hires ex-athletic director, bookkeeper to fill two positions

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

Western State Bank has hired a new vice president and a mortgage loan officer because, said President Stephen West, things are going so well, the bank needs more people.

The bank has had a steady increase in loans and overall business every year, West said. He credits support from Sherman County and the surrounding area and bank employees' efforts to satisfy customers for the increase.

"The community has been good in supporting the bank," West said, "so we need new people."

Dick Liess, now athletic director at Goodland High School, will start as a vice president at the bank Jan. 1, West said, and Cinda Hatcher started three weeks ago as a mortgage loan officer.

"Both of these folks have been in our community for a long time," West said. "I think it's good that we can go out in the community and find these kind of people."

The bank needs someone with Liess's experience, West said, to handle the increased loan business. Liess worked for First National Bank for 15 years, West said, before he took the job



Dick Liess



Cinda Hatcher

as athletic director and assistant principal.

"We're excited to have Dick," West said. "He's a man of integrity."

Liess said he has lived in Goodland for 27 years and wants to stay in Goodland and work in Goodland.

"It's an excellent opportunity for me," he said.

West said Hatcher replaced Bobbie Jo Dinkel, who wanted to spend more time at home with her children.

"I'm sorry to see Bobbie Jo leave," he said, adding that Hatcher is a great addition to the staff.

"We sought Cinda," West said, "because we like her work ethic."

West said he approached Hatcher and offered her the job. She had worked at

Century Feeders for a long time and had worked at other part-time jobs, he said.

Though Hatcher said she is overwhelmed with paperwork for all the loans, she has enjoyed her first three weeks on the job.

"I love the people here," she said. "They are good to work with and really nice."

She said she also enjoys dealing with the customers and missed dealing with the public during her eight years at Century Feeders. Farmers and feeders would come in once in a while, she said, but not as many people as she sees at the bank.

Hatcher is also a part-time bookkeeper for Curt's Corner Garage and Body Shop and says she enjoys that job.

"It's a relaxing job," she said. "It's what I've done for eight years."

But Hatcher also enjoys learning new things. She grew up in Goodland and graduated from Goodland High School. The only time she said she didn't live in Goodland was when she attended Kansas State University.

Her husband, Bryan, is a farmer, and she has a daughter and a son. Mandy graduates from Kansas State in May, and Wes is a senior at Baker University.

## County looks at ways to use phone building

Sherman County commissioners started looking for a way to use the old Southwest Bell building the county owns during their meeting Tuesday.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure reported that Penny Nemechek, the joint grant writer, said the county needs to have a study done to see what asbestos removal would cost before she can look for money.

Another project she was looking at was a new fire house for the Sherman County Rural Fire department, but she told Rasure the county needs to develop a specific plan before she can send in a grant request.

Rasure said he thought Fire Chief Kenny Griffith had a plan and he would have him get with Nemechek to get the details worked out.

He said Nemechek has been working on proposals, but has not had much success so far. One grant she was seeking for the city to help build the hike and bike trail ran into a roadblock because the city has already received some money for the project, but had not spent it.

Rasure said the effort to repair the courthouse was running into problems because there is not lots of money available for what is considered building maintenance.

Carolyn Applegate, new economic development director, updated commissioners on what she was doing.

She told them she has been talking to a lot of people, and that her answering machine had been full of messages.

She asked about the micro-loan program the county had received money to start in February. The commissioners suggested she meet with the loan program board and see what can be done to get it moving.

She suggested that a part of the problem might be that the interest rate for these loans is set at 8 percent, and maybe that can be lowered a bit.

The loans are for businesses with less than five employees for a maximum of \$15,000.

"For this to be a revolving loan fund, we have to get the money out," Applegate said.