

weather report

54°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:01 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:26 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 41 degrees
• Humidity 32 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds northwest 10 m.p.h.
• Barometer 29.28 inches and falling
• Record High 79° (1980)
• Record Low -10° (1964)

Last 24 Hours*

High 57°
Low 25°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low near 30, winds northwest 10-20 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly cloudy, high near 48, low near 25, winds northwest 15-25 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: partly sunny, high near 43, low near 18. Friday: clear, high near 45. Saturday: partly cloudy, high near 43, low near 18. Sunday: partly cloudy, high near 43, low near 18. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.78 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.68
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$2.43 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.23
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Milo — \$2.20 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.09 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.04
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Millet — \$13.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$11.50 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — 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.

House arrest part of deal

BALTIMORE — The attorney for a man acquitted of trying to murder a priest who allegedly abused him reached a deal today that could keep him out of prison for handgun violations. Under the arrangement, Dontee Stokes, 26, would serve 18 months of house arrest and be placed on probation for three years, Circuit Judge John Prevas said. Prevas said he would hold a sentencing hearing on Feb. 14 to seal the deal. The judge announced the deal a day after Stokes, a former altar boy, was acquitted of attempted murder, reckless endangerment and assault but convicted of three gun charges. Stokes accused the Rev. Maurice Blackwell of sexually abusing him. Defense attorney Warren Brown said he would seek to reduce the amount of time he would spend under house arrest.

Two get full terms on agency board

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Two members of the Sherman County Economic Development board were nominated for another term at the board's regular meeting Monday at Wheatridge Acres, but the board decided not to add any new members.

A question came up about the county resolution setting up the council because it says in one place that the appointments are for two-year terms, but later in the same paragraph it says they will be staggered three-year terms.

The members of the council discussed the dif-

ference, and decided to ask commissioners to approve an amendment to make it clear and that they should be three-year terms.

The question was raised because the board had to recommend appointment of two members for full terms. John Garcia of Garcia's Furniture and Appliance and Larry Harper of Lincare got one-year terms when the board was formed this year.

Vice President Dave Daniels moved to reappoint Garcia and Harper and send the recommendations to the commissioners for approval. The motion was seconded by Harlan House, and passed unanimously.

Sherman County Commissioner Kevin Rasure, who attended the meeting, said while they were asking for amendments the council might think about whether the board needs to be larger.

"Now that you have had several months of operation," he said, "it might be good to think about the number of people on the board, and whether it might be good to have a larger number."

"I have had some people suggest the board might need to be larger, but that is up to you. I just mentioned it because you are going to be asking for an amendment to the resolution."

Royal Reid, council president, said he thought

the seven-member board was the right size now.

Daniels and Harper said during steering committee meetings, there had been a vote to decide on the size and the majority had agreed on having seven.

Carolyn Applegate, the group's executive director, said she thought they might need more board members when the council really gets into community development.

The board agreed not to change the size, and asked that the amendment about the board terms be put on the agenda for the last county commissioners' meeting of the year on Monday.

Council seeking donations

Citizens' money would fill budget

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

The Sherman County Economic Development Council will be asking supporters to put their money where their mouth is next week, with a letter asking for donations to fill a \$20,000 spot in the new group's budget.

At the board's regular meeting Monday at Wheatridge Acres, Finance Committee Chairman Harlan House reported that the committee and Executive Director Carolyn Applegate had drafted a letter to be sent to supporters asking for donations to help raise the \$20,000 of private support needed to fill out the council's budget.

The board made some minor changes, and decided to send the letter to people who had attended early meetings and steering committee meetings before the end of the year to encourage them to make a donation and take a tax deduction.

House asked if the county needs to approve a petty cash fund for the council because it was something he felt was covered in the original resolution, which allows the group to have bank accounts which must be audited by the county.

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he did not know, but that it was a good question to ask County Attorney Bonnie Selby. He said if approval is required, the county would have to allow a 60-day protest period before the petty cash fund could be established.

The council approved payment of \$753 in bills, which included Applegate attending seminars in Hays and an annual development meeting in Hill City.

Applegate reported there had been 12 applicants for the secretary job, and that Ronda Sieck had been hired.

She said contributions had been received from Short and Sons, Mr. Jim's and Overhead Door of Kansas.

So far she has visited 134 businesses in the county, and went with House on an agriculture tour of farm-related businesses and several farms.

She said she is focusing right now on meeting the ag people outside the city because "economic development happens everywhere."

Daniels said this is important because many of the farmers he talks to feel like economic development is only for the city, and never helps the farming businesses.

The council approved buying a one-quarter page advertisement in the Convention and Visitors Bureau guide for next year for \$500 or less.

Applegate said the office renovations have been completed by Dave and Judy Daniels and everyone is pleased with the work. She said the final thing that is needed is a magazine rack, and suggested one that would cost \$170.

There was some discussion about the possibility of a wind farm in the area, and Applegate said they are trying to research this, as in the past several years there was a story about Sherman County being the eighth windiest location in the country.

House asked for a closed session for 20 minutes to discuss personnel matters with Applegate. Kim Bohme seconded the motion.

The next meeting of the council will be 5:15 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 20, at Wheatridge Acres.



Christmas 'magic' transforms an evening

Goodland's First Baptist Church was transformed into the little town of Bethlehem for the children's Christmas pageant Sunday evening.

Mary (Heather West) and Joseph (Chris Millam) were told by God in a dream (above) to flee to Egypt. Shepherds were Daren Stewart, Ryder Igo, Devon Igo and Jel Linin. Wise men were Hannah West, Hannah Blake, Keaton Sloan and Cory Millam. "And the little lambs came to worship Jesus." Rachel Witman (right),

daughter of Travis and Angie Witman, was one of several little lambs in the program. She will celebrate her first birthday on Christmas. Other lambs were Bryson West, Micah Daise and Logan Parker.

"Sing, choirs of angels. Sing in Exaltation!" Angels, Elizabeth Wellmann, Sydnee Thornburg, Sidney Dirks and Holton Witman honored the baby Christ child with a hymn.

Photos by Eric Yonkey
The Goodland Daily News



Nebraska cuts deal on Republican River water

WICHITA — A settlement announced Monday in the legal fight between Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado over the Republican River basin means more water will be available to downstream users in Kansas, the state's top water official said.

"We won what was important to us," said David Pope, chief engineer for the Kansas Division of Water Resources and the state's chief negotiator.

The deal — which must still be reviewed by a special water master and approved by the U.S. Supreme Court — provides a moratorium on drilling new wells and protects water supply for downstream users that rely on the Republican River. It also means more water will be available in reservoirs for release to Kansas users.

The 1943 compact agreement spelled out distribution of the Repub-

lican River's waters, with Nebraska getting 49 percent, Kansas 40 percent and Colorado 11 percent. The river rises in Colorado and flows through northwest Kansas, then southern Nebraska before it turns south near Seneca. At Junction City, it joins the Smoky Hill to form the Kaw River.

Streams in the northern two-thirds of Sherman County, including the Prairie Dog, Sappa and Beaver creeks, flow

into the Republican in Nebraska, and water users here could be affected.

Monday's proposed settlement does not change allocations but it takes into account the impact of wells on surface flows to assure compact compliance.

Kansas filed its lawsuit in 1998, accusing Nebraska of allowing irrigators to divert more than their legal share of

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Drawing is Saturday for \$2,000 from stores

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Goodland merchants will be giving away \$2,000 at a drawing Saturday, climaxing the fifth annual Christmas on Us contest, which has already meant \$50 in extra holiday money for 10 lucky people.

The final "instant winner" was Nina Spencer, who got her winning ticket at Mann's Jewelry.

The drawing for a \$1,500 grand prize and a \$500 second prize will start at 2



Nina Spencer

p.m. Saturday, in front of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce office, 104 W. 11th. If the weather is bad, the event will be moved to the Central Elementary School gymnasium. All prizes will be paid in scrip, which can be spent only at sponsoring Goodland businesses.

Winners must be present, but organizers say the drawing should

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99 students to graduate Friday at technical college

Northwest Kansas Tech College has scheduled its first winter graduation for students completing their degrees or diplomas prior to May, for 1:30 p.m. Friday in the Memorial Union on the Goodland campus.

President Kenneth Clouse said Robert Reiners, is the president and chief executive officer of Reiners Marketing Inc. of Denver, will speak. Reiners graduated from the college's communications technology department in 1969.

Clouse said his talk on "Attitude" will include his theory that a good

attitude is more important than money, education, circumstances, failures or successes, past or future.

Ninety-nine students from the auto technology, communications network technology, communications technology and diesel technology programs will receive degrees.

Goodland students graduating from the college are Ryan Stewart (communications), son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Stewart; Tahonna Thompson (automotive), daughter of Marge Quast; and Clayton Hoss (networking), son of Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Hoss.