

## weather report

**54°**

at noon

### Today

• Sunset, 5:26 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:34 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:27 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 31 degrees
- Humidity 18 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds northwest 30-35 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.97 inches and rising

- Record High 74° (1986)
- Record Low -6° (1942)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 47°  
Low 20°  
Precipitation none

### N.W. Kansas Forecast

Tuesday: mostly cloudy with 30 percent chance of rain, high mid 40s, low lower 20s, winds southwest 15-25 m.p.h. Wednesday: mostly sunny, high mid 50s, low mid 20s.

### Extended Forecast

Thursday: mostly cloudy with chance of showers during the day, high lower 50s, breezy. Friday: cloudy, high lower 40s, low lower 20s. Saturday: mostly cloudy with chance of snow till midnight, high lower 40s, low near 20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$3.43 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.41

Corn — \$2.45 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.24

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.22 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.27 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.07

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$10 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$0.00 cwt.

NuSun — \$10.30 cwt.

New Crop NuSun — \$11.50

Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.

New Crop — \$17/\$10 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$15

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

## inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



## Eagle makes house calls

Over 25 employee owners from Eagle Communications went door to door this week to deliver care packages to residents. The packages included new lower rates going into effect in Goodland, plus goodies such as popcorn, a coaster, a gift certificate for a free mouse pad and a coupon for a free pay-per-view movie. See Page 3.

# Chamber office prepares to move

By Sharon Corcoran

*The Goodland Star-News*

The Sherman County Chamber of Commerce is going through a time of change, moving to a new office with a new director after the departure of its long-time leader.

Ron Harding, executive director and Chamber president for 22 years, left for another job last month. Last year, the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau split its office off from the Chamber and the Sherman County Economic Development Council was formed to take over publicly supported business efforts.

The chamber is now under a new manager, Jo Simmons, who had been office manager and events coordinator. It will move from its current office at 104 W. 11th to the Opera House Plaza, 1002 Main, Suite 101, in March.

The chamber used to handle economic development and managed the Convention and Visitors Bureau. All were under one roof for a time, Simmons said, but that has changed. The economic slump has something to do with it, she said.

The change is not all bad, she said, since the Chamber will now get to its focus.

The groups will still work together, she said, referring people to each other as needed. She admits the change has brought loneliness and quiet to the office.

"People call and come by," Simmons said, "but you forget how quiet it is without people here to talk to."

With fewer people in the office, she said, they needed a smaller place. To that end, Simmons said, she is going through about 30 years worth of stuff stored in the back rooms to get ready for the move.

The new manager said she has found things she didn't know were there and is sorting them into piles to keep, piles to put up on consignment and the biggest pile of all, to be tossed.

"I'm on my fourth dumpster," she said.

The office was at the same location, Simmons said, through the 22



Jo Simmons, new Chamber of Commerce manager, found a puzzle of the state while cleaning a back room at the old office Friday. The puzzle is among the "handier" items Simmons found. So far, four

years with Harding as director and maybe even before that. Simmons said she enjoyed working for Harding and that he extended great opportunities to her.

"Ron was the best boss you could ever ask for," she said. "He gave me every opportunity to challenge myself and spread my wings."

Much has happened in the seven years she has been with the chamber, Simmons said, with the Sunflower Festival, the High Plains Ag Expo and the Freedom Fest becoming new events and the Flatlander Fall Festival seeing much growth. The Sunflower Festival really took off last year, Simmons said, quadrupling in size.

All of the new festivals have really grown, she said, and some of that is inherent. It takes eight to 12

years for a festival to take off, she said. But hard work and planning have also played a roll.

Some events had to be adjusted to where they work, she said, such as moving the antique tractors from the Sunflower Festival to the Flatlander Festival, where they joined the rod run and the motorcycle show. The sunflower bake-off was another case, she said, where moving it from the Flatlander Festival to the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair made it a more popular event.

The work on those festivals is what Simmons said she really enjoys doing.

"I enjoy that part of it," she said. "I enjoy working with the people."

Simmons said she will continue to do that and will work with clubs and organizations to get the community

dumpsters have been filled with things that had to go before the Chamber moves into its new office.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

to draw together and work to make people want to come to Goodland.

"Everyone who came here that I've talked to later," Simmons said, "said the friendliness drew them to come here."

"I want to build on that."

Simmons said she puts together housing/relocation packets tailored to individuals' and families' needs. The packets will help people find the housing and services they will need in Goodland, she said.

People visiting Goodland also call the Chamber, she said, to find out about events that may be going on while they are here or places to shop. Simmons said that is an important part of the chamber's work because it promotes Goodland businesses.

The chamber has a great board,

Simmons said, and the board is working to build membership. Board members are thanking current members, she said, and looking for new members and getting their ideas on how the Chamber can be improved.

The chamber board is also seeking an 18th member, she said. The 17 current members are Tim Rath, chairman; Cesar Miller, vice-chair; Dane Scherling, second vice-chair; Steve Riebel, economic development vice-chair and liaison with the economic development council; Linda Knott, treasurer; Rich Hoffman, activities chair; Simmons; and Terry Richardson, Scott Weber, Justin Bentzinger, Wayne Aten, Donna Swager, Nancy Kear, Brian Linin, Tina Goodwin, Dick Liess and Cindy Bowman.

# Gas pipeline to cross Sherman County

By Tom Betz

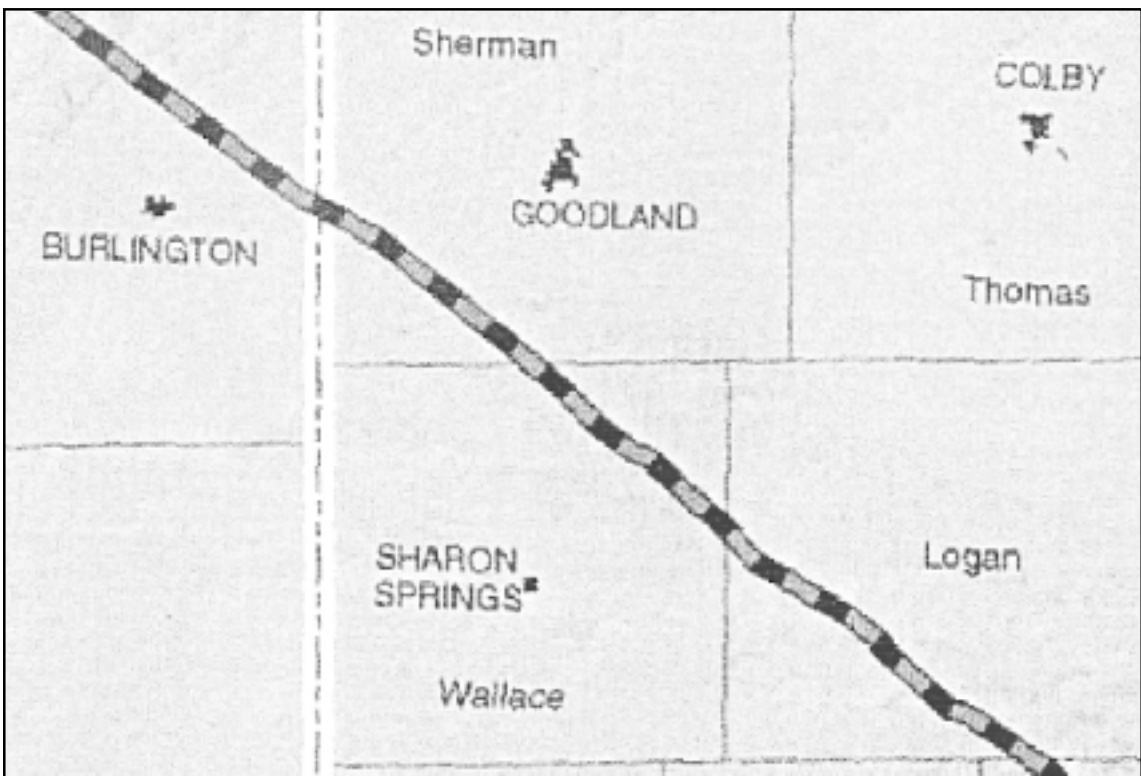
*The Goodland Star-News*

The 380-mile, \$340 million Cheyenne Plains Pipeline will slash across the southwest quadrant of Sherman County, but the builders will reclaim the land and erase most traces of the work as they go.

The line has been on the drawing board for over two years, and Thursday evening about 95 people gathered at the Old Town Museum in Burlington to learn what economic and environmental affects the 30-inch line will have on the area.

The pipeline, being built by Colorado Interstate Gas, a subsidiary of El Paso Corp., will stretch from Ault, Colo., near Greeley, to Greensburg, where it will connect with major interstate pipelines serving the Midwest.

The proposed route will bring it into Kansas about three and one-half miles south of Kanorado and takes a southeasterly direction across Sherman County, crossing County Road 17 before it runs into Wallace County about a mile west of K-27. The pipeline will cross K-27 in Wallace County and continue southeast into Logan, Scott and Lane counties on its way to Greensburg.



The Cheyenne Plains pipeline being proposed by Colorado Interstate Gas would cross the southwest part of Sherman County and the northeast corner of Wallace County.

The Burlington meeting was one of five the company is holding to give the public and landowners a chance to ask questions and learn

about how the project will be accomplished. The fourth will be at 6 p.m. tonight at the Scott City Fairgrounds.

From Sherman County, those present included Kanorado Mayor Hazel Estes; Sherman County Commissioners Kevin Rasure and Chuck

Thomas; Curt Way, county public works manager; and Carolyn Applegate, executive director of the Sherman County Economic Development Council.

Lynn Christensen, project manager, said the proposed route was first surveyed January to May of 2001, and the archeological and environmental studies were done.

"The Midwest gas sources are decreasing," Christensen said, "and the pipeline will increase the delivery capacity for Wyoming, which has excess capacity."

The 30-inch pipe is designed to carry 570 million cubic feet of gas daily Christensen said.

The company is planning to file a request with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in April, and Christensen said if the permits are going well, construction should begin in the fall of 2004. He said they want to have the pipeline in service by early to mid 2005.

Talking to the landowners in the audience, Christensen said, "We are coming onto your property and hope to do this as reasonable as possible. We will be setting up appointments

See PIPELINE, Page 10

# Parent tells board gun policy should be in handbook

By Michelle L. Hawkins

*The Goodland Star-News*

One Goodland parent told the school board he thinks the district could do a better job of telling students and parents just how serious it is to have a weapon on school property.

Jay Anderson, the parent of a Goodland High School student, told the school last Monday the student handbook should correspond to the school board policies. After several students were suspended in early February after having guns on school property, he said, he has been

doing research into what the student handbook has to say about weapons.

"After the events a few weeks ago, I have been doing some education myself," Anderson said.

In the board policies, Anderson said, two full pages describe what constitutes a weapon, but in the student handbook that is reduced to a sentence. He said the consequences for having weapons takes up a half page in the policies, but again, only a sentence in the handbook.

"This is quite out of balance and doesn't give the true meaning (of the

policy)," Anderson said, suggesting the board review the student handbook and clarify the gray areas.

"Things need to be a little more black and white," he said.

The handbook, he said, says students could be suspended for having weapons, but doesn't say that federal laws requires a 12-month suspension.

Anderson urged the board to clarify the punishments.

"We have to learn from the past to make the future better," he said.

He suggested instead of talking to students in an assembly with their

entire class, the teachers should talk about policies and punishments in their seminar classes, which are only about 20 students each.

Jeff Mason, the school board's attorney, gave the board an explanation of the student hearing process. He said a student who has been suspended has the right to appeal to the board within 10 days.

Mason said one of the students who was suspended for a year for having guns in his vehicle has made an appeal. He said the board must hear the appeal within 20 days of

being notified, by Feb. 24 in this case. The student and their parents must be notified at least five days prior of the hearing of the time and place.

The board can appoint a hearing officer for the appeal, but they decided to hear the case as a whole, since the majority of the board must attend the hearing and the majority of the board has to take action.

The board agreed to suggest Monday, Feb. 24, to the student's attorney.

The board went into a closed session for 15 minutes to discuss the student in private.