

## weather report

**78°**

at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 7:19 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:15 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:20 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 46 degrees
- Humidity 17 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds northeast 10 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.02 inches and steady

- Record High 85° (1998)
- Record Low 11° (1997)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 78°  
Low 35°  
Precipitation none

### N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high mid 70s, low lower 40s, winds north 5-10 m.p.h. Saturday: partly sunny, high near 80, low mid 40s.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy, high lower 80s. Monday: partly cloudy with chance of showers and thunderstorms during the night, high upper 70s, low lower 40s. Tuesday: partly cloudy with chance showers and thunderstorms, high upper 60s, low upper 30s. Wednesday: chance of showers.

(National Weather Service)

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

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$3.07 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.08  
New crop — \$2.81  
Corn — \$2.44 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.24  
Milo — \$2.21 bushel  
Soybeans — \$5.58 bushel  
Posted county price — \$5.47  
Millet — \$7 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$9.75 cwt.  
Oil new crop — \$10.15 cwt.  
NuSun — \$10.35 cwt.  
NuSun new crop — \$10.85  
Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.  
New crop — \$17/\$10 cwt.  
Pinto beans — withdrawn  
(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



## Mini statues being ordered

Those who have admired the historic statue, "They Came to Stay," adorning the lawn at the Sherman County Courthouse, can have their own miniature of the statue to display at home. Miniatures of the historic statue, by sculptor Greg Todd, may be ordered from the Historical Society. See Page 3.

# Historians hold special 'high tea'

By Sharon Corcoran

*The Goodland Star-News*

While most people were setting their clocks forward an hour, the Sherman County Historical Society turned the clock back about 100 years Sunday, gathering ladies in Victorian dresses and hats for high tea at the Victorian House.

Though no one arrived in a horse-drawn buggy, it looked like the turn of the last century as about 20 ladies gathered for high tea at the Handy House, 13th and Center, Sunday.

Delicate finger sandwiches, chocolate-covered strawberries and bite-sized muffins were served with tea in demitasse cups. Settings of antique dishes, sterling silverware and cloth napkins adorned the tables, making them nearly too pretty to use.

Waiters in tuxedos doted on the ladies, making sure they were well-fed and had plenty of tea.

After the tea, the ladies were entertained and educated by Historical Society board member Gerry Osterman and her daughter, Deb Stair. They did a demonstration showing what a woman in Civil War times went through getting dressed in the morning, putting the clothes on a mannequin.

The tea was an unadvertised fund raiser for the historical society, but nonetheless had a good turnout. And aside from having too much food, it went without a hitch.

"I thought it turned out great," board member Pat Juhl said.

The society didn't advertise the event, she said, because they didn't want to have too many people there for the first tea. It was a trial run, she said, and the ladies were invited by word of mouth.

Juhl said Osterman suggested a high tea at the society's annual meeting in January and that she agreed it would be a good idea.

"It was Gerry's idea," Juhl said, "and I fell right in with her."

One goal of the event, Juhl said, was to get more people interested in the society. And the group is open to having other clubs hold meetings in the historical house, she said.

They plans to have more teas, she said, but haven't decided how often to hold them.

"We need to recover from this one," she said.

It was a learning experience, Juhl added. They had way too much food, she said, but everyone seemed to have a good time and it was fun to wear hats.

Osterman and Stair brought some antique clothes from their collection and gave a demonstration. Osterman had a Civil War dress and most of the trimmings to go with it. She said the ladies started with their hose and boots in getting dressed, and then put on their corsets.

They couldn't bend to tie their boots with the corset on, she said. After the corset, she said, they put on a chemise, so they wouldn't get oil on their clothes.

Next was a corset cover so the bones won't show through the dress, she said, and that was followed by pantaloons, an underskirt, a hoop skirt and a skirt of about 120 yards of fabric.

Osterman put a dickey type of blouse on the mannequin, and then the bodice, pagoda sleeves and under-sleeves. Then the lady would put on a bonnet, she said, but she didn't have one. Next the lady needs a parasol and gloves, and she's ready to go.

Osterman said she and her daughter have collected antique clothing for about eight years and have really read up on it and learn something new everyday. She said she has 15 dresses and Stair has 20 or 30.

"It's like a Lay's potato chip," Osterman said. "You can't have just one."

She said they have bustle dresses, wedding dresses dating back to the 1700s and a mourning dress with hand-sewn black beads.

It's a fun hobby, she said, adding that they also enjoy high tea. Osterman said they have attended high tea at hotels in Colorado and knew what they were like.

She said the one in Goodland went well for the first time and that they will know next time what to do — and what not to do.



Daylene O'Harah (above) poured tea Sunday at the Handy House as Carolyn Brazda and Deb Stair selected sandwiches. Dave Branda, Lloyd Holbrook and Olathe Juhl (below) were on hand to greet the ladies and wait tables. Holbrook talked with Gerry Osterman while Shaunna Armknecht signed the guest book.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News



# County reviews final draft of trash contract

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

The trash contract between the city and county is nearly completed, and county commissioners reviewed the latest draft Tuesday morning.

Commission Chairman Kevin Rasure said he had met with City Manager Ron Pickman, City Attorney Perry Warren and County Attorney Bonnie Selby to review the contract and the ordinance.

He said there were some minor changes from the meeting, and both Commissioner Mitch Tiede and Commissioner Chuck Thomas felt most of the questions had been answered.

Rasure said the final draft would

be sent to the city for consideration at their next meeting. He said he was working on the draft of the guidelines for any private contractor who was interested in doing the actual pick-up.

At the previous meeting, Chuck Redlin had talked to the commissioners about his interest in the trash service, and has some suggestions about what needed to be in the proposal.

Tuesday, Justin Comer of Hays met with the commissioners and expressed interest in the service. He said he has been in the trash collection business for several years in Hays and around Wichita.

He said he was being forced out of business in Hays and was look-

ing to relocate to northwest Kansas, as his wife and he had been in Colby years earlier. Comer said he had grown up in Lamar, Colo., before moving to Colby.

He talked about the system as he saw it and asked questions about the recycling system.

The commissioners told Comer they would be getting the proposal completed in the near future and would see that he gets a copy.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby came in near the end of the meeting and said she had some questions about the proposed ordinance from the city. She said she would see that the commissioners each got a copy to review.

The commissioners met with Wil-

liam McKnight, building and grounds superintendent, about several projects, including aeration of the lawns at the courthouse and fairgrounds, boiler repairs and a cleaning service.

On the lawns there were bids from K&K for \$200 and from Grass Roots of \$175 for the aeration. The commissioners approved the bid from Grass Roots.

Rich Miller, owner of Grass Roots, talked to the commissioners about adding a soil activator to the courthouse lawn. McKnight said he would like to test it on the courthouse and the commissioners said they would leave it up to him. The cost is about \$50, Miller said.

McKnight said he had been look-

ing at Ideal in comparison to Western Uniform and believes that Ideal, out of North Platte, Neb., is cheaper on the dust mops and the doormats. He said Ideal was willing to work with the county on a yearly contract. The commissioners said they would leave it up to McKnight.

On the question of updating the boiler to meet safety requirements, McKnight said he received one bid, from McClure's Plumbing for \$866.

The commissioners approved the bid.

McKnight said he had been in contact with Tom Rohr of Dependable Glass about doors at the fairgrounds. Rasure said he would like

**See COUNTY, Page 3**

# Black Sunday was tough day in the 'Dirty Thirties'

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

"I was sitting on my neighbor Jake's front porch drinking a soda pop and listening to the radio when we saw this black cloud coming toward us," Hank Emerson told the audience at the Goodland Public Library on Saturday afternoon.

"We could see white flecks in front of the cloud and wondered what was happening. It was Palm Sunday, April 14, 1935, and I told Jake I had better get home.

"I got to the house just as the cloud came and was closing the last window when the sky turned dark from all the dust. I couldn't see anything and it was hard to breathe. I watched as the dust came in under the window and it looked like a waterfall as it built up and rolled off the window sill.

"I got down on my knees and prayed for it to end. It lasted for several hours, and when it was over, I looked out the door and there was a four-foot drift of dirt."

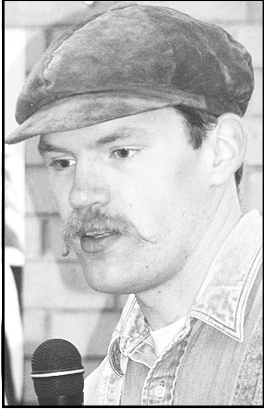
Many of the people listening nod-

ded their heads as Nolan Sump, a history performer from Salina, told stories about the "Dirty Thirties" as seen through the eyes of a Morton County farmer, Hank Emerson.

Sump stayed in character as he talked about living through the dust storms and drought from the fall of 1929 to the summer of 1937.

Emerson said he had a pretty good harvest in 1928 and in 1929, but that the bumper crop and the fall of the market caused the price of wheat to drop from \$1 a bushel to 25 cents in 1931.

The performance was co-sponsored by the High Plains Museum, the Sherman County Historical Society and the Century Family Club. Sump said he has given his agricultural historical presentation all across the state, and with the appearance in Goodland he said he has



Nolan Sump

made it to all four corners.

Emerson said his 800 acre farm was located northeast of Elkhart in Morton County, and he grew wheat, broomcorn and sorghum.

He said the drought was bad and the dust storms caused a form of pneumonia and brought an increase in measles to the county.

"I found myself adopting the philosophy of the 'next year farmer,'" he said. "Next year it will be better. Next year it will rain. Next year we will have a good harvest."

Over half of the audience of about 55 people were senior citizens who had lived through the era Sump was describing, and many told stories about the dust storms they remembered.

Emerson talked about trying to keep the land from blowing, and the problems with neighbors who did not list their fields.

"I told him that is not my dust, it is yours," Emerson said of a conversation with a neighbor's son.

He said the whole thing was the fault of the "suitcase farmers" and the "wheat kings" who owned farms in the area but lived in cities many miles away.

"Humor was an important part of living through the time," Emerson said. "There was a store in Johnson City that boasted about having states under glass. They had jars full of dust labeled Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

"One time, I met a man carrying a lard pail and he told me he had something more precious than gold and that it was very rare these days. I asked to see what was in the pail and he showed me. It was very rare indeed. It was mud."

He talked about getting help from the government, and that he was going to sell his land and move to his

brother's ranch in Wyoming.

"I think the government has a good plan to buy the land and reseed it to grass," he said. "I think it will take years for the land to recover and be able to grow enough to even graze cattle."

After his presentation, Sump talked about driving to Morton County last year. He got to visit the Cimarron National Grassland, comprising over 100,000 acres the government bought during the Dust Bowl years and reseeded with grass. He said the grassland has been used to graze cattle until last year, when they were removed because of the drought.

Sump talked with many of the people in the audience, who told him about their experiences during the dust storms and the drought years.

A teacher at Smoky Hill Education Service Center near Salina, he has been doing historic presentations for the past several years.

Refreshments after the presentation were provided by the Century Family Club.