Godland Star-News



75¢

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weather

Today

Tomorrow

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 58 degrees

report

57°

at noon

Sunset, 7:40 p.m.

• Sunrise, 5:46 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:41 p.m.

Humidity 55 percent

• Winds light and variable

Barometer 29.99 inches

• Record High 94° (1965)

Record Low 23° (1967)

High

Low Precipitation

and falling

Last 24 Hours*

N.W. Kansas Forecast

percent showers and thunder-

storms until midnight, high upper

60s, low mid 40s, winds south 10-

20 m.p.h. Saturday: mostly cloudy,

Extended Forecast

chance of showers and thunder-

storms from noon on, windy, high

upper 60s. Monday: mostly cloudy

then becoming partly cloudy,

windy, high mid 60s, low lower

40s. Tuesday: partly cloudy be-

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

coming mostly cloudy.

loca

markets

Sunday: mostly cloudy with

high near 70, low lower 40s.

Today: mostly cloudy with 30

64°

43°

none

Sky mostly clear

32 Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

West first graders 'on the move'

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News First graders hung from the gym walls at West Elementary on Tuesday. Their notebooks detailed trips as far as Hong Kong and Croatia for their big school projects. OK.

No real kids were hanging on the walls. The kids, for the most part, stayed right here in Sherman County. But their "flat-body" doubles had a heck of a good time traveling the globe, and both parents and Goodland School Board members were impressed.

The walls of the gym were plastered with postcards and paper duplicates of the first-grade students, along with notebooks with photos and information about where the "students" had been and the adventures they had.

Lynette McLean, a first grade teacher, said the concept came from a book, "Flat Stanley," in which a boy is accidentally flattened and his body is mailed all over the world.

The most-traveled flat kid from West went to Hong Kong. There were notebooks from Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Florida, Colorado, Connecticut, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Minnesota, California, New Hampshire, Illinois, Nebraska and Kansas, from England, Germany, Croatia and Mexico. Many had photos showing the "student" having fun in some exotic locale, and included information about where they had been.

McLean said her classes have been doing the "flat body" project for several years, but this was the first time that all four first-grade classes had participated.

She said each student was asked tive or friend who might be willing to help with the project.



Goodland first graders Gannon Ihrig (left) and John Hendrich (right) traveled to Hong Kong and New Hampshire as part of a class project. Ihrig's aunt took his flat-body double to the sights in Hong

sent to the relative. McLean said

The bodies were mailed out in

notebooks on display Tuesday at West Elementary. to send some information and pos- for their flat bodies to return, they sibly some photos back with the did research projects which were in-

Noon Wheat - \$3.05 bushel New crop — \$2.68 bushel Corn — \$2.37 bushel Posted county price — \$2.21 Milo — \$0.00 bushel Soybeans — \$5.81 bushel Posted county price — \$5.65 Millet — \$6 hundredweight New crop — \$5.50 Sunflowers Oil current crop — \$9.10 cwt. Oil new crop — \$9.70 cwt. NuSun — \$9/50 cwt. NuSun new crop — \$10.10 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.)



County valuation to drop \$1 million

paper body. While the students were waiting See FLAT BODIES, Page 3





Cowgirls on the road

The Cowgirls continue playing hard as the softball season moved into the final weeks. Tuesday, the Cowgirls hosted Ulysses, but lost both games. The girls traveled to Holcomb for games Thursday.

For a wrapup of the junior varsity and more photos see Pages 11 and 12.

year because of lower values for farm land, Terry Ballard, county assessor, told commissioners Wednesday.

ation may drop about \$1 million this

Sherman County's assessed valu-

He said loss is fueled by a drop of 5 percent of the agricultural land valuation. He said farm land was valued at \$18.8 million last year, about 33 percent of the county total of \$57.3 million. Ballard said the state formula for setting agriculture land values includes an eight-year income average, and that the drop in this is where the estimated drop of \$1 million comes from. He said that farm valuations may show a drop for the next year or two because of the depressed prices over the last few years.

Ballard said the drop would mean an increase of more than one mill in property tax levies to keep the same level of revenue, and that it is about a 2 percent drop in total valuation. He said on the positive side, there will be some increase from the S&T Telephone expansion, but because it is a utility, it will be set by the state.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said this was not good news for the cuts from the state have already put

County endorses \$125,000 carnival grant

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News The Sherman County homeowned carnival could expand if it gets a \$125,000 grant the Sherman County commissioners endorsed Wednesday.

Harlan House, a member of the home owned carnival board, and Penny Nemechek, county grant writer, explained the grant proposal at a the commissioners' meeting and asked the commissioners to add their endorsement to the project.

House said the carnival would purchase land immediately south of the county fairgrounds to build a storage building and workshop. He said the land would be available for

the county behind by 5 mills. Each mill of property tax raises \$57,285, based on the present valuations.

The state has cut the money that usually comes back to each county county financial picture because and city from state taxes, much of which was used to maintain roads

carnival attraction, a train that would circle part of the fairgrounds.

Nemechek said the grant application had to be submitted this week to the state Department of Housing <and Commerce?> for their community service program. She said a staff person from the state had reviewed the land purchase and suggested adding the building.

The grant asks the state to allow state tax credits to be issued for the \$125,000. She said these would be available in July if the grant is approved, and the project must be completed within 18 months.

House said the tax credits would give anyone who donated to the

and streets.

Ballard said there was not as much construction last year, and that for the most part, the residential and commercial valuations will remain million and he had valued the 18 the same.

On a related matter, Ballard said he is having to write a tax reduction Kansas Housing, paid the taxes un-

could take against their state taxes. He said several people and busi- community can pull together and nesses had indicated they would make donations.

House said the land cost is about \$59,000 and \$65,000 should be enough to build a 60 x 120 steel building.

He said one reason to use the 3.2 acres for parking was to reduce the number of kids running across Main from the parking west of the fairgrounds. He said the carnival group wants to add a train that would circle the grounds and pick up people from the new parking area and bring them has been an excellent addition to the into the fairgrounds. He said if the fair, and that they need more space grant is approved, the land could be

for the West Side Apartments be-

cause of the tax credits that were

He said the total project cost \$1.5

However, the owner, Northwest

used in building the project.

units at \$1,111,760 last year.

fair parking, and possibly a future project a 70 percent credit they available for parking by fair time.

"This is an example of how the what can be achieved," House said. "We have had a lot of people step forward to help, and would ask for your signature in support."

Commissioners Kevin Rasure and Mitch Tiede said they felt the carnival has done well and been good for the fair and the community. Rasure made the motion to endorse the grant and Tiede seconded. The vote was unanimous with Commissioner Chuck Thomas voting in favor and agreeing that the carnival for the future.

der protest and Ballard said he had to review his valuation.

"I discovered that under the state rules, none of the tax credits are to be considered as part of the valuation of the project," he said. "They

See TAXES, Page 10

Hospital had plus month in March, not out of the red

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News The good news for Goodland Regional Medical Center is that the hospital had a \$3,000 profit in March and finished the month \$30,000 above budget.

The bad news is: the hospital is so far in the red, it will take much larger gains to climb out.

The hospital finished last year with nearly \$700,000 in losses and budgeted a \$339,000 loss for this year. So far, the hospital has lost \$256,168 this year. Most of the loss comes from depreciation on equipment, however, not hospital operations, so it's not a cash loss.

other charges, said Chief Financial ers. Officer Andy Laue, the hospital is

Clinic may 'borrow' Colby manager

Goodland Regional Medical Center may "borrow" a clinic administrator from Colby to help with converting Rural Health Ventures from a free-standing to a provider-based clinic.

The hospital's board voted in February to begin taking control of the clinic, but there is much to be done to make the transition complete.

getting an increase in contractual With an increase in room rates and allowance from insurance provid-

The amount that will not be paid said, and between that and the con-

Hospital Administrator Jay Jolly said he has had discussions with Scott Focke, manager at Colby Medical and Surgical Center, about working at Rural Health Ventures part-time for the next year.

Focke would assist the clinic man- mation about both clinics, Jolly ager here with the budget and reports, Jolly said, serve as a liaison, mediate issues arising with the staff and handle marketing and recruiting.

said, was \$382,753 for March. The provision for bad debt is up, Laue

The hospital would have a one-year agreement with Focke, Jolly said, which could be terminated by a 60-day written notice or by mutual agreement.

Since Focke will have inforsaid, there would be an agreement that he not share information from either clinic with the other.

by insurance, such as Medicare, he tractual allowance, 42.2 percent of what the hospital bills probably will not be collected. Provision for bad debt in March was \$67,397.

The hospital raised rates late last year and early this year to collect more money from insurance providers who would pay more than the hospital normally charged and to bring Goodland's charges closer to what other hospitals in the area charge.

In other business:

· Laue said the hospital's aircraft insurance had been renewed effective April 20 with the same provider. The hospital shopped for better rates, he said, but couldn't find any so will pay \$18,900 for the same coverage it got last year for \$13,000.

 The board approved policies setting the scope of chiropractic privileges at the hospital to lay the groundwork for future arrangements with chiropractors.