

weather report

53°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 6:28 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:46 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:26 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 55 degrees

• Humidity 80 percent

• Sky cloudy

• Winds South 13

• Barometer 30.10 inches

and steady

• Record High 93° (1967)

• Record Low 32° (1959)

Last 24 Hours*

High 54°

Low 39°

Precipitation .01

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Saturday: Partly cloudy, high mid 60s, south winds around 10 mph. Saturday night: Partly cloudy, low mid 30s.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Partly cloudy, high mid 60s; low upper 40s. Monday: Partly cloudy in morning then clearing, high upper 60s, mostly clear in the evening becoming partly cloudy, low around 40.. Tuesday: Partly cloudy, high upper 60s, low mid 40s, 20 percent 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 — \$3.22 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.21

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.11 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.94

Loan deficiency pmt. — 00¢

Milo — \$1.79 bushel

Soybeans — \$6.49 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.22

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0.00¢

Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$10.45 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$0.01

Nu Sun — \$10.95

Confection — \$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Pinto beans — Withdrawn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



Cowboys win Oberlin meet

Cowgirl Kali Smith leads as she heads for the finish line to win her first cross country race Tuesday at Oberlin. See story and photo on Page 11.

Leadership class learns the ropes

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

The 10 members of the Leadership Sherman County's 2003-2004 class faced their first challenge Wednesday at the rope obstacle along the north fence of North Elementary's playground.

The leadership students faced a set of tasks that required cooperative physical and mental effort, communication and problem-solving skills under the eye of high school principal Harvey Swager, the session director.

The leadership class was introduced at a reception Tuesday at the Sugar Hills Golf Club, where members got an orientation. Wednesday, the group went through eight events that tested their physical and mental prowess and forced them to combine talents and cooperate to accomplish the mission.

In the "Teepee Jam," all 10 students had to stand on a log and change places according to height without stepping on the ground. When any one of them fell off, the entire group had to return to their original positions.

Then the group had to rearrange themselves according to birth month without verbal communication with the same penalty for falling off.

In the "Mohawk Walk," the group was split into two teams, each team was required to navigate an obstacle made up of a cable, about two feet off the ground, connected between a series of thick poles. The distance between each pole increased as the course progressed around some sharp turns.

All team members had to complete the course, which could only be done by working together. Again, the penalty for falling off was having the entire team start over.

The group later met at the 4-H building at the Sherman County Fair Grounds for the personality traits exercise called "True Colors," designed to help them learn about and work with diverse personalities.

The group will meet about every three weeks until graduation on March 10. The next session will be "Agriculture Day" Oct. 22, when the class will visit agricultural businesses in Sherman County.



Members of the 2003-2004 class (above) of Leadership Sherman County attempt to rearrange themselves while standing on a log without falling of Wednesday morning at rope obstacle course at North Elementary School. The exercise was part of the first session of a six-month course designed to develop community leaders in Sherman County. The class (top), led by Toni Hoss of Goodland, attempted to move forward as a group during the "Trolley" exercise.

Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Hospital joins grant writing effort

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Regional Medical Center board decided to throw the hospital's hat in the ring for the grant writer program run by its former administrative assistant.

Penny Nemecek left her job at the hospital in July 2002 to take the position as grant writer for the city, county and school board. She will soon be seeking grants for her former employer as well.

The city, county and school board each agreed to pay \$12,000 per year for the program. Now the \$36,000 per year will be split four ways, and four groups will benefit from Nemecek's grant hunting.

The hospital board approved joining the program at its meeting Monday, Sept. 22. The hospital can pay monthly for the program, said Administrator Jay Jolly, which will be \$750 per month for each entity.

The other three entities are open to the hospital joining the program,

he said.

"We need to make sure it all gets divvied up properly," said Lynn Hoelting, a member of the hospital board.

The program's contract would need to be re-drawn, Jolly said, to include the hospital.

In other business:

• Jolly updated the board on the hospital's application for critical access status. St. Anthony's of Denver has been chosen as the support hospital, he said, but it may be three weeks yet before the application is complete, and it will likely be at least 60 days after that before it is approved.

• The board met with representatives of Rural Health Ventures concerning the merger of the clinic into the hospital. Jolly said the hospital was trying to achieve critical access status before taking over the clinic to reduce confusion and avoid filing the same paperwork twice.

• The board set the next meeting for 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27.

Mayor balloting begins

The number of mayoral candidates on the ballot for South Goodland has increased to four.

The addition of Rod Cooper, owner of the Crazy R's Bar and Grill, and Dan Brenner, owner of Dan Brenner Ford, to the ballot has doubled the field of candidates.

Voting begins today, the ballot is on page 9. The ballot will

in each Friday's issue through Oct. 31.

The businesses that have the ballots are: Shores Bros. Auto Supply; Crazy R's Bar and Grill; Pizza Hut; The Antique Warehouse; Bob's Meat Block; Looking for Louie; Napa Auto Parts; Kear's Quality Liquor; Shelter Insurance.; Sunflower Computer Services; The Blossom Shoppe; L & L Engine; Goodland Machine and Automotive; McB's Corner; Farm Bureau Insurance; Gambino's Pizza; Rubidolls Cowboy Loop; and The Goodland Star-News.

Kids can experience soldier's life

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

The Kansas Army National Guard is offering teen-agers a chance to spend a weekend of bivouac, showing them a soldier's life and hoping some might just like it.

"Operation Ambush," a two-day camp to show area teens a little Army life, will take place Saturday

and Sunday, Oct. 11-12, at Wilson Lake, about 30 miles east of Russell. Guests will be picked up at armories in western Kansas that morning, arriving at the lake about noon.

The bus will depart from the Goodland armory at 6 a.m. and from the Colby armory at 8. Guests will need to bring sleeping bags, a change of clothes and overnight

items.

Following a lunch of military "heater" meals, the guests will be dispersed into squads each led by a soldier and progress through stations that demonstrate a particular aspect of a soldier's life.

The stations will introduce the

See AMBUSH, Page 3

Downtown could get facelift if businesses agree to help

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Downtown Goodland could get a major financial boost in the next few months from a federal-state grant created to improve downtown business districts in Kansas.

Organizers said people had cited trees, sidewalks and benches as major needs, but businesses could get credit for fixing up their buildings. The grant application needs to be in within a few days, however.

Justin Bentzinger, interim director of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, explained the program to about 35 people Monday evening at the Elks Lodge. Bentzinger is a member of the Downtown Revitalization Committee, which is working to build business by enhancing the image of the retail district.

"I think this is an exciting project

for the community," Bentzinger said. "The better each part of out business district appears, the better it is for all businesses."

Bentzinger described the grant, its purpose and rules, then spoke about what Goodland has to do to qualify. He said that Goodland's business area qualifies due to "slum and blight" conditions that contribute to a deteriorating infrastructure.

The area being considered for the grant is both sides of Main Avenue from 10th Street to 12th Street.

Bentzinger said the Community Block Development Grant aims to help downtown areas counter deteriorating infrastructure and enhance the business environment. The grant provides matching funds, up to \$200,000, with the city and private business putting up two-thirds of the total. The grant will match the lesser amount contributed by either the

city or private business.

Businesses can submit some in-kind expenditures as part of their contribution, Bentzinger said. For example, if a business provides labor to replace a window, it could submit the value as part of its contribution. If a roofing contractor in the project area repairs its own roof, it could submit both the material and labor cost.

Darin Neufeld, of the engineering firm Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, explained that in-kind expenditures would need to be cleared with the Kansas Department of Commerce on a item-by-item basis.

Bentzinger said Goodland's revitalization committee ran a poll at the county fair asking people what needs to be done downtown. The top three responses were, in order, face the benches toward the street, put in

some trees and fix the sidewalks.

Part of Bentzinger's computer presentation included various images taken of the downtown that illustrated some of the work that needs to be done. He passed around photos of what other Kansas communities have done to revitalize their downtown areas.

Neufeld said the grants are on a first come-first serve basis, making prompt action essential to improving Goodland's chances.

"I just want to urge everybody to pitch in and do their part to help this project," said Linda Knott, the committee chair.

Other members of the committee are Carolyn Applegate, director of Sherman County Economic Development; Donna Price, director of the Goodland/Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau; City Manager Ron Pickman; and David

Branda, owner of Sherman Theater and president of the Sherman County Historical Society.

Bentzinger said that the committee is looking for ideas on what can be done once the infrastructure is fixed up.

He said businesses in the project area can submit a "want list" of improvements they have or will do to see if they can be included for matching.

Bentzinger and Knott said that these ideas and improvement lists should be submitted within the next 12 days, by Wednesday, Oct. 15.

He said that people can contact him or any committee member. Bentzinger's telephone number at the Chamber of Commerce is 899-7130, his e-mail is jbentzinger@eaglecom.net. Knott can be contacted at 890-7105 or lknot@st-tel.net.