

weather  
report

41°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:26 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:42 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:26 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 31 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds southwest 23 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.88 inches and falling

- Record High 77° (1960)
- Record Low -1° (1993)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 26°  
Low 5°  
Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high near 42, low near 20, winds north northwest 9-11. Wednesday: mostly sunny, high around 45, low around 20, winds northwest 11-16 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thanksgiving: mostly sunny, high near 50, low around 24. Friday: mostly sunny, high near 55, low near 28. Saturday: partly cloudy, high near 48, low around 24. Sunday: partly cloudy, high near 44.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.46 bushel  
New crop — \$3.23 bushel  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$2.28 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.20  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Milo — \$2.12 bushel  
Soybeans — \$6.83 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.89  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Millet — \$5 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$11 cwt.  
NuSun — \$11.25 cwt.  
Confection — \$16/\$9 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Pinto beans — Withdrawn  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



Hoop Shoot  
was Thursday

Dallas DeLaRosa (above) prepared to take one of his free throws during the Goodland Kiwanis Hoop Shoot Thursday evening at the Goodland Activities Center. Photos on Page 12.

Snow brings cold, little moisture

The first real snow for the season came to the Goodland area, starting late Saturday afternoon and lasting through early Sunday morning, leaving 1-2 inches and bitter cold behind.

Randy Coleman, a forecaster for the National Weather Service in Goodland, said that the snow came into northwest Kansas in a sweep pattern from the southwest to the northeast, dusting most areas with from one to two inches of snow. He said the northwest got a bit more, about three inches, with the southeastern part of the region getting less than an inch.

In Goodland, the official snowfall was 1.3 inches, which equals .04 inches of precipitation. The low temperature was 5 degrees early Sunday morning. The wind came out of the northwest over the weekend, reaching 36 miles per hour and gusting into the low 40s. The wind chill got down to minus 10 to minus 15 degrees Sunday morning.

John Crawford, highway maintenance supervisor for Kansas Department of Transportation in Goodland, said plow trucks were out between 5 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday clearing the area's highways.

Coleman said Goodland can expect a dry period for the rest of the week, with a slight chance of precipitation late Sunday night. He said the weather should be partly cloudy with the lows in the 20s and the highs in the low to mid-40s, gradually increasing to the low to mid-50s for Thursday and Friday. A cold front is expected to drop temperatures back to the low to mid-40s on Saturday.



A car headed south on Main Avenue Saturday evening during the first real snowfall of the season.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Deadline near for downtown revitalization grant

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

About two weeks remain to the deadline for the Downtown Revitalization grant program, and letters have been sent to building owners in the downtown business district, hoping they'll pledge enough work to meet the programs' match.

Chairman Dave Branda said the revitalization committee sent letters last week to every building owner to try to develop a list of improvement projects to be used for the private match, which is one-third of the total project.

The project got some bad news when the state Department of Commerce and Housing decided any money Sherman County might spend improving the Southwestern

Bell building could not be considered part of the match because it is all public money.

The county commissioners were told, however, that improvements to the building could be used in the next phase of the downtown revitalization project.

Plans for downtown improvement have been developed because the city has a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation to rebuild the brick intersections at 11th and 12th. This project will cost over \$350,000, and will include replacing the storm sewer at 12th and Main.

Because of the city project, it is possible for the downtown area to qualify for a Department of Commerce and Housing grant which would replace the sidewalks, curb

and gutters of the two to three blocks on either side of the intersections the city will replace.

In order to get the grant, the business owners in the area need to commit to spending money to upgrade their buildings, with the total amount of all the owners being combined for a dollar-for-dollar match with the state grant.

Branda said building owners are being asked to fill out a form as a preliminary listing by Dec. 12, which is the deadline for getting the material ready for the state.

In the letter, Branda and co-chairman Curtis Hurd said the grant, "is our chance to show the community we are dedicated to protecting our downtown businesses. We can get money from the state to help us reach

our goal of making the downtown a visually appealing place for people to conduct business and shop.

"Your commitment is money you are already putting back into our business. We are not asking you to expend large out-of-the-ordinary amounts, but to complete those projects you have been thinking of doing in the past to fix, protect or preserve your building.

"This project is completely voluntary. No one will come to you and tell you that you must do anything to your building. Please list projects you have already completed along with the value and completion dates. This information will demonstrate past support for the downtown district, that is required for the grant.

"We hope everyone will join in

committing to the future of our downtown and support this effort to begin the rehabilitation of our Main Street. We are under the gun with the deadline quickly approaching."

Along with the letter is a form and a list of some of the types of building improvements which qualify as part of the business match.

Projects that are acceptable include exterior finishes, awnings, walls (load bearing), roof replacement or repair, windows, electrical, exterior doors, signage, foundations, plumbing and heating and air conditioning.

Projects that do not qualify as business match include planters or window boxes, carpet, interior/exterior paint, ceiling, bathrooms or interior doors.

New small business loan program working better

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

While the Sherman County's state-backed micro loan program to help new businesses has not been very successful, Economic Development Director Applegate reported the new SoHo loan program seems to be working.

Sherman County was awarded \$100,000 for a revolving loan program, but so far only one loan has been processed. The program runs out in March, and the county may have to return over \$80,000 to the state.

Applegate said SoHo, run through the Pioneer Country Development office in Hill City, offers an unsecured loan for up to \$15,000 thorough the Small Business Administration with a one-page application and a 30-day turn around. Eight applications have been given out.

She said the state auditors have been calling to ask about the problems with the county's micro loan program, and that one auditor told her he has heard the same complaints from many of the groups who have been given money to loan to small companies.

The main complaint is the moderate to low income requirements, a 40-page application and a requirement that the business owner take business training.

Council Chairman Dave Daniels asked if the county could write a letter to the state asking for an extension on the micro loan program if

New company looking at old truck stop

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The effort to find a buyer for the old Apple Trail truck stop took another turn in the last month with interest from another large corporation with a truck stop in Kansas.

Carolyn Applegate, economic development director, told the Sherman County Economic Development Council last Tuesday that she had been in contact with Petro Truck Plazas about looking at the Goodland facility.

She said she was on her way back from a Rural Policy Symposium in Manhattan and stopped at the Salina Petro truck stop. She said it is the only Petro in Kansas, but there are more in Missouri and across the country.

A check with the manager of the Salina truck stop gave Applegate



Artist concept of Petro Truck Plaza with Iron Skillet restaurant.

gate a person to contact, and she has sent a presentation about the Goodland site to the headquarters. Petro has a web site that indicates the company is looking for places to open franchise truck plazas in target markets.

"We keep looking for options,"

Applegate said. "I talked to the manager, and he said they were interested in adding new places in Kansas and Colorado which are an open territory."

The map of Petro sites across

See PETRO, Page 3

some of the restrictions are removed.

Applegate said that is a possibility. It's not been that people are not interested in the program, she said, as more than 30 have contacted the office for information. When the details were explained, she said, most either found other options or decided against filling out the long application.

Applegate said a rail spur for Dorman Brothers is nearly complete, and that Kyle Railroad has included room for future growth along the rail line.

Other projects Applegate reported on include helping with a video disc presentation about Sherman County. Donna Price, head of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Brenda McCants, chairman of

the Kansas Film Commission and head of patient services at Goodland Regional Medical Center, took it with them to Los Angeles for the taping of the sitcom Married to the Kellys, which featured the Van Gogh painting in Friday's program.

Applegate said the DVD's cost \$90 each and were produced by S&T Communications in Goodland. She told the council that the

video needs to be updated and a community presentation should be made for business recruitment.

She reported she has been working with the Aircraft Seal and Gasket officials as plans move forward for the company's relocation from California, which should begin the first of December.

She said she has been working with Price and Dave Branda and Curtis Hurd, who are heading the downtown revitalization effort, to secure a grant for sidewalk/curb and gutter work.

She said her office has helped with postage on letters sent to the out-of-town building owners.

The economic development office also has been helping develop commercial impact data for a Community Development Block Grant and Economic Development loan for Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp. that is being applied for through the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission. A hearing on this loan request will be held at 5 p.m. Monday by the city commission.

Applegate said council member Larry McCants had been at a rural policy symposium in Manhattan and had been talking to a Kansas State University professor about updating the community plan that had been done over 10 years ago. She said the professor was interested in doing an update, and McCants was to get further information. McCants was not at the council meeting.