

weather report

21°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:58 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 92 percent
- Sky cloudy with fog
- Winds south 7 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.93 inches and steady

• Record High 66° (1921)

• Record Low -19° (1961)

Last 24 Hours*

High 33°

Low 16°

Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: mostly cloudy with areas of fog till 11 a.m., high near 28, low near 13, winds calm becoming southwest 6-8 m.p.h. Saturday: partly cloudy, high near 40, low around 19, winds west 8-11 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly sunny, high near 50, low around 22. Monday: snow possible, high around 36, low near 18. Tuesday: partly cloudy with slight chance of snow showers till noon, high around 33, low around 17.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.60 bushel

New crop — \$3.33

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.37 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.33

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.21 bushel

Soybeans — \$7.17 bushel

Posted county price — \$7.24

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$11.25 cwt.

NuSun — \$11.50 cwt.

Confection — \$19/\$6 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Pinto beans — Withdrawn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



Band, choir present show

The Grant Junior High Christmas program Monday night featured the band and choir to a large crowd of parents, grandparents and friends at the high school auditorium. See story and photos on Page 3.

First load of equipment arrives!

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

The first two truckloads of equipment relocated by Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp. from California arrived here Wednesday morning and were unloaded into the firm's Goodland plant.

The first truck arrived at the plant about 6:10 a.m. with about eight major items of equipment, including a 16-foot, 8,000-pound autoclave used for vulcanizing rubber. The second truck arrived about 8:30 a.m. carrying just the 71,000-pound calender.

The equipment on the first truck was unloaded by forklift by around 10:30 a.m. The second truck was unloaded by 3:30 using a combination of several forklifts and a crane to lift the calender off the truck. About an hour later workers were able to get it into the building and sometime after 5 p.m. into its designated location.

The calender, with three solid metal rollers, is used to press rubber sheets some of which are shipped to smaller businesses, such as fabricators and die cutters. The sheets provide those businesses with the bulk material needed to produce specifically designed components.

Reporter Kim Hynes of CBS affiliate KBSH-TV in Hays filmed the unloading and interviews with Herb Menold, president of Aircraft Seal and Gasket, and Roy Dixon, project manager for the relocation.

Chuck Lutters, manager of the Goodland plant, supervised the offloading and placement of the equipment into its new home. Lutters, who resigned earlier this month as school district maintenance supervisor, was hired as plant manager in October.

"I knew within five minutes of talking with Chuck the first time he was the man for the job," said Menold.



Chuck Lutters (above, left), plant manager, guided Dennis Malsom through the plant's side door with a silicon extruder, one of the first pieces of equipment to arrive from California Wednesday morning.

Menold said he is excited about the progress being made and pleased with the renovation of the building. He said he appreciates the hard work and support the city and the people of Goodland put into project. Menold thanked City Manager Ron Pickman for his help in coordinating support for the renovation.

"Ron stepped in at a critical crossroads during the project and became a major factor in its success," he said.

Menold said he expects the Goodland plant to produce its first materials in mid-January. He said they have received over 400 applications from people looking for work.

The next shipment of equipment from California will arrive in a week to 10 days, Menold said. He said a ribbon-cutting ceremony is being planned for February.



Aircraft Seal and Gasket president Herb Menold (below, left) pointed to where he wanted it placed. The 71,000 pound calender (above, right) arrived about 8:30 that morning.

Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News



Open forum explores development ideas

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A shuttle to Denver International Airport and marketing the city industrial park on eBay were among ideas discussed at an economic development open forum Wednesday.

Over 20 people gathered in the Gambino's Pizza meeting room for lunch and an exchange of news and ideas about economic development. The forum was sponsored by the Sherman County Economic Development Council.

Harlan House, a farmer and council board member, said he thought

regular meetings would give more people a chance to talk about ideas for economic development.

"At our (council) meetings, we spend our time handling the routine business and hearing reports," House said. "I thought having people come to lunch with no specific agenda would give people a way to talk about ideas in an open forum.

"Besides, it's good to get together for lunch once in a while."

People could choose to talk to the people at their table or to move from table to table exchanging ideas. House said he felt it was a good start,

and he expects to hold another on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the same time and location.

Randy Schoenthaler of People's State Bank, a council board member, reported that two semi-trucks had arrived and were unloading the first of the Aircraft Seal and Gasket equipment.

Mike Hunter, new Wal-Mart manager, who moved here this month from Kansas City, was introduced. He told Carolyn Applegate, economic development director, he is interested in working with the council to promote more business.

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said the new county web site is up, but is in the development stage with Sheriff Doug Whitson helping to develop the pages for the county departments. The web address is sherman.kansasgov.com.

Dave Daniels, council chairman, said he was pleased with the turnout and thought good ideas surfaced.

He said one of the ideas was to look at developing a shuttle service between Goodland and Denver International Airport. He said it would be a way to get people to the airplanes and could stop at several

places along I-70 between Goodland and Denver.

Another idea was that several Kansas cities are putting public buildings up for sale on eBay, and that this is bringing some manufacturing contacts to those cities. It was suggested the Goodland Industrial Park might be a candidate for such a marketing effort.

The continuing need for a grocery was another topic, as was the idea of developing a Sister City relationship.

The council's regular monthly meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday at Western State Bank.

Snow brings moisture, closes schools

Officially Goodland got 4.4 inches of snow Monday night and Tuesday with temperatures dropping into the low 20s.

The winds came out of the north blowing 20 to 30 miles per hour with occasional gusts over 30. The wind chill factor made it feel between five and 15 degrees above zero.

Mike Lammers, forecaster and meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Goodland, said the 4.4 inches of snow equates to 1.8 inches of precipitation. Goodland has received 5.7 inches of snow so far this season.

Lammers said there is a slight chance of rain or snow today but should warm up to the low 40s for the weekend. He said another snow front, similar to the one this week, is expected Monday and Tuesday after which the rest of the week should be dry with seasonal temperatures.

The weather caused the school district to cancel classes and extra curricular activities including the Cowboys and Cowgirls basketball games against Burlington. No make-up date has been set however high school athletic director Steve Raymer said they are looking at some time in January.

The second grade music program scheduled for Tuesday has been rescheduled to 7 p.m. on Monday at the high school auditorium.



The left rear of a truck's cab (above left) and one of its fuel tanks was damaged when the semitrailer jackknifed while traveling east on I-70 about a mile east of Kanorado Tuesday morning. One of

City and county offices were open including the public library which opened at noon instead of 10 a.m. The post office in keeping with its motto delivered the mail.

As might be expected there were several accidents requiring emergency services including one involving a semitrailer on I-70 about

two miles east of Kanorado that needed the Sherman County Hazardous Material Response Team.

Other accidents on I-70 including a jack knifed semi at exit 19 which blocked westbound lanes for a short time, and a vehicle went into the ditch at mile marker 14. No one was injured in any of the accidents.



the truck's two-man driving crew (above right) talked with state troopers while waiting for repair assistance.

Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Only two people showed up for the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce board meeting at 7 a.m. Tuesday and only one of them was a member. Board member Cindy Bowman said membership packets for 2004 should be delivered this week including the official ballot for election of new board members for

next year. Most of the packets will be hand delivered.

Bowman said the board's new by-laws, effective Jan. 1, will lower the number of its members from 15 to nine with each serving a three-year term. Members may serve two consecutive terms then must sit out for at least one year before running again.