Goodland Star-News

WEEKEND

Friday, Jan. 12 2007

Volume 75, Number 4

Twelve Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather

noon Thursday

Today

Sunset, 4:45 p.m. Saturday

• Sunrise, 7:06 a.m. • Sunset, 4:46 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 81 percent Sky mostly sunny
- Winds north at 15 mph
- Barometer 29.77 inches and rising
- Record High today 75° (1953) • Record Low today -20° (1912)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 41° Low Thursday Precipitation

This month .03 Year to date .08 of an inch Below normal

The Topside Forecast Today: Snow likely. Cloudy and

cold, high near 6, low around 4. A 60 percent chance of snow.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Snow likely. Cloudy and cold, high near 8, low near 5. A70 percent chance of snow. Sunday: Snow likely. Cloudy, high near 15, low around -5. A 60 percent chance of snow. Monday: Partly cloudy, high near 12, low around -1. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high near 17, low around 2.

(National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Noon

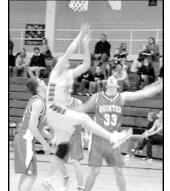
Wheat — \$4 bushel Posted county price — \$4.27 Loan deliciency priit. Corn — \$3.42 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.28 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢ Milo — \$3.07 bushel Soybeans — \$5.69 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.79 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢ Millet — \$7 hundredweight Sunflowers

NuSun crop — \$14.25 Pinto beans — \$19 (new crop) (Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.





Cowboys win close one

Junior Tanner Smith scored a basket in the fourth quarter to give the Cowboys a, 70-57, lead over the Quinter Bulldogs The Cowboys hung on to win 72-71 over the Bulldogs. See story, photo on Page 12.

Court OK's K-Inn demolition

By Tom Betz

City officials scored an end run in District Court on Monday when a judge dismissed an appeal by the owner of the K-Inn, which they hope to demolish.

Baring an appeal to higher courts, it down. that leaves the city free to hire bulldozers to take out the run-down property on Business U.S. 24.

City Manager Wayne Hill asked City Attorney Jeff Mason to explain demolish the buildings. what happened to city commissioners Monday evening.

the end of the appeal process for Jeff Harsh, owner of the motel. Mason erything done.

Candidate

two weeks

The city election isn't until April, but the deadline for candidates to file

for commission seats is less than two

weeks, noon on Tuesday, Jan. 23.

City Clerk Mary Volk said her

office has the paperwork for anyone

interested in filing for a City Com-

She said once the forms are filled

There are three seats up for elec-

tion this year. The terms of Annette

Fairbanks, owner of Teeters Abstract and Title Co.; Dave Daniels, a rental property owner; and Rick Billinger, manager of Nationwide

Volk said that if there are more than six candidates for the three positions,

there will be a primary on Tuesday, Feb. 27. The top six will go on to the

general election Tuesday, April 3. Fairbanks won a close election

two years ago when she finished

third in the balloting by one vote.

She had 646, while Gary Farris,

owner of Farris Manufacturing,

Fairbanks had a four-vote margin

in the unofficial results, but county

commissioners counted nine provi-

sional ballots when they canvassed

Farris picked up six votes while

Fairbanks said Tuesday she is

"I feel like I am getting to know

stuff," she said, "and feel like I

would like to give it a few more

years. It is up to the voters. It has

been very educational and I feel like

I am giving back to the community.

yet," Mayor Billinger said Tuesday,

"and I did not know it was that quick.

An attempt to reach Commis-

sioner Daniels was unsuccessful.

Daniels, 48, has served four years as

I will have to think about it.'

"I haven't even thought about it

Fairbanks got three, and that was

just enough to give her the win.

planning to run again.

came in fourth with 645.

the votes.

out, the candidate needs to pay a \$5

mission position.

filing fee.

Homes, are up.

deadline

said Harsh had filed an appeal of his The Goodland Star-News case in District Court, but had done nothing with it. Mason said he filed a motion to dismiss the appeal, and Monday the judge agreed.

> Hill said after the city has someone inspect the motel, they can tear

> Steve Criswell, city building inspector, said a hazardous material inspection can be done this week, then the city can get a contractor to

Mayor Rick Billinger said that probably ought to be put out for bid. Mason said the hearing may be Criswell agreed, adding that it would take about a month to get ev-

On Oct. 2, District Judge Jack Burr eight times on the case — in-Burrended the two-year court battle over the K-Inn when he ruled the city could proceed to demolish the

The motel has been closed for about four years. Criswell said the city first filed a case in August 2004 alleging the motel was a nuisance and trying to get the court to order the property cleaned up or torn down.

When the city filed the case, the filing described it as "unsightly appearance of structure, unsightly stored items and miscellaneous debris including furniture and appli-

cluding the hearing in October and kept telling the court he was getting the property cleaned up and was applying for a grant to convert it to a shelter for battered women.

October he was done listening to the and September. excuses and gave Harsh 30 days to appeal the ruling.

In it's last days, the K-Inn advertised rooms for about \$20 a night.

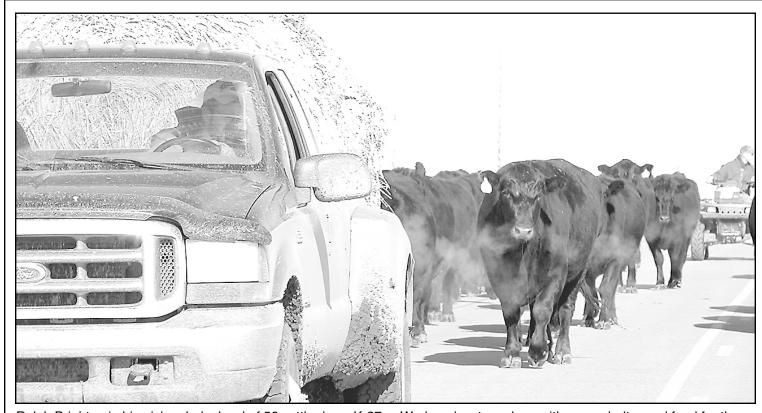
Harsh told Judge Burr at a hearing on Sept. 11 he was writing a grant application but had not submitted it. He said the Chalktalk Corp., owned by Harsh, planned to give the land Harsh had been in front of Judge to American Trail Foundation.

The city had asked Judge Burr to hold Harsh in contempt of court based on the fact that had failed to comply with previous orders to clean the property up.

Criswell said there were hearings Hill said Judge Burr told Harsh in on the motel in January, May, July

> "Judge Burr strung this out so long because Harsh keep saying he was working to clean the property up," he said, adding Harsh had done some painting and hauled some of the trash off.

> Criswell said the city did not feel that cleaned up all the things that were listed by the city and ordered by the judge to be done.



Ralph Brighton in his pickup led a herd of 56 cattle down K-27on Wednesday to a place with more shelter and food for them.

Cattleman leads herd down K-27

In a sight that hearkened back to days of yore, a rancher led a herd of 56 cattle down K-27 south of Goodland about 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, moving them closer to the house and sheltering trees. The herd had 50 cows, three bulls and three calves in it.

Well, the boss drove a pickup and the cowboys rode four-wheelers, but still, it qualified as a cattle drive.

Ralph Brighton, 5620 Highway 27, inched his pickup down County Road 57 with a herd of 56 black angus following a bale of hay in the back. Steve Evert and Bryant Nemecheck rode flank on four-wheeler as Brighton turned the cows onto K-27 about seven miles south of Goodland.

Three Kansas Highway Patrol troopers, Lt. Kevin Winston, Bryon Wilson and Eric Hodges, used their cars to block traffic in front of and behind where the cows needed to go.

Joan Brighton, who was in front where the herd was to turn, said the herd had to cover about seven miles. The corn stubble they were in had drifts four to six foot deep, she said, and it would be easier to feed them near the house.

The cows calmly followed the hay, vocalizing as the moseyed, and with a little help got back off K-27 and headed into their new pasture.



Joan Brighton held her arms out to get the herd of 56 cattle to go into the driveway by her house from K-27 on Wednesday morning.

mission to get a set of chains for the

ing the snow, but difficult with the

He said it was not bad just mov-

McKnight had bids from Good-

land Greenline, Alex's Radiator and

Yost Farm Supply. Tiede said it ap-

peared that Greenline was the

cheapest at \$259 and the commis-

to be directional without having to

sioners approved the purchase.

and Cochran Farm Supply.

stop and change it.

little tractor.

ice under the snow.

Trooper Wilson said he couldn't remember ever closing a highway to let cattle go down

"With the snow we were glad to help the ranchers get their cattle moved to where they could get fed," said Wilson.

Commissioners name new chairman

By Tom Betz

a commissioner.

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County commissioners opened their first meeting of the year Tuesday with the swearing in of one member and election of a new chair-

County Clerk Janet Rumpel opened the meeting and swore in Commissioner Chuck Thomas, who was reelected in November to a second four-year term. She then opened the nominations for chairman.

nominated Thomas, and Commissioner Kevin Rasure seconded the nomination. Thomas said he would like to serve as chairman, and with the vote took over the meeting.

Thomas nominated Tiede to continue as vice chairman. Rasure seconded the motion and Tiede said he would serve.

The commissioners approved designating First National Bank, Bankwest, Western State Bank and People's State Bank as depositories

for county money.

approve the official publication because it would remain The Goodland Star-News.

the county road crew for their work during the snowstorm. He said he knew they had worked long hours, and they had given up holidays to help open the roads.

Tiede agreed the crew did a great

Thomas said the crew had done a Commissioner Mitch Tiede great job out by the Edson area, where he lives.

> Tiede said he and Thomas had met with a representative from Sen. Pat Roberts office on Monday at the First National Bank to talk about the storm and what kind of help the area might need.

"We talked about things that might come up later," Tiede said, "and the wear and tear on the equipment.'

Rasure said Gary Rogers, regional emergency management director, has done the paperwork to get money for the overtime and extra

Rumpel said there was no need to costs to the county from the storm William McKnight, building mainfrom the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Thomas said that Brenda Mc-Rasure said he wanted to thank Cants and Jay Jolly from the hospital talked to Roberts' representative about the need for a veterans outreach clinic here.

"People had things come up with the storm about not being able to get into the veterans clinic in Hays," Tiede said.

Sheriff Kevin Butts was at the meeting and the commissioners asked him about his army surplus emergency truck.

Butts said the truck worked very well, and he did a lot of things with it during both storms. He said he got it stuck one time when he went south on K-27 to help Wallace County transport the body of the man who

On another storm-related issue,

died during the storm. Butts said the roof at the Bastille spilt between the courthouse and the is still leaking, and that he had tried fairgrounds funds. to move some snow around on the Thomas asked if McKnight roof, but it has not stopped the leaks. thought he could clean out the park-

with a snow blower. tenance supervisor, asked for per-

McKnight said he thought that would be a good example, and that a snow blower would help around the courthouse and keep from having the huge mounds of snow on the corners that cover up parking spaces.

Sheriff Butts said he thought the snow blower was a good idea, and that it would help with all the snow

that McKnight has to remove. "The courthouse can close, but my office has to be open," the sher-

McKnight asked about purchasiff noted. ing a snow blower attachment for Tiede asked to table the bids until the tractor. He presented bids from he had a chance to look at the ones

being suggested. Greenline, Truck and Tractor Repair 'We are spending quite a bit of McKnight said the prices in- money," Tiede said. "I want to be cluded an option to allow the chute sure we are comparing apples and be

sure we get the best one. Carol Armstrong, register of He suggested the cost could be deeds, met with the commissioners in closed session for 10 minutes to

go over her employee evaluations.

The commissioners delayed the salary and raise evaluation until the ing area around the 4-H building next meeting at 8 a.m. Tuesday.