

**weather
report****26°**

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	22°
Precipitation	—
This month	.03
Year to date	.03
Below normal	.08 of an inch

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. A 70 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.

**local
markets****Noon**

Wheat — \$4 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.27
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
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.)

**inside
today**

More local
news and
views from
your
Goodland
Star-News

**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

The Goodland Star-News

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.

Barring an appeal to higher courts, 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 what happened to city commissioners Monday evening.

Mason said the hearing may be the end of the appeal process for Jeff Harsh, owner of the motel. Mason

said Harsh had filed an appeal of his 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 it down.

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

Mayor Rick Billinger said that probably ought to be put out for bid. Criswell agreed, adding that it would take about a month to get everything done.

On Oct. 2, District Judge Jack Burr ended the two-year court battle over the K-Inn when he ruled the city could proceed to demolish the motel.

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 appliances."

Harsh had been in front of Judge

Burr eight times on the case — including 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.

Hill said Judge Burr told Harsh in October he was done listening to the excuses and gave Harsh 30 days to appeal the ruling.

In its 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 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 on the motel in January, May, July and September.

"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.

Candidate deadline 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 Commission position.

She said once the forms are filled out, the candidate needs to pay a \$5 filing fee.

There are three seats up for election 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 Homes, are up.

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, came in fourth with 645.

Fairbanks had a four-vote margin in the unofficial results, but county commissioners counted nine provisional ballots when they canvassed the votes.

Farris picked up six votes while Fairbanks got three, and that was just enough to give her the win.

Fairbanks said Tuesday she is planning to run again.

"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. "I haven't even thought about it yet," Mayor Billinger said Tuesday, "and I did not know it was that quick. I will have to think about it."

An attempt to reach Commissioner Daniels was unsuccessful. Daniels, 48, has served four years as a commissioner.



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

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Cattlemen 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.

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

"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

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 chairman.

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.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede 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.

Rumpel said there was no need to approve the official publication because it would remain *The Goodland Star-News*.

Rasure said he wanted to thank 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 job.

Thomas said the crew had done a 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

costs to the county from the storm from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Thomas said that Brenda McCants 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 died during the storm.

Butts said the roof at the Bastille is still leaking, and that he had tried to move some snow around on the roof, but it has not stopped the leaks. On another storm-related issue,

William McKnight, building maintenance supervisor, asked for permission to get a set of chains for the little tractor.

He said it was not bad just moving the snow, but difficult with the ice under the snow.

McKnight had bids from Goodland Greenline, Alex's Radiator and Yost Farm Supply. Tiede said it appeared that Greenline was the cheapest at \$259 and the commissioners approved the purchase.

McKnight asked about purchasing a snow blower attachment for the tractor. He presented bids from Greenline, Truck and Tractor Repair and Cochran Farm Supply.

McKnight said the prices included an option to allow the chute to be directional without having to stop and change it.

He suggested the cost could be split between the courthouse and the fairgrounds funds.

Thomas asked if McKnight thought he could clean out the parking area around the 4-H building

with a snow blower.

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 sheriff noted.

Tiede asked to table the bids until he had a chance to look at the ones being suggested.

"We are spending quite a bit of money," Tiede said. "I want to be sure we are comparing apples and be sure we get the best one."

Carol Armstrong, register of 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 next meeting at 8 a.m. Tuesday.