

weather report

7°

noon Monday



Today

Sunset, 4:49 p.m.

Wednesday

Sunrise, 7:04 a.m.

Sunset, 4:50 p.m.

Midday Conditions

Soil temperature 26 degrees

Wind Chill -10

Humidity 64 percent

Sky sunny

Winds northwest at 14 mph

Barometer 30.37 inches

and steady

Record High today 65° (1951)

Record Low today -11° (1930)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 12°

Low Monday -6°

Precipitation .03

This month .13

Year to date .13

Below normal .06 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny, high near 28, low near 6. Wind chill values between -2 and -12.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 31, low around 10.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, high near 33, low around 13.

Friday: Mostly sunny, high near 37, low around 14.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, high near 38, low around 14.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, high near 36.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.33 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.37

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$3.79 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.45

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$3.44 bushel

Soybeans — \$6.21 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.90

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$7 hundredweight

Sunflowers

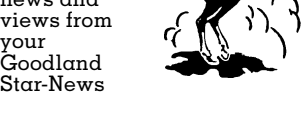
NuSun crop — \$14.25

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



Wildcats win at the buzzer

Brewster junior Jance McKee went airborne to score against the Sharon Springs Wildcats on Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Wildcats won the league tournament 76-75 in overtime. See photo, story on Page 11.

City, state to repave K-27 — again

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Rebuilding the four-lane section of K-27 from I-70 to Business U.S. 24 is a few years away, but last Monday the Goodland City Commission OK'd a phased program to replace the asphalt with concrete.

The total project could cost \$2.8 million, but the engineer recommended breaking it up into three or four phases to reduce the city's cost. The state Department of Transportation has told the city they will provide up to \$750,000 for the first phase with the city paying the preliminary design costs and about \$60,000 (7.4 percent) of the construction cost.

Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, who handled the grant appli-

Street project bid opening next week

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Construction of street projects under the city-county road program will gear up again in March, city commissioners heard Monday.

Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates who is handling the city projects, said he plans a bid opening at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, for the Caldwell Avenue and Eighth Street asphalt paving and concrete on 17th Street from Main east to Cherry Avenue.

The commission approved payment requests presented by Neufeld for work completed on the intersections at Eight and Caldwell and Armory Road and Caldwell, now are mostly done.

The concrete work is being done by Bryant and Bryant Construction of Halstead, and the firm's portion of the payment request was \$123,312. A related bill for inspection by Evans, Bierly and Hutchison was for \$8,090.

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cation for the city, said he recommends replacing the asphalt on the south end about halfway up to the Wendy's intersection as phase 1.

"The state wants to do it in

phases?" Commissioner John Garcia asked.

"We recommended doing it in phases," Neufeld said, "because we knew there was no way to do it with

the state only willing to provide a maximum of \$750,000.

"The state will keep funding projects for cities," Neufeld said, "even without the new transporta-

tion bill through the Legislature."

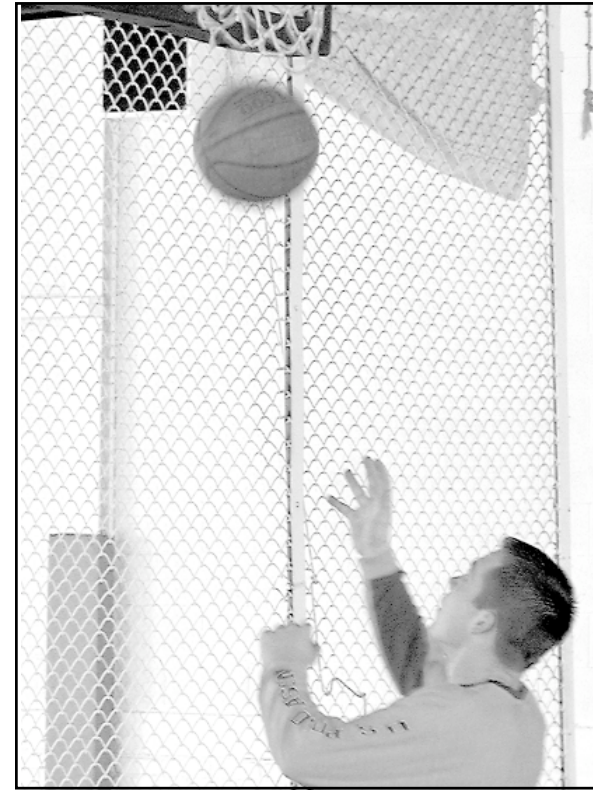
"Their estimate was higher than yours?" Garcia asked.

Neufeld said his estimate for the project was \$810,000, but when the state reviewed it they estimated the cost at \$938,000.

"They project out different figures than we do," Neufeld said. "It is anybody's guess as to what it will cost in 2010. The state is using higher estimates and higher inflation figures to give the cities a chance to see what their cost may be in a worst-case scenario.

"Can we sneak the section in front of Conoco in there?" Commissioner Dave Daniels asked, referring to a rough section of service road on the east which is privately owned.

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Alisha McKee, a 2004 Goodland High graduate, and Mick McGuire of Goodland worked out at the Goodland Activities Center last Tuesday. McKee, who plays volleyball at Fresno State University in California, said she uses an arc trainer there and was glad to find a new one at the activities center when she came home. Steven McElroy, a member of the Bible Baptist Church school, made a shot in the group's game on the center's basketball court.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Activities Center adds exercise equipment

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

After building up its youth programs over the past year, and taking over the city's recreation programs, the Goodland Activities Center wants to focus this year on adult programs and paid members.

The center worked to increase its youth programs, securing a contract with the city to run recreation programs, said Administrator Steve

Jimenez, and increased its members through a recruitment drive.

The agency has added two pieces of fitness equipment for \$10,000, a treadmill and an arc trainer. The industry named the arc trainer as Product of the Year last year, Jimenez said, and a lot of professional athletes use it.

Money from the increase in memberships, along with the city contract, he said, helped the center af-

ford the new equipment.

The contract saves the city money, Jimenez said, since they don't have to hire people to run recreation programs. It allows all the sports programs to be run at one place, and it helps the center with revenue.

When the city commission voted to approve the contract in December 2005, he said, Mayor Rick Billinger said it should save the city \$10,000

and meeting members' needs.

The center has added an adult recreational basketball league, he said, and an evening aerobics program. The new exercise equipment is a good addition for the members, he said; the room with the fitness equipment is the most used.

The center plans to add a personal training program, Jimenez said, and

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Commissioners question tag sale

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County commissioners wanted an answer last Tuesday about why a license tag had been sold to a person who didn't live in the county, and refused to talk about it in closed session.

Commission Chairman Chuck Thomas handed County Treasurer Iris Scheopner paperwork showing an antique car tag had been sold to someone from Thomas County. Scheopner asked to talk about it in closed session.

When commissioners told her it had to be discussed in an open meeting, Scheopner got up and started walking out of the room.

"If you want to talk to me about this, you can do it individually," she said. "I don't like these things being brought up while the press is here."

Scheopner left the room. Commissioner Mitch Tiede said apparently it was a question about a person's name being brought out in the public meeting.

The commissioners agreed the name of the person who bought the tag did not need to be mentioned.

"It is a public matter," Commis-

sioner Kevin Rasure replied, "and we need to know why this happened."

Thomas said he thought it was a personnel matter, but Rasure said that exemption to the state open meetings law does not apply to Scheopner because she is an elected official.

Thomas said he would go talk to Scheopner. About five minutes later, he and the treasurer came back.

Scheopner said she gave the man a tag because he had the title and the bill of sale and he worked in Sherman County. She showed the commissioners a pamphlet from the state explaining the license plate rules.

She said the man told her that Thomas County would not accept the paperwork he had to get the tag. She said based on the rules in the state pamphlet, she thought she could sell him the antique tag.

Scheopner said she looked in the phone book and used the address of the employer he said he worked for in Sherman County.

"What district are we collecting taxes for?" asked County Clerk

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Thomas treasurer said there was a title problem

Thomas County Treasurer Donita Applebury said Monday a man who wanted a tag for an antique car showed her assistant a title that had been signed over to another person and then to him, but the paperwork on the new title had not been completed.

Applebury, who said she has worked in the county treasurer's office for 26 years, said she could not reveal the man's name because motor vehicle records are closed to the public.

She said the customer told her the man who signed the title was out of the country and he was angry with her office when he left. He apparently then took the paperwork to Sherman County treasurer Iris Scheopner, who issued the tag.

"People get irritated with me and say they are going to go to another county," Applebury said.

"We always ask where the vehicle is housed. People can lie to us about where the vehicle is housed.

"I don't know what he gave Iris, and he may have had the proper paperwork. I think he has put her in a bad situation, and I am sorry he has done that to her."

She said antique tags cost about \$60 to get the first one, but it is only \$17 a year after that plus personal property taxes. She said an antique can be registered with only a title, but the vehicle has to be a real antique. She said if you want to drive one in parades or on the streets, it has to have a tag.

Scheopner said Monday the man came in to her office on Friday and said he would make the correction on the tag in Thomas County. She said when he does, she'll transfer the registration there.

Road bid opening next week

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Bids for resurfacing and upgrading old U.S. 24 across Sherman County and two city street projects are to be opened at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 24, in the commissioner room at the Sherman County courthouse.

Jerol DeBoer, engineer and owner of Penco Engineering of Plainville, told commissioners last Tuesday that he had gotten the bid packages out and that three companies had the specifications.

DeBoer, talking with the commissioners on a conference call, said he would be at the meeting today to answer questions.

He said he sent bid papers to Venture Corp. of Great Bend, APAC of Hays and Western Engineering of

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